

has been printed by the Government, gives the following figures : S'Kokomish (Congregational), 20 ; Puyallup (Methodist and Presbyterian), 135 ; Tulalip (Catholic), 2,260.\* Under the circumstances was it fair or just that the Congregationalist agent should have been appointed over the consolidated agency ?

We are no partizan of the so-called peace policy, by which agents are nominated by the religious societies. We believe that it is contrary to the genius of our American institutions and destructive of liberty of conscience, and we have not failed to express our views unequivocally whenever the opportunity presented itself ; but under the circumstances would it not have been better for the Government to have appointed a citizen of Catholic antecedents, in whom three-fourths of the Indians would have had confidence, or even a liberal-minded non-Catholic, whom the great majority of the Indians would not have mistrusted ? We have no doubt that Mr. Eells is an honest gentleman and a good citizen, but being the son of an old missionary of the Oregon country who was a participant in the bitter religious controversies of his time, and being himself an ultra-sectarian and the representative of an unsuccessful missionary association, he must be particularly obnoxious to the people at Tulalip whose sympathy and co-operation are necessary to make him attain the objects for which the Government appoints agents.

It must not be supposed that the Indians themselves are ignorant of, or indifferent to, the injustice done them. When the telegraphic news reached them that it was proposed to consolidate their agency with *two* others, they had sagacity enough to know that the destruction of their mission including their Christian schools, was the ultimate object of the proposed legislation. They held meetings and memorialized the Government to spare them from such a blow. Being peaceable, and self-supporting, their wishes were disregarded, for it is only the powerful and war-like tribes that the Government treats with approximate justice.

God have mercy on the poor, powerless Indians !

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\* Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the year 1876, p. 221.