

The Indian Question.

Finally, the whole question of the treatment of the Indians is not one of philosophy, but of political economy. The problem should be studied, not in the rose-colored atmosphere of sentimentality, but in the clear, cold light of science and statesmanship. And, looked at in that light, it is evident that the murder of Geronimo and Dr. Thomas was the legitimate result of the inalienable policy which has always characterized our dealings with the Indians. No uniform principle has ever been consistently applied to our Indian relations. The Government has always played fast and loose with them, alternating between petting and proying upon them; now, coddling and now, cursing them; at one time treating them as superior beings, and at another treating them down as beasts. To outfit them in cartridges, to rob them of supplies to steal their lands, to meet their confidence with treachery, and deal with them as though they had no rights while men were bound to respect, have been the only policies in our Indian history. The policy of the Government has been to play fast and loose with them, alternating between petting and proying upon them; now, coddling and now, cursing them; at one time treating them as superior beings, and at another treating them down as beasts. To outfit them in cartridges, to rob them of supplies to steal their lands, to meet their confidence with treachery, and deal with them as though they had no rights while men were bound to respect, have been the only policies in our Indian history.

Even allowing that our Indian policy has been uniformly wise and consistently kind, the order of general statement would be equally inhuman and unjust. A half dozen savages at the most, felonized by contact with the meanest whites, and excited by sense of wrong and suspicion of still greater, kill two eminent men in mortal combat, and they are looked upon as a few and nothing. Through the commanding general of a great nation issues orders for the extermination of the whole tribe, and the President approves of his act. Are we living in the nineteenth century? Is the panic of the moment to excuse all ideas of justice, and turn the intentions of the Government into a mockery? Have the Modoc taken possession of the whole tribe, and seized upon all the Department? When a burglar is murdered in New York, do we send five to the gallows in which their relatives, or hang the family to which the homicide belongs? And why should not Indians be treated like human beings? Why should we disgrace ourselves, and dishonor the nation, and outrage the common sentiment of the civilized world by punishing the innocent for the deeds of the guilty? Shall we be savages because the Modocs have acted badly? They have been bettered our own. The whole Indian Bureau is a gigantic swindle. Almost every man who has ever had anything to do with the Indian Department has made himself rich. Every Indian contract has been a wholesale steal. Every treaty with the Northern and Western tribes has been at their expense. They had good reason for looking for the white man as the Indian devil. And even in this instance, while carrying on negotiations, General Canby had secretly surrounded the tribe, and was slowly contracting his lines. The Indians saw this, which excited them. In them, but their cowardly and treacherous murders do not justify the Government in yielding to a paroxysm of revenge which dooms the innocent and guilty alike to common destruction. The sober thought of the country will not sustain General Canby's decree. It demands justice, but not severity. The day for Modoc has gone by. The tragedy at the Lava Beds should lead the Government to review and revise its whole policy of dealing with our Indian population. How is it that Brigham Young planted a colony of half-educated whites in the midst of hostile Indian tribes, and for twenty-five years had no trouble with any of them worth speaking of? And here today he proposes to establish a new colony in the midst of Indians our settlements live with only by putting to death. Is the example of William Penn, who kept the whole colony of Pennsylvania in profound peace for eighty years by the Indian policy, utterly wasted on the authorities at Washington? Is our statesmanship so rudimentary and imbecile that it cannot deal with the few Indians scattered along our frontiers without perpetual broils and bloodshed? Allow that the Indians must eventually give back before the white race. Grant that they are incapable of a high state of civilization, and must disappear in time. It does not follow that we should disgrace ourselves by treating them like brutes. Perhaps were the Government to deal with them like human beings, holding them in a virtually amenable to the laws and responsible for their conduct, like other citizens, and punishing every crime against the person and property by whomever committed, we should have fewer Indian depredations to complain of and less occasion to initiate the ethics of "the noble savage."

Was Captain Jack the only one who was acting in bad faith? The careful observer it appears that the soldiers were slowly advancing their lines, and feeling their way to the Indian stronghold, while the Peace Commissioners were talking of an amicable settlement of affairs. Seeing this, and suspecting that they were fully dealt with, the red men sought to kill the leaders of their foes, hoping to gain advantage by the consequent confusion. They made the sad mistake of slaying their best friend. They aroused, also, the worst spirit of our people. No excuse will be listened to when the hour of reprisal comes. It is curious to note that, at the very hour when the extermination of the Modocs is proposed, Brigham Young is making his home among the Apaches, the bravest, bloodiest and most treacherous of the warriors of Arizona. He has no fears for the Modocs. In the twenty-six years the Mormons have lived in Utah, they have had no trouble with the Indians. Our people desire their civilization, but their treatment of the red men was humane and enlightened. It might not be amiss to pluck a leaf from their management for our own guidance in Indian troubles. Other religiousists claim that they cannot live in peace with the Indians. The Modocs have shown that they know how to do it. — *New York Daily Graphic.*

It appears that in the manufacture of matches, Sweden and Norway are becoming formidable competitors of Germany and Austria. Possessing, like the latter, vast forests of timber trees, which supply the necessary wood at a low price, but in respect to all the desirable characteristics of this article, American matches seem to take the lead of all other countries in Europe. They are distinguished above all others by their excellent quality and elegance of form, and their ready inflammability, and moreover regularity of action, without any scattering of the inflammable mass, and without the oppressive odor of sulphurous acid which these matches are so regarded by the various kinds of consumers of this article. The most extensive manufacture of this kind in Europe is said to be that of M. M. Paul, of Paris, in Moravia, where the annual production of matches is set down at 15,000,000,000. The finest matchstick is that they sacrifice excellence to cheapness.

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