

maintained and improved, and all the agencies for the civilization, education, and elevation of the Indian to the place of a citizen are to be continued and strengthened."

Notwithstanding a prevalent impression to the contrary, our Indian population, as a whole, has probably not decreased. Inter-tribal wars have ceased, and they are better clad, housed, and fed, and have better medical attendance, than ever before. By the census of 1880 the Indian population of the United States, exclusive of Alaska, numbers 255,938, more than half of whom now wear citizen's dress, distributed among sixty-eight agencies and one hundred reservations. Those not under the control of the agents of the government, numbering 15,802, are principally in the Territories of Arizona, Idaho, and Utah, and the States of California, Indiana, Kansas, North Carolina, Oregon, and Wisconsin. The Indian Territory, with a population of 76,585, of whom 17,398 are uncivilized, contains some thirty-five tribes or parts of tribes. It has no large towns. The principal settlements are Tahlequah, the Cherokee capital, Caddo, in the Choctaw territory, Muscogee, in the Creek, Tishomingo, in the Chickasaw, and Vinita, a railroad town on the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas line.

From the Indian Commissioner's report for 1880 we learn that the five civilized tribes in the Indian Territory have 154 church buildings, 224 schools, with 6098 scholars, for the support of which \$186,359 is paid from tribal funds; 34,550 of the population—nearly one-half—can read. They have under cultivation 314,398 acres, raising 336,424 bushels of wheat, 2,346,042 of corn, 124,568 of barley and oats, and 595,000 of vegetables. The other Indian tribes have 169 schools, with 338 teachers and 9972 enrolled scholars, and 119 church buildings. Of the 150 million acres composing their reservations, 18 million are tillable. Of these, 27,078 were broken during the past year. The number of allotments in severalty to Indians in the same year was 3326; of Indian families engaged in farming, 22,048; of male Indians following civilized pursuits, 33,125. Amount expended for education during the year, \$319,901. The number of these Indians who can read is 11,780. The Commissioner reports favorably of their progress in the arts of industry, the demand for implements, tools, etc., being far beyond the means of the department to furnish.

It is evident, from a review of all the facts, that while in its dealings with the Indian our government has never been cruel or unjust in intention, it has often been so in reality. The responsibility for its shortcomings rests mainly upon the people, whose mouth-piece it is, and whose average sense of justice, and regard for national honor when opposed to material interests, it no doubt accurately reflects. The stream can rise no higher than its source. The popular conscience has, however, at length been awakened, and strenuous efforts are being made to rehabilitate the Indian, to whom civilization has thus far been a curse rather than a blessing; to accord him the rights and fit him for the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. Already has this been in some instances successfully accomplished, and the old theory of its impracticability completely disproved. With its full accomplishment one great source of national peril and humiliation will have forever disappeared.