

to trust him. To them, he is the Government. To him, they are a lot of undeveloped, full-grown children, whose individual peculiarities he understands, and can use to control them at pleasure. Now comes a change of administration. For no reason in the world except to give a place to some political worker, this experienced man is removed and a green hand put in his place. Every time that this happens, the Government deliberately invites a disturbance that may cost many lives and is sure to cost many dollars. The Indians resent the removal of the man for whom they have come to cherish a kindly feeling. They know nothing about 'victors' and 'spoils'; they know only that the man they trust has been sent away, and charge of them been transferred to a stranger whom they hate for his very strangeness. He enters this atmosphere of hostility, and in nine cases out of ten has not the least idea of the nature of the beings he must deal with, or the methods he ought to use. What the result is we have seen over and over again. It is this hideous system that is responsible for no small part of the present trouble. And it is a system so obviously designed to make trouble that its continuance in a civilized nation is a marvel of stupidity. It would be far more sensible to make every commissioned officer in the regular army a political appointee, and to change the whole list of them from general down, every time a President is elected, than to enforce the spoils system in the Indian bureau. It would be more reasonable to remove every school teacher and pastor of a church in the country after an election than to change Indian agents to make place for more politicians. Yet this is the worse than foolish, the absolutely criminal policy that is pursued in Indian affairs as a matter of course. As long as there are to be agencies and agents, we cannot hope for even a decent measure of success with the Indian until civil service reform, in its most radical shape, is applied to the whole body of the Indian service."

ASSASSINATION OF SITTING BULL

THE following, which appears in the New York World of the Dec. 19th, in the form of a special from Bismarck, N. Dakota, probably gives the correct account of the murder of Sitting Bull. It furnishes an explanation of the statement which appeared in some of the prejudiced and evidently "doctored" descriptions of the tragedy, to the effect that the body of the dead chief presented a horrible appearance, leading to the inference that it had been mutilated:

"Corporal Gunn, of the Eighth Cavalry, who was with the expedition that went to capture Sitting Bull, says it is not true that the old chief was killed while resisting arrest, and on the strength of the corporal's story it is being urged that Sitting Bull was murdered in cold blood.

"The corporal passed through here today on his way to St. Paul to spend Christmas. To your correspondent he said:

"Lieutenant Bull Head, of the Indian police, went to Sitting Bull's house, opened the door and com-

menced reading the warrant for his arrest. Sitting Bull and his two sons, one a lad of twelve, were the only persons in the shack. The chief carried arms as all Indians do. He came to the door and the young son gave a cry of alarm on seeing the house surrounded by police. He no sooner cried out than Bull Head, without a moment's hesitation and before any resistance was offered, fired at Sitting Bull, the ball piercing his breast immediately over the left nipple. As he staggered he managed to draw his revolver and fire one shot while falling, the bullet lodging in Bull Head's thigh.

"Sitting Bull fell about six feet away from the door. His horse was standing near the house and Red Tomahawk jumped upon it and flew to the troops with the news. Crow Foot, the boy, was next killed, and he fell across the body of his father. The combat was then hand to hand, Sitting Bull's enraged followers rising up from the brush like magic.

"Sitting Bull's scalp was lifted by one of the braves whose identity is unknown. Some of the Indian police swear that Red Tomahawk fired the death shot, but as it is known to a certainty that Bull Head shot him through the left breast, the post surgeon thinks that this was the fatal wound. Red Tomahawk is not a permanent policeman, and did not wear a uniform at the time. He is evidently scared, as he refuses to say anything of his part in Sitting Bull's killing.

"Sitting Bull's body was in a horrible shape. In fact all the dead were frightfully mutilated. One of the Indians battered the dead chieftain's face with a plank. After tring of this sport he balanced it across its nose and with maniacal glee left it in that position. The eyes were gouged out and the few remaining hairs were clipped off, the moccasins removed and nearly every stitch of clothing carried away for relics.

"It was learned tonight from a gentleman just from Standing Rock Agency, that Sitting Bull's body, when brought in from Grand River, was taken to the Military Hospital to be dissected. The Indians at the agency, the police and friendly Indians, would have nothing to do with the body. It is said that on the morning when the body was to be buried a couple of soldiers took the box supposed to contain the body and dumped it into an isolated grave away from the graves of the other Indians, and a guard was placed around it. It is an open secret that the box did not contain the remains and that the guard was put on the grave as a blind. It is believed that Sitting Bull's body is now in the dissecting room and that in time the skeleton will turn up in some museum.

"Among Sitting Bull's effects were found letters and documents of all descriptions from all over the country, most of them from people inclosing slips of paper for his autograph, but he never responded to these requests unless a fat monetary consideration came with the letter. His signature always commanded \$1, and he found ready sale for it. All he could write was his name, and that in a painful scrawl.

"There were several communications from Mrs. Weldon, the woman who claims that she was sent out from Brooklyn, New York, by an Indian society. She came to the agency about a year ago, but she created a feeling of discontent among some of the Indians and the authorities repeatedly ordered her off the reservation.

She finally said she loved Sitting Bull and went to live with him on Grand River. She was a remarkably fine-looking woman, thirty years old, and had a son ten years of age, with long, curly, dark hair. Sitting Bull thought as much of Mrs. Weldon's young son as he did of her, and took great delight in putting the youngster on one of his ponies and riding with him on his own charger to the agency on ration day. Mrs. Weldon took her departure from Standing Rock two months ago. Tears trickled down the weather-beaten cheeks of the old warrior as he parted with the little boy. It was the first time he ever exhibited any emotion. Mrs. Weldon took the steamer *Chaske* to Sioux City. When she arrived at Pierre the boy was stricken with lock-jaw and died. Mrs. Weldon is a well-educated, refined woman, and her actions were a mystery. She is an able writer and fluent conversationalist. While in the East, after the death of her son, she wrote a number of letters to Sitting Bull, foretelling the terrible tragedy enacted the other day. She warned him to be on the alert, telling him that the military and jealous Indians who sided with the government were seeking to put him out of the way."

SUCCESS OF THE REFORM SCHOOL

THE Utah Reform School is one of the territorial institutions of which the people may be proud. It has received some of the worst specimens of juvenile depravity that have disgraced society and has brought them under discipline and a reformatory influence which bids fair to convert them into worthy members of the body politic.

There are others who have been sent to this institution who had not become so criminal as the class referred to, but who were sufficiently ungovernable and prone to do wrong as to warrant their detention in a place other than a prison and yet withold liberty from them for a season.

We are pleased to learn that under the just and firm yet temperate and considerate policy pursued by Manager Joseph Barton excellent results have been obtained. As evidence of this we cannot do better than to reproduce the following from the columns of the Ogden Standard, with our congratulations to the Superintendent and the public on the success so far achieved:

"Four boys and two girls of the Territorial Reform School will spend Christmas at home. Two of the boys and one of the girls live in Ogden, the other three in Salt Lake. They go out on parole until they shall become of age. The rules of the institution permit the paroling of inmates who show by their conduct that they are worthy to be trusted. They remain under the custody of the school and are required only to report once in six months to give Superintendent Barton and the board of trustees assurances that they have kept their agreement in regard to their deportment.

A Standard reporter called at the