

Two exceedingly tragic events have happened almost simultaneously in the United States, the murder of Gen. Canby and his associates by the Modoc Indians, and the slaughter of a number of negroes in Louisiana. Both are the direct results of the war of races going on in that somewhat unhappy country. The negro butchery seems to have been utterly inexcusable, and as the details come to light it exhibits marks of the most fiendish atrocity. Evidently it will be a long time yet before the intermixture of races has become so complete in the South that social war will cease to be imminent. The Indian question is a still more serious one. The policy pursued by the United States Government and its agents towards the Indian tribes was for generations a scandal to civilization and humanity. A new leaf has lately been turned over, however, by adopting what is called the "peace policy," though this term cannot be understood to mean that force would not be used in the last resort. The treachery of the Modocs seems to have aroused a clamour in some quarters for a reversal of this policy and a war of extermination against all the Indian tribes. This is surely a humiliating position for a great nation to be placed in, and it would certainly be as much as the historical reputation of the United States is worth, if a few dozen Indians could by any means bring about a radical change in the mode adopted by the government in its dealings with a race comprising several hundred thousand souls. Canada is deeply interested in this Indian problem as well as the United States. There never has been much trouble with aborigines of British America because they have been in the main fairly dealt with. But it transpired during a recent debate in the House of Commons that there is danger ahead. Worthless adventurers from the south of the line are doing their utmost to rouse suspicion and stir up hostility. The Indians are no longer the unsophisticated sons of the forest they once were. They have learned the white man's vices and acquired enough of his intelligence to look with contempt upon the pow-wow which would once have filled them with delight and satisfaction. It is to be hoped that the blood-stained history of the Indian question will belong solely to those regions where it is found now, and that the prairies and forests of the North-west will remain forever free from such scenes of treachery and bloodshed. Nevertheless it must be admitted by the Indian's most ardent admirer, that he cannot be allowed to obstruct the western progress of civilization. If they can be reclaimed from barbarism and absorbed ultimately by the white population, the identity of the Indian tribes will be as completely destroyed as by a war of extermination, but there is a vast difference in the character of the two modes of dealing with the question.