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THE COST AND CAUSES OF INDIAN WARS.

Mr. A. H. Jackson, of New York city, has compiled from the official record, and will soon publish an exhibit of the cost and causes of the several Indian wars during the last thirty-seven years, beginning with the Black Hawk war of 1831-'32, which cost directly \$2,000,000, and indirectly, in the destruction of property, employing militia, volunteers, pensions, &c., \$3,000,000 more, making an aggregate of \$5,000,000, attended with a loss of 4,000 of our people. Officers of the army and government, including the present Secretary of the Interior, who served through this war, are unable, even at this late day, to tell what was the real cause of that conflict. They are confident it was forced upon the Indians in the interest of broken down politicians and speculators.

The Seminole or Florida war lasted nearly seven years, employing the army and navy, the militia of Florida and volunteers from some of the other States, costing 15,000 lives and \$100,000,000. The number of Indians engaged was estimated by the Indian agent at 500 warriors; the army officers estimate their numbers at 1,000. Nearly 300 of the Indians still remain in the Everglades of Florida; the others were moved west of the Mississippi. Those in Florida insist that they were never whipped. The first cause of this outbreak