

This slight examination of Indian history, and of the legal and political relations subsisting between the two races since the settlement began, sufficiently accounts for the existence of the so-called "Indian Problem," and explains why it has so long remained unsolved. The wonder is that, under all the circumstances, any advance in civilization should have been made by the tribes. In its dealings with them our government has been sadly derelict, and it has reaped only what it has sown. Government faith pledged to them in numerous treaties has been frequently broken, and government agents have systematically plundered and defrauded them. Their history has been a record of broken treaties, unjust wars, and cruel spoliation. We have taken from the Indian everything he prized; what have we given him in return? "Indian wars," say the committee of Congress of which Senator Doolittle was chairman in 1867, "in a large majority of cases are to be traced to the aggressions of lawless white men, always to be found upon the frontier or boundary-line between savage and civilized life." A year later a new commission, including the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the chairman of the Senate Committee of Indian Affairs, and three generals of the army, said, . . . "Civilization made its contract and guaranteed the rights of the weaker party. It did not stand by the guarantee. The treaty was broken, but not by the savage. . . . The Downing massacre, in May, 1864, and the Chivington massacre, in November, are scarcely paralleled in the records of Indian barbarities. A war ensued which cost the government thirty millions and carried conflagration and death to the border settlements. Fifteen or twenty Indians were killed, at a cost of more than a million apiece, while hundreds of our soldiers had lost their lives, many of our border settlers were butchered, and much property was destroyed. This was something more than useless and expensive, it was dishonorable to the nation and disgraceful to those who originated it. . . . The best possible way to avoid war is to do no act of injustice. . . . Our wars with them have been almost constant; have we been uniformly unjust? We answer, unhesitatingly, Yes!"

These statements are the results of careful and conscientious investigation, and cannot be controverted. General Crook says, "When the Indian's horses and cattle are big enough to be of service, they are driven off in herds by white renegades. When his wheat, corn, and vegetables are almost ready for market, his reservation is changed, as in the case of the Poncas, and he is obliged to abandon everything." Having no legal redress, the Indian, if wronged, has no alternative but cowardly acquiescence or forcible resistance. The Dominion government, which has kept faith with the Indians, has not expended in war with them a dollar or a life in the century that has cost us one hundred millions of dollars and thousands of lives. It sets apart a permanent reservation for them, seldom removing them; it selects agents of high character, who receive their appointments for life; it makes fewer promises, but it fulfils them; it gives the Indians Christian missions, which are heartily sustained by the people, and all its efforts are towards self-help and civilization.

All agree that some speedy remedy should be found for the great evils now existing in our Indian system. Prominent among these are the recognition of tribal