

centuries and the Indian tribes have been driven farther and farther toward the Pacific coast. But here as elsewhere, the paleface has made his home, and the red man lies, as it were, between two fires, each approaching with steady vigor the doomed and helpless victim. Explorers, adventurers and surveying parties now pierce the most inaccessible thickets of hill and glen, instead of the scalping parties and the Indian bands of hunters and trappers. The Indian, in fact, is in the last stage of his existence. Having been successively the host, enemy and subject of the white man, he is now become the white-man's ward: to feed, clothe and civilize him is now preferred to fighting him. As the case lies, he will soon be civilized off the face of the earth.

But let us remember that the destruction of this once powerful race, has not been wholly due to actual death at the hands of the invader. The question naturally arises—why as a race, have they withered away from this, their native land? We have not far to go for an answer. Even a person who has a moderate insight into the natural capabilities and inclinations of a race, will tell you that the white-man's restless progress and ambition is the bane of Indian welfare. The Indian, to be prosperous, requires for himself and family several square miles of land, lying in a wild state of forest, prairie, swamp and river, where the blow of the woodman's axe, the tinkle of the cow-bell or the discharge of firearms never awakes the echoes. Such links and fibers of transit and intercourse as the railroad, the postal and telegraph system, while advancing the claims of civilization, put an interdict on the savage. Firearms, small-pox, and intoxicating liquors—all particularly obnoxious and fatal to the well-being of the Indians—came with the Europeans. To the latter also is laid another crime—the destruction of the bison which once numbered millions—a crime which stands as a blot upon the boasted claims of civilization. While the red man was master over our western plains, he killed the buffalo only in numbers sufficient for his simple needs. But to satisfy the white-man's greed, it is said one million were annually slaughtered merely for their pelts, while their carcasses were left to the wolves. As the buffalo was the principal sustenance of the red-man where maize was not, the extinction of this magnificent