

licanism, will stultify his better judgment by giving the slightest countenance to such a party, or to any one who does not repudiate it from beginning to end. The preservation of our young nationality, and the assistance which we expect from the mother country, demand this much from every true British Canadian.

### THE INDIAN WAR IN THE U. S.

We believe we would not be speaking justly of a brave and generous body of men, if we were to say anything derogatory to the character of the soldiers of the regular army of the United States. In the bloody civil war against the South they for the most part comported themselves gallantly, giving and receiving hard blows in battle, without a thought of wreaking a mean vengeance for victories fairly won against them, whenever the field turned in their favor, and they found their courageous and devoted opponents at their mercy. It was only when unprofessional officers, who knew as little of war as they did of honor and common humanity, like *beast Butler*, wielded unrestricted power over regulars and volunteers, that we heard of deeds whose atrocity caused a thrill of horror and disgust, or made the cheek of soldier and civilian alike to tingle with shame. Taking it for granted then that the professional soldier of the United States, with few exceptions, have the same chivalrous feelings which characterize soldiers of other christian and enlightened nations, we cannot but sympathise with them in the inglorious task placed before them in the Indian war, by the politicians, contractors and petty thieves whose interest it is that the poor Indian should either submit to be robbed systematically or be exterminated from the face of the earth. The construction of the overland mail-route to California and the advance of the Pacific railway portends the speedy collapse of that infamous system of swindling which the red man has so long endured at the hands of the politically appointed Indian agents. So long as the aborigine remained in total ignorance of the wrongs he was made to suffer, he took whatever the agent was pleased to give him; but when others than the agents crowded into the wilderness and the plain, he came to know the real worthlessness of the commodities which had been pawned upon him, and his savage indignation became aroused. At this point a just government would have stepped in and dealt fairly with the Indian and meted out just punishment to his unblushing despoiler; but with the Washington government the influence of the Indian agents and traders has been greater than the claims of justice. Naturally enough these latter desired that the aboriginal inhabitants should be driven as far as possible from the frontier of civilization, so that their peculiar mode of fraudulent operation should be as far from detection as possible; and in accomplishing this purpose, some thou-

sands of United States troops should become their customers and be forced to submit to their extortions, they would simply be killing two birds with one stone. As we said the policy of the traders and agents triumphed, and instead of justice a relentless war was waged against the Indians. Some time since a commission was appointed to enquire into matters relating to Indian hostilities, and voluminous documents have been transmitted from the department of the interior, showing that the commissioners believe that by a peaceful and just policy all hostility might have been avoided. In speaking of the war it must be remembered that the army merely obey orders, and as there can be no glory so there should be no shame attached to them in the premises. General Buford, under date of June 6th, says he and the other two commissioners, who had just returned from Fort Laramie, believe that but for Gen. Hancock's expedition they would have secured peace with all the tribes to whom they were sent, and he proceeds to show that a certain portion of territory ought to be set apart as hunting grounds for the Indians; and he further says—"unless it is judged necessary to retaliate on the Indians for the barbarities and massacre at Fort Phil. Kearny, no war is necessary north of the Platte. Peace can be obtained by more humane and cheaper means than by an invading army, who never can bring Indians to battle, unless by celerity of march they can surprise the women and children in their villages." We have too much respect for the soldiers of any nationality to suppose that they would willingly engage in any war where there was no principle at stake, and in which their successes would only be marked by the "surprise of women and children in their villages." Such victories have been heretofore heralded by the press of the United States as worthy of glorification, but we cannot but believe that the soldiers who accomplished the work were heartily ashamed of the business in which they were engaged. General Sanborn, another of the commissioners says,—"In regions where all was peace, as at Fort Laramie in November, twelve companies of soldiers were stationed, while in the regions where all was war, as at Fort Phil. Kearney, only five companies were allowed. To secure peace, it is necessary for the Government to abstain from aggressive war. It is believed the history of Indian wars furnishes no instance where Indians have asked for mercy, or even for a cessation of hostilities. He recommends that all the troops in the Indian country be employed in garrisoning military posts, protecting weak points on the railroads and railroad lines and the migration and travel across the plains, and in pursuing, and, if possible, punishing the small thieving parties of Indians that come upon our lines of travel. Commissioners should be sent to the Indians and friendly relations restored. It is believed sound policy would demand this course. To jeopard and sacrifice the lives of a large number

of our people for the purpose of carrying on a fruitless war against a few Indians, who can be readily kept at peace, is deemed unwise." The Commissioner of Indian affairs in his report says,—"A further and persistent disregard and violation of the natural rights of the Indians, and of treaty obligations of Government towards them, such as have characterized our military operations among them for the last twelve months, will soon result in an Indian war of gigantic proportions and prolonged and indefinite duration, at an appalling expense of life, and at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. We have provoked, enlarged, intensified hostilities, until our whole frontier is in a blaze; until our infant Territories are isolated and besieged, and our Pacific overland communication cut off. We have only to press a little further the policy we are now pursuing, and we will get all we desire in the way of war. From facts before me, I conclude we can have all we want from the Indians without war, if we so will, with entire security on our frontiers and in all our territorial domain, at a cost of less than two days expenses of the existing war, to wit—a quarter of a million of dollars, and in less than one hundred days." The Commissioner asks how can peace be attained? and answers—"simply by retracing our wrong steps and by doing right. Pay the northern Cheyennes, and Arapahoes, and hostile Sioux for trespasses we have committed upon their recognized rights, and negotiate with them by fair treaty for privileges of way and of military posts on their lands, so far as we may need them." Lieut.-General Sherman in a despatch to the Secretary of War, dated from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, June 17th, speaks as follows:—"My opinion is that if fifty Indians are allowed to remain between the Arkansas and the Platte, we will have to guard every stage station, every train, and all railroad working parties. In other words, fifty hostile Indians will checkmate three thousand soldiers." "Now," continues the Commissioner, "if this be true between the Arkansas and the Platte, of which region General Sherman is speaking, what a tremendous army will be required in the field if we conclude to precipitate a general Indian war, and prosecute it to a successful result! In my judgment we have war, general, prolonged, bloody, and ruinous, with all its accompanying barbarities and atrocities, and peace, speedy and desirable, with all its concomitant and consequent blessings, in our own hands, at our option." Some time since in pointing out the different spirit which existed between the Indians and the British authorities, and that existing between them and the United States—in the former case constant peace, in the latter constant war,—we endeavored to show that the monarchical institutions of Great Britain were strong enough to enable her to deal out even handed justice even to the savage, and by that justice she secured their respect and fealty; while on the other hand the Republic was so much