

of the excitement, the army officers and officials of the Indian bureau are aware that this is but a blind, a ruse of the Indians, to cover their gatherings, an excuse to get together in bands and lay their plans for forcing the Government to give them what they have been promised. The Indians believe that the only way to attract attention to their grievances is to threaten an insurrection. Missionaries labouring on the Dakota Reserves state that the chief cause of excitement among the Indians is the reduction of their rations by the Government agents."

FEW topics relative to early Indian life are more interesting than their means of obtaining subsistence.

Procuring food and waging war occupied the red man's whole attention, developed his ingenuity by exercising it, and the degree of skill employed in these pursuits determines the relative status of different tribes. The early white settlers in various parts of America were frequently compelled to resort to the use of Indian foods, and through this, historians have dwelt largely upon the food products of the Indian. As regards the character of game, and the means of obtaining it, there is little if any doubt, but in the case of vegetable foods, there is only scant reliable information, owing to the ignorance of the writers on botanical subjects; and from the fact that the names by which plants were known in those days have now been changed. Beside this, the names varying in different places, and at various times, have caused our botanical synonymy to become tangled, and confusion has become more confounded. The present remarks are based on an enquiry made a few years ago, through the Smithsonian Institution, for information on the botanical nature of "Tuckahoe," a substance known as Indian bread; and from the answers received to the circulars sent out, a variety of edible native substances were brought to light. First was