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The Medicine-Man's Curse

AN INCIDENT OF HOME MISSIONS.

(By the Rev. N. B. Rairden, in 'Christian Endeavor World.')

The Kiowa Indians were once a powerful tribe roaming over the Dakotas, and frequently at war with neighboring tribes when they were first discovered by the white men. They were driven southward

Their medicine-men, who are supposed to exert supernatural power, were greatly revered and feared because of their supposed power for evil. Soon after missionaries were sent to this tribe, the hostility of the medicine-men became very pronounced, and they sought in every possible way to prevent members of the tribe from accepting Christianity.

Among the first converts was a man by the name of Saneco. The chief medicine-man of the tribe determined by a bold

Word had gone out among the Indians that Saneco was to be destroyed by the charms of the medicine-men, and quite a number gathered at the time appointed. The chief called his medicine men together, and they 'made medicine' all night, eating mes-cal, a Mexican product which produces hallucinations that are supposed to be of supernatural origin. The council held its meeting in the 'medicine' tent. They stayed up all night, and prophesied dire calamities to be visited upon Saneco and others who had accepted Christianity. They continued all the next day.

The chief medicine-man had pronounced a curse upon Saneco, that at sundown he would bleed from the mouth and die. As the sun approached the west, the interest and expectation increased. The chief medicine-man, who was old and infirm and weak, at the setting of the sun went into his tepee for some food, having fasted for twenty-four hours. While his wife was preparing the food, she heard a strange noise, and, looking around, found the medicine-man with blood issuing from his mouth. She cried out, and other members of the tribe came in, and carried the old man out of the tepee in sight of all those who had assembled to see the test of strength between the new religion and the old. In a few minutes the old medicine-man was dead. The curse which he had pronounced upon the Christian had come upon himself.

The effect upon the tribe was very great, and the entrance for the gospel was greatly enlarged. The power of the medicine-man was correspondingly diminished. Since that time hundreds of these Indians have become devout, earnest Christians. Surrounding tribes have been more or less influenced by it.

Saneco is now a deacon in the church at Rainy Mountain, which numbers more than one hundred and fifty members, while another church in the same tribe is situated some twenty miles west, with a membership of thirty or forty.

You may call this incident a coincidence if you like, but it seemed something like the test of strength when Elijah and the prophets of Baal met before all Israel to determine whether Goh or Baal should be served in Israel. These poor, ignorant Indians have been sadly neglected, and what has been done among the Kiowas ought to be done by American Christians in every other tribe in the United States.



IN A FEW MINUTES THE OLD MEDICINE MAN WAS DEAD.

by the more powerful Sioux until they finally settled in Kansas and Colorado.

Their numbers have been depleted by war, but more by various epidemics. They are a fine people, very proud-spirited and independent.

Their religion was idolatry, the worship of the sun, trees, and other inanimate objects.

They are now settled upon a reservation in southern Oklahoma.

Little has ever been done toward their evangelization until the last few years.

stroke to stop the increasing influence of Christianity by prevailing upon him to return to the religion of his fathers. Meeting him one day, he insisted upon his renouncing Christianity at once. This Saneco refused to do. The medicine-man tried persuasion, and then threats. Finally he told Saneco that unless he renounced Christianity a council of medicine-men would be held, and they would make powerful medicine and destroy him. His threats, however, were unavailing, though Saneco and his friends were much disturbed.

The Post Office Crusade.

(To the readers of the 'Messenger'.)

India is being flooded by infidel literature, sent by post, from England and America. Will not Christians arise, and take the same means to counteract this evil by pouring in a stream of Christian truths, these words were written to the 'Union Signal,' of Chicago, about ten years ago and have sealed themselves into our memory. The first letter, asking a response and organization of 'Our Post-Office Crusade,' from Canada to India, was sent to the 'Canadian Baptist.' It received much criticism as denominational papers, in our ignorance, were requested. 'Not denominational papers' urged the Bap-