

tics may dictate the appointment of cadets to West Point, but before they graduate the administration may change. Men who expect to be army officers for life cannot dabble very much in political changes. Hence the demoralizing "spoils system" has little place among them. The army officer in charge of an Indian reservation would be looking for honor and promotion as the result of a good administration, while the political "agent" is looking only to make as much money as possible in a little while and get away where nobody will ask how he came by it. We will trust the army. Bishop Whipple well says:

"The men who represent the honor of the nation have a tradition that lying is a disgrace, and that theft forfeits character."

Gen. Miles states the case thus:

"After careful observation of all the principal tribes in the United States, I believe that those people who have been and are still a terror to the peace and good order of certain States and Territories should be placed under some government just and strong enough to control them."

Not only the good of the Indians, but of our white settlers through all our broad Mississippi valley demands the speedy settlement of the Indian problem on the basis of right. Let us

#### CIRCULATE PETITIONS

like the following, duly addressed to the Senate and to the House of Representatives of the United States:

The undersigned, being citizens of the United States, believing that the welfare of the Indians, the security of the white settlers in our newer States and Territories, and the honor of the nation demand a complete change in the management of Indian affairs, hereby petition your honorable body to transfer the control of the Indians from the Department of the Interior to the War Department, putting officers of the regular army in control of all posts, reservations and agencies, and furnishing all rations and supplies through quartermasters of the regular army.

We further petition that the earliest possible arrangements be made for allotting to the Indians their lands in severalty, with suitable guarantees against sale or alienation to protect the individual owners, until they shall have acquired the arts of civilization, and become able to protect themselves by peaceable methods in the enjoyment of their rights; and that suitable measures be taken to put the Indians at the earliest practicable day in the enjoyment of all the rights, privileges, immunities and responsibilities of citizens of the United States.

Respectfully Submitted.

Now, that the army by its firm and wise treatment of the matter has brought the prospect of peace so near, is just the time to urge this subject upon the attention of Congress and of the country.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

##### The Authorship of "Darkest England."

It is claimed to have been discovered that General Booth did not write all of the book which bears his name, upon which he is subjected to fierce attack.

The *Chicago Tribune* says:

"The leader of the Salvation Army now stands before the world stripped of his borrowed plumage. . . . The individual who is not sufficiently candid to give credit for authorship is hardly fit to be trusted with the irresponsible handling of millions for public charity."

The *Pittsburgh Leader* has the following:

"General Booth does not, and apparently dares not, claim that he is, in literal fact, the author of the book for which he claimed and accepted the credit. In the preface to the

work he spoke of it as the labor of years, inspired by his dear departed wife and executed by himself, with no help other than incidental suggestions from his associates. Now he comes down from his elevation, etc. . . . Is not the man who thus deliberately misrepresented things an impostor, a hypocrite, and a violator of the moral code of which he is a professional champion?"

It is an excellent thing for a critic to read the preface of a book—especially when he quotes from the preface. In that portion of his book General Booth speaks as follows:

"In conclusion, I have to acknowledge the services rendered to me in preparing this book by the officers under my command. . . . Of the practical common-sense, the resource, the readiness for every form of usefulness of these officers and soldiers, the world has no conception. . . .