

## CIVILIZATION VS. THE TOMAHAWK AND SCALPING KNIFE.

When the Independence of the American Colonies was acknowledged by Great Britain, they occupied comparatively speaking but a small strip of country extending along the Atlantic coast from Maine to the Carolinas. At that time the Seminoles, the Creeks, the Cherokees, the Shawnees, the Delawares, the Mohawks, the Miamis and the Ottowas roamed over all of that portion of the country lying west of the Alleghany Mountains and east of the Mississippi River. These tribes were much more powerful and numerous than any that exist at the present day. Nearly all of them have disappeared before the march of the Anglo-Saxon race. The early pioneers—those videttes of civilization—with their axe and gun met the savage foe in the wilds and valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and not being contented to halt here, they have continued their march until the shores of the Pacific have been reached and the country from ocean to ocean has been converted into fruitful fields and blooming gardens, and in less than a century three millions of people have increased to nearly fifty millions.

The British possessions of America cover more territory than the United States: and whilst the diversity of soil, climate and productions are not so varied as are embraced within the limits of the United States, yet Canada has a magnificent future before her. Her soil, climate and productions, taken in connection with the union with the British Empire, all conspire to make her one of the most favored portions of the American continent. Just at the present time Canada is engaged in a war with the Aborigines of the North-West. To one whose parents and grandparents helped to conquer the "blue grass region" of Kentucky from the savages, this is no extraordinary event. The North American Indians are exclusively a carnivorous race of people, and in only a few exceptions have they showed any desire to till the earth or earn their living "by the sweat of the face." And just in proportion as their chances for securing "venison" decline, just in proportion will they like "ravening wolves" swoop down in true barbarian style, and devour the white man's subsistence and commit crimes too hideous to mention. Just now the outlook for pioneers and settlers in the North-West is somewhat gloomy, but they must not despair in this age of railroads, telegraphs, and improved modes of warfare. They have many advantages over the pioneers of Kentucky, who settled in those days in what were called "stations." Each settlement had its "block-house," a kind of fortress where the people could all repair in case of an invasion by the savages. Through the port holes of these "block-houses" the besieged were enabled with their old "flint-lock" British muskets and rifles to drive off the enemy, whose only mode of warfare in those early days was the bow and arrow. The women within these "stations" were sometimes called upon to display their skill in shooting at the "redskins"—hence the descendants of these brave men and women have become proverbial for their skill in handling what is now known as the "Kentucky rifle." The reader may recall to mind that Kentucky was called the "dark and bloody ground." It received this soubriquet from the fact the various tribes of Indians adjacent to this country, over which the deer and buffalo roamed in countless thousands, held this field as common hunting ground. Here they were wont to repair late in the autumn to lay in their supply of meat.

When the white settlers began to come in and occupy these grounds, they did so at the peril of their lives. A long and bloody war was the result; but in the end the "meat-eating savage" was not able to cope with the hardy pioneer; and to-day Kentucky, the once "dark and bloody ground" is claimed as the "garden spot" of the United States. Who knows but what, in the course of time, that the great valley of the Saskatchewan may yet become the "garden spot" of the Dominion of Canada?

A great deal has been said and written about the causes of the present Indian troubles in the North-West. To one who has seen much of frontier life in the West, the present war is no enigma. The failure of crops to some extent, the scarcity of game and particularly of the buffalo, and the long hard winter, all conspired to make it an easy matter for Riel to stir up a rebellion amongst the ignorant savages of the North-West. A hungry Indian is easily persuaded to commit acts of violence to appease his appetite—hunger knows no treaties, respects no laws. I may be mistaken, but I think the Canadian Government has got a big job on its hands, and the sooner it realizes this fact the better for the whole country. It will take ten thousand troops, scattered at proper points along and in the vicinity of the Canadian Pacific Railway, to put down the Rebellion, and afterwards to maintain law and order in that country for some years to come.

VETERAN.

Upper Musquodoboit, May 11th, 1885.

**FILIAL AFFECTION.**—A modern girl living in the country has a City beau. When he rides out to see her on a warm afternoon, she calls the "old mau" from the field, and makes him keep the flies from her fellow's horse.

**CROSS-EYED.**—A negro held a cow while a cross-eyed man was to knock her on the head with an axe. The negro, observing the man's eyes, in some fear inquired, "You gwine to hit whar you look?"—"Yee."—"Den," said Cuffee, "hold de cow yourself!"

**PROPHET.**—"I want to know," said a creditor, fiercely, "when you are going to pay me what yo' owe me?"—"When I'm going to pay you? Why you're a pretty fellow! Do you take me for a prophet?"

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