

And is it altogether just to treat the Indian in the way we are doing? Is it altogether fair to deprive them of their nationality, to laugh at their old laws and customs and traditions, to force upon them our own laws and customs as though there could be no two questions as to their superiority in every way, and that they must, of course, be just as suitable and applicable to the Indian as they are to ourselves. Is there nothing—nothing whatever—in the past history of this ancient people to merit our esteem, or to call forth our praise? Were their laws in the past all mere childishness? Were there no great minds among their noted chiefs? Do the ruins of their ancient cities show no marks of intelligence, energy or perseverance, in the people that planned and constructed them? While taking steps to preserve their ancient relics in our museums, and while studying their past history and their many and diverse languages, were it not well, as a matter of justice and Christian kindness to them, as well as out of respect for their past and but little-understood history, to allow them to preserve their own nationality, and, under certain restrictions, to enact their own laws? Would it not be pleasanter, and even safer to us, to have living in our midst a contented, well-to-do, self-respecting, thriving community of Indians, rather than a set of dependent, dissatisfied, half-educated and half-Anglicized paupers?

As the writer of this article said at the beginning of his paper, his object in taking up this subject is simply to throw out a few crude ideas; and his hope is that those who are better able than he is to reason out the problem, and whose judgment will have more weight with the public, will take up and thoroughly ventilate the whole question.

FAIR PLAY.

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WHAT is known in the south-western portion of the United States as the Indian Territory, is inhabited by five tribes or nations, thoroughly civilized, foremost amongst whom are the Cherokees. The Government of each is Republican, with frequently recurring elections, legislatures, executives, and systems of judiciary. Each nation supports common schools and high schools, and fosters churches; and their towns have a busy life of their own. Tahlequah is the chief town, with a capitol in its centre, a large brick structure. Here meets the Legislature of two Houses, the council presided over by a Speaker, and the Senate by an assistant chief. The