

them? Where is their certificate of membership? And if this is their position why be afraid of it, why sail under false colors? Surely to honor in practice, in obedience, the so called "Word of God" is not derogatory to men who have understanding. The New Testament gives as the words of Christ: "He that shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven." So if these Bible circulators believe in their work and in their Book, it will be best for them to be frank and open, for in seeking to be both "Mormons" and sectarians, between "two stools they may come to the ground!"

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER.

We have promised our readers to keep watch of the progress of the electric light, and thus far have kept our word. For, we have faith in its ultimate success, and only desire that when it shall come into extensive use in Utah the best of the various plans for its utilization may be adopted, and that time and money may not be wasted in expensive experiments.

For two years past trials and tests have been made at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, near London, England, and at the present time sixteen lamps are lit nightly in some of the workshops. They are of the Brush system, which so far has found more favor than any other with the Navy Department.

But it appears that its cost is greater than that of the general illuminator, gas, which seems to hold its own in spite of the claims of its dazzling rival. Extensive additions to the Government gas works have recently been made to the Arsenal, so we learn from *Engineering*, and new apparatus has been recently constructed, which enables the works to manufacture and supply more than five times the quantity of gas than was used there a few years ago. Thus it appears that while the electric light may be used for some special purposes, it is not likely to come into general utility at the Arsenal, at least for a long time to come, but that gas will, as formerly, be the general light for the great national workshops, and other government buildings at Woolwich.

From the *Engineer*, an other reliable and standard publication, we glean particulars of the great light trial at Glasgow, Scotland, to which we have previously briefly referred. Several systems were tested at the Glasgow trial which lasted for one calendar month. Among them were the Lontin, the Crompton, and the Brush systems. A football match was played in the light of these rival lamps. The Brush people had ten, what they claim to be, 2,000-candle lights, suspended about 18 feet from the ground, divided on each long side of a rectangular space. At one goal was elevated a Crompton light, 38 feet above the ground, with another 55 feet high, above and a little back of one side of the rectangle. At the other goal, low down, were two Lontin lights, backed by large reflectors. These were very dazzling and annoying to the players and had to be elevated. The Brush lights were enclosed in ground glass shades, the Crompton in clear glass. The relative light of the Brush to the Crompton is stated to be as 1 to 11.5.

After the Brush and Lontin lights were extinguished, the two Crompton lights being kept burning, the difference made by the extinction of the others is said to have been "comparatively very small," and "the game could as well have been played by the two as the fourteen lights." The Crompton lamp was supplied by Gramme machines. Neither the Lontin nor the Brush people would submit to the test of the dynamometer, so the Crompton gained the day.

Progress is being made in the use of electricity as a motive power. The Siemens locomotives in Germany are passing from the domain of experiment into the sphere of practical utility, and Messrs. Siemens and Halske have obtained a concession for a railroad from Leichterfelde to Yelow.

At the Victoria Docks in London, where the Siemens electric light is used, several cranes for the unloading of vessels are moved by electric force from the same machines that

generate the electric currents for the lamps. Both for light and for force electricity is "on the move."

THE PONCA DIFFICULTY AND DISGRACE.

THE settlement of the trouble with the Ponca Indians is not to be effected so easily as Secretary Schurz anticipated. There appears to be a conflict between that dignitary and the Commission, appointed by President Hayes to investigate the matter and assist in the final disposal of the tribe.

The Secretary of the Interior had arranged to pay the Indians a sum of money altogether inadequate for the purchase of their lands, on the condition that they would settle in the Indian Territory, and to finish up the business several of the Ponca chiefs were conveyed to Washington, where, under some influence which does not yet come to the surface, they have been induced to accept the terms which have been offered, although they know that they are almost giving away their property and agreeing to live in a country which is utterly distasteful to the remnant left of their tribe. General Crook is evidently determined if possible to get at the root of the matter, and to find out the secret cause of the submission of the chiefs to the terms of the Secretary.

The treatment of the Ponca Indians has formed a subject for the animadversion of the press all over the United States. Papers connected with both of the great political parties as well as "independent" journals, have joined in a general denunciation of the course pursued towards that unfortunate race. Not only have the newspapers condemned the action of the government in the case of the Poncas, but public meetings have been held in several places at which resolutions were passed demanding the restoration of the red men to their own lands.

But the course pursued toward the unfortunate Poncas is but one out of the many outrages inflicted upon the "remnants left of the land," the history of their forcible removal from their possessions by the law of might, is but a repetition of wrongs done to other tribes. The Poncas dwell in north-eastern Dakota and that part of Nebraska adjoining. They were removed four years ago, by order of the Government to the Indian Territory. On the way they suffered intensely, many dying in their tracks, and after their arrival the climate and the situation were so unfavorable that in less than two years from the time they left their homes, one-third of their entire number had perished. Standing Bear and a few followers managed, after great privations, to reach Omaha, where they told their tale of distress, and asked for help to get back with the rest of their tribe to their own possessions; but they were seized by soldiers under orders to force them back to the place of death.

