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EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, September 6, 1876.

Correspondence

The Indians

LOGAN, Sept. 5, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

At present the whole eyes of our nation are perplexed over, and what to do with, the Indians; the war arm of the government is now being bared to set them right, which means, judging from the past, to direct them to the wall, or, in plainer terms, to exterminate them, as if they were encumbrances of the ground, persons having no natural rights, when in reality they are the lords of the American soil and waters.

Columbus and other great explorers and discoverers found them in the quiet and undisputed possession of this continent, and also found them uncultivated and unpolished in the barbarous fickery, and low intrigue which characterize those who have aggressed upon their rights.

The history of colonial times presents many striking instances of the fact that from the beginning the so-called Christian white man has been the first to violate his honor, to break his compact and covenants with the too often confiding Indian. History also points to the fact that very many of these early colonists were not overstocked with such qualities as were calculated to elevate any one. Hundreds of such came to this land from the old world, not in particular to develop the country, but to find a fortune easily and readily, and with such an object in view we may safely conclude that history does not misrepresent them.

Callous indeed must be the feelings of a person who is not shocked at reading the narrative of Cortes, the Spanish general, with regard to the Indians of Mexico. This general came to this country under the auspices of the Spanish government, probably selected on account of his daring and cruelty, the better to establish Spanish rule and dominion against all opposition in this land. The sequel shows how well he succeeded, and at what cost and sacrifice to the Indians of that country.

A volume might be written, showing the extent of the encroachments and impositions practiced upon the Indian, from the colonization of the country to the present time. If the Indian is censured with being unrelenting in his mode of warfare, devoid of feelings of humanity, and shows many weaknesses, it is not due to his depravity altogether, but attributable to a great extent to the treatment he and his fathers have received from the hands of the whites. The plighted faith of the white man with the Indian may well create distrust in his heart, and the continued abuse which has been heaped upon him in the past has proved a school in which the chief lesson taught him has been to hate the pale face and avenge the wrongs he has practiced upon him and his race.

While our nation was struggling under the writhings of revolution and the iron hand of kingly rule, the Indian was not oblivious to the importance of the contest, and in many instances lent timely and efficient aid to the revolutionists. But in the exchange of masters the contrast of the condition of his fellow Indian on the other side of the line, proves how much he made by the transaction. The record of the Indian bureau, with its multifarious agencies and departments, with all the paraphernalia of Indian trading posts, Indian agents, extinguishments of Indian titles, reservations, and a thousand and one other institutions and projects which have been gotten up to compensate the Indian for his lands and to Christianize him withal, the manipulations of which have tended to degrade him from sheer disgust at the arrogant, selfish, unchristian, and devilish conduct of those entrusted with such affairs.

Generation after generation has passed away and what has this boasted government done for the civilization of this barbarian? Civilization should promote the happiness and elevation of mankind, and ameliorate the condition of all. The present status of the Indian tribes speaks loudly against such efforts, from the fact that the barbarity of his nature has become, by contact with the whites of many parts of the country, more intense; the scalping knife has not been relinquished by many tribes for an instrument of industry, nor the war whoop and dance abandoned for a song of praise and the melody of social concourse.

Fortunately for the cause of justice, there is a just God, who is cognizant of the acts of all men, who views with impartiality the workmanship of his own hands, and will reward mankind for the deeds done in the body. Then the wrongs inflicted upon the Indian will be redressed, and this Christian nation will find it has been tampering with a chosen though benighted people.

The ancient history of the Indians, brought forth in the Book of Mormon by the Prophet Joseph Smith, establishes their identity, shows them to be of the royal lineage of Israel, and places their predecessors in the front rank of nations that once existed; says that they once enjoyed the favor and approbation of the Most High, that this continent once swarmed with their ancestors, that fine cities and temples adorned the land, that refinement and the gifts and graces of the holy gospel characterized this once mighty people, that through sin and transgression their fathers went into darkness, that during the crucifixion convulsions and earthquakes disfigured many portions of this land, which fact is manifest by the present geological and geographical condition of the western portion of this continent, that through wars and contentions the major part of that people were wasted and destroyed. The ruins of many cities throughout the land attest the truth of this record.

