

nearest of kin ; the slaughter of four or five companies of soldiers, and the tears and distress of so many bereft parents, widows, and orphans, call for our sincere sympathy. Nor should we forget to feel compassion for the mourners in the Indian camp.

Is there not something unmistakably providential in the circumstance, that in the very height of her centennial exultation our young and queenly nation has been compelled to endure a public humiliation, the like of which we can scarcely find in the earlier pages of her history ? It is a standing disgrace to us, that a nation of forty millions of civilized and, to a great extent, Christian people, is utterly unable to deal in any creditable manner with a few thousands of so-called savages within easy reach ? The present Dakota war and our recent defeat have placed this in a very strong light. What is our material progress ? What, for example, are the wonders of our Corliss engine and the display of mechanical skill that, at this moment, dazzle the eyes of our guests from every clime, if they see our civilization evidently lacking the power to assimilate by moral influence the last small remnant of barbarian life within the limits of the republic ? We boast of the spread of education all over the land. We Catholics glory especially in the number and grandeur of the edifices we erect for the worship of the Father of all men, whether white, black, or red ; but in the actual warfare against Paganism and its concomitant evils the *gun* and the *sabre* remain our most effective weapons and our last resort. What a few dozens of poor monks or religious achieved in the forests of our own barbarian ancestors, or at a more modern period in the wilds of Paraguay and in the Canadian woods, we, with all the resources of our advanced civilization, apparently are unable to accomplish !