It was then that some brave Omaha gentlemen, notably Mr. Tibbles of the *Herald*, took hold of their case, and by *habeas corpus* brought them before Judge Dundy, who, to his everlasting credit, decided according to law and justice, irrespective of considerations for the Government. He recognized the Indians as "persons" with their right to sue and be sued, and also their right to dwell on their own soil, and denied the right of the government either to shut them up on a reservation or to forcibly remove them, unless they were guilty of some crime. From this decision Secretary Schurz took an appeal.

When the Poncas made their way back to Dakota they found their country owned by the Sioux, the Government having ceded it to them. The Sioux were the old enemies of the Poncas, but they treated them kindly in their distress and would have permitted them to remain; but this was not in accordance with the policy of the Government, and they were compelled to return, although the Sioux were not in actual but only nominal occupation of the Poncas' possessions.

In his annual report Secretary Schurz admits the wrong of their first removal. He says:

"I have repeatedly expressed the opinion that the Poncas had a serious grievance on account of that removal, and that a generous indemn-

nity was due to them. I am free to say, also, that a clear knowledge of their case at the time of their removal, which happened at the very beginning of the present administration, would have induced me then to oppose it to the extent of the discretion permitted by existing law to the department in such cases."

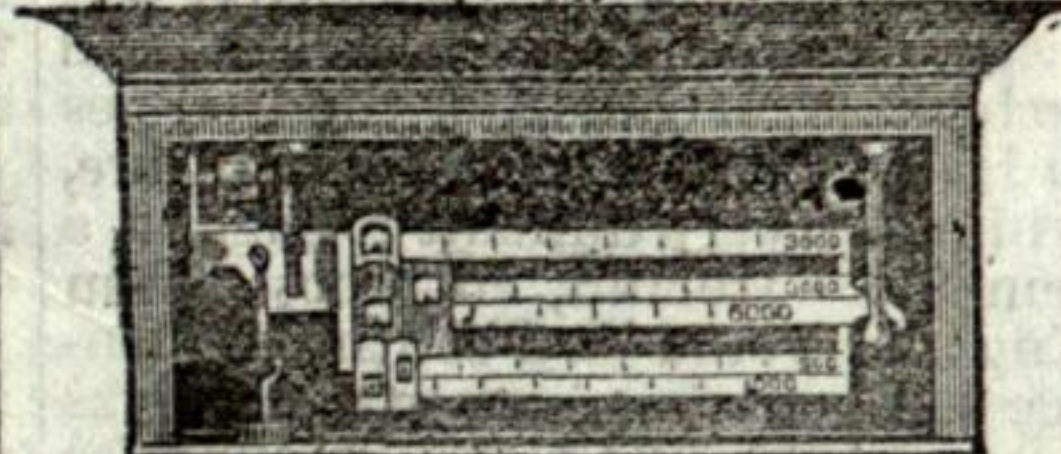
Why then should not proper reparation be made to these injured people? The Secretary's excuse is that their land has been ceded to the Sioux, that the two tribes have been hostile, and the "general pacification of the Sioux tribes" is a great problem to be settled. He admits, however, that the Sioux are located "at a distance from the old Ponca Reserve," and also that they are "more favorably disposed toward the Poncas" than formerly, yet he still sticks to the policy of keeping these defrauded Indians upon the Territory to which they were taken by force.

Judge Dundy has recently delivered another decision concerning these Indians, which is to the effect that they are the legal and rightful owners of the lands in Nebraska and Dakota from which they were removed. But still the Secretary is determined that they shall not possess them. And to accomplish his purpose of keeping them from their possessions, he has managed, by some process, to induce the chiefs now at the seat of government to change their minds concerning the Indian Territory, where their people died like sheep with the rot, and to accept the sum of \$140,000 for their lands which they believe to be worth \$960,000. The particulars of the treaty and the steps taken by the commission appointed by the President to inquire into the matter, will be found in the telegraphic report of the proceedings.

The only "square" way of settling this difficulty, is to pay the Sioux for that portion of the land ceded to them that belongs to the Poncas; settle the latter on their lawful claims; stock their farms, give them agricultural implements, school facilities, and in every possible way reimburse them for the wrongs they have suffered, no matter what the cost nor how few and weak the Poncas may have become.

It is to be hoped that General Crook and his associates will be able to unravel the tangled skein which has been wound about the Ponca chiefs and to see that justice is done to them. They are now but feeble folk, and there is little danger of what they can do when smarting under the discovery that they have been cajoled and cheated. They are not like a numerous band of warriors who can go on the war path and spread death and destruction because of their wrongs. But the principle of the thing is the same whether the Poncas are a hundred or a host. And the great fact remains that a judicial decision has proclaimed them the lawful owners of certain lands, and enunciated the truth that an Indian is entitled to the processes of law like a white man, and that until he commits some specified crime he cannot be legally forced upon a reservation or moved away from his land, either by individuals or the Government. And in the sight of God the wrongs done to the red men are as heinous as if perpetrated upon the most advanced races of humanity. They are recorded against this nation and Government. They are foul blots on the pages of history. They will not go unavenged of Eternal Justice. And unless a different policy than that which has disgraced the United States before heaven and the world is pursued towards the primal owners of the soil, the vengeance of offended Deity, as well as the scorn of all civilized nations, will be the portion of the boasted "land of the free and home of the brave."

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