

We hope the sunshine of the opening day of Ninety-one will prove the symbol of the year's brightness and prosperity, and that joy and gladness may come to every dweller in Zion, while the rays of intelligence, streaming from the Eternal Sun, may penetrate to every part of the world and impart light and joy to every living soul that is struggling upward and striving for the right.

THE INDIAN WAR.

"The Episcopal church is turned into a hospital and contains thirty-eight wounded hostiles, most of them squaws, and a majority will die."

That is part of a dispatch from Pine Ridge, dated Dec. 31st, 1890. It partly tells the tale we expected to hear. The words we have put in italics disclose a fact the full particulars of which will most likely be covered up so that they will not reach the public eye. When Big Foot's band surrendered, bringing with them twice as many squaws as warriors and also a large number of papooses, it was clear to every reader who knows anything of Indian customs that the submission was genuine. Indians do not expose their women and children to danger from battle. Depend upon it there is something behind that reported story of the attack of the reds upon the soldiers who were disarming them, more than has been given to the papers.

The slaughter of these squaws is an indication of foul play. We have not yet learned how many papooses also fell victims to the soldiers' prowess in "shooting down the Indians wherever found." But from the New Year's day dispatches it appears that their "bravery" in that direction was also shown on the field. For instance, one item says, concerning wounded hostiles found on the scene of Monday's "battle:"

Five of those found were bucks and five squaws. The scouts brought them in and they are now in the hospital. In addition to the adults, two tiny Indian babes, one of them over three months old, were found alive, each beside the dead body of its mother. They were well wrapped up, but that they ever survived the weather of the last four or eight hours seems a miracle.

Of the thirty-five wounded Indians brought in after the battle, nearly all of whom were squaws and children, not one has yet died, though many are badly mangled with bullets.

Whoever heard of Indians choosing a battle ground where their squaws and papooses were gathered? Yet another dispatch says:

"While the fight was hottest there mingled with the roar of musketry the careless, joyous laughter of half a dozen little Indian children, who were not more than five or six yards from the scene of the savage conflict, and who paid no more attention to them than if it were so much conversation."

It looks as though the design foreshadowed in the opening of this campaign has been largely accomplished. The Indians have been forced into a conflict and the intention now is, apparently, to effect their destruction. What encouragement is there for surrender? When the news of the slaughter following submission by Big Foot's band reaches the other "hostiles" will it not be a notice to them that their only chance for life is to fly or fight?

The following from the Omaha *World-Herald* of Dec. 31st expresses the views of a host of people who are informed on the subject:

"As the details of the recent gratuitous sacrifice of life at Wounded Knee become known, the elements of unfairness in it grow apparent. The *World-Herald* is anxious to write with the greatest temperance on this subject. There can be no doubt, however, that the Indians firmly believed they were to be murdered. They saw themselves faced on every side by Hotchkiss guns; surrounded by troops and forcibly despoiled of their arms. Their wives and children were near. They remembered other occasions on which the guns of United States soldiery had been turned indiscriminately upon men, women and children. They did not know that the present commander of the United States troops, General Brooke, is a humane man. They thought they were doomed. So they fought—not with any idea of victory. The Indians are too experienced as fighters to mistake a situation. They fought that they might die as fighters should."

"As for the troops, they did what remained for them to do. They were not responsible for the false position—that is, the unfair demonstration against a foe greater or inferior in numbers—as they fought with deadly intent. A man knows that no quarter can be shown on such a battlefield. He fights to kill. There is no alternative. The Indians broke and ran, dying as they went; huge guns were turned on them; they were mowed down!"

"But it does not matter. They have been starved, deceived, all but imprisoned, and none have blushed to know it so. Now they are happily dead. The old fire has blazed up again for a moment from the ashes of their long patience—blazed up to consume, not only their foes, but themselves."

The situation now seems to be such that an Indian war is inevitable. The troops cannot retire. The savages must be suppressed. Once aroused, their worst passions will rage, and if only for the protection of frontier settlers, the army must be employed. But the responsibility for this sad condition of affairs, we believe, does not rest upon the Indians, but upon those who have forced them into a hostile position and who are now taking advantage

of the situation. The nation will have to account for its treatment of the Indian question before the inexorable bar of eternal justice.

CREDITABLE ENTERPRISE.

THE New Year's Salt Lake *Tribune* comprises thirty-two pages of close print and exhibits much journalistic enterprise. It is chiefly valuable for its mining and other statistics. If it were not for the malicious and untruthful statements, insinuations and inferences concerning the majority of the people of Utah which it contains, it would be a very creditable publication. As it is, doubt is measurably cast upon the whole production. Much labor and considerable skill have been expended upon the issue, and it will no doubt have a wide circulation. It may be that before many years expire the *Tribune* will be so far improved as to advance, at least for the first day of a new year, above the petty plane of contracted vision, party spite and small intolerance. We are always glad to recognize merit, even in an adversary, and would be pleased if we could now pass an unqualified encomium upon our energetic contemporary.

"MORMONS" IN MEXICO.

AMONG the papers which are now making foolish remarks on the latest false rumor about the "Mormons" moving into Mexico is the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, an able Republican journal, but nearly always entirely "off" on the "Mormon" question. That paper says:

"It is to be hoped that the story of a large purchase of lands in Mexico by the Mormons is true, and that they will proceed to transfer themselves and their religion to that country without delay. That is probably the only way in which the Mormon problem will ever be thoroughly and permanently solved."

The ignorance of the *G. D.* is quite as apparent in the foregoing as its malice towards the majority of Utah's citizens. But we need say no more on this matter; the following will be sufficient; it is a rejoinder to the above paragraph by the Deming, N. M., *Headlight*, of Dec. 27th, 1890:

"The truth is that the vast majority of the American people have absolutely no sense of right and wrong as affecting any question wherein the Mormons are concerned. And yet, those who have had opportunities for observation will testify that these are an industrious people who pay their debts and regard the rights of their neighbors. They take a country like Utah and make it blossom as the rose. They are developing northern Chihuahua in a similar manner. No one ever sees a Mormon under the influ-