In consequence of the righteousness of their fathers, the Lord made many precious promises to them in regard to their posterity, that in the last days he would bring to light the history of the past and make of the posterity of the remnant that was left a white and delightsome people, that after they had been scattered and peeled he would remember them in much mercy.

The coming forth of the Book of Mormon has unravelled the mystery of the origin of the Indians, although eminent divines and writers are indifferent and sceptical to the truths of its pages, and still go on wendering and surmising from whence he came and with a flurry of oratory console their readers that his origin must remain in the future as it has been in the past, *unknown.*

That the Indian is far from what he might be and ought to be is beyond a doubt; but when considered in the light of being an "unlettered savage" his history will more than compare with that of his white brethren, who have made large pretensions to enlightenment and civilization and laid claim to being the exponents of the virtues common to a humane and civilized community.

The present Indian difficulty, adjacent to our borders, is only another repetition of aggression on the part of the whites, the lands and homes of the former being invaded by the latter, and the rule or rather doctrine that might makes right is the pretext for the innovation, when, instead of this Government and officials concerned in the Indians acting upon such principles as would tend to elevate them and to raise them from the depths of ignorance and savagery, the practice has been the reverse, proving the fact that man without God and his wisdom cannot bring about good results.

Respectfully,

J. A. LEISHMAN.

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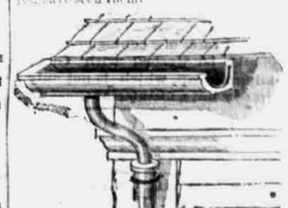

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Park City, daily except Sunday.....5 00 p m
Summit and Wasatch counties, Tuesdays and Thursdays.....8 40 p m
Rich county, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.....8 40 p m
Morgan county, daily.....8 40 p m
North—Davis county, daily.....11 40 a m
Weber county, daily.....8 40 p m
Ogden, semi-daily 11 40 a m & 8 40 p m
Cache and Box Elder counties, daily.....8 40 p m
Corinne and Kelton, daily.11 40 a m
Idaho and Montana, daily..8 40 p m
Boise City and Idaho City, daily.....11 40 a m
West—Nevada, California, Oregon, etc.....11 40 a m
Ophir, Tooele, Stockton, Jacob City, &c.....2 30 p m
Bingham Canyon, daily.....6 30 p m
South—From Beaver and intermediate points, daily.....5 50 p m
Pioche, Star and San Francisco districts, daily.....5 50 p m
St. George and points south of Beaver, alternate days
Sanpete and Sevier counties, daily, except Monday.....
Cedar Valley, Fairfield and Tintic mining districts, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.....

DEPARTURES.

East—Through mail, daily.....
Alta, daily.....8 30
Parley's Park, Big Cottonwood and Wanship, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.....7 00 a m
Park City, daily, except Sunday.....7 00 a m
Summit and Wasatch counties Mondays and Fridays 6 30 a m
Rich county, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.....6 30 a m
Morgan county, daily.....6 30 a m
North—Davis county, daily.....6 30 a m
Weber county, daily.....6 30 a m
Ogden, semi-daily 3 30 p m & 6 30 a m
Cache and Box Elder counties, daily.....6 30 a m
Corinne and Kelton, daily.....3 30 p m
Idaho and Montana, daily..6 30 a m
Boise City and Idaho City, daily.....3 30 p m
West—Nevada, California, Oregon, &c., daily.....3 30 p m
Ophir, Tooele, Stockton, Jacob City, &c., daily.....6 30 a m
Bingham Canyon, daily.....6 30 a m
South—For Beaver and intermediate points, daily.....6 30 a m
For Pioche, Star and San Francisco districts, daily 6 30 a m
For St. George and points south of Beaver on alternate days.....6 30 a m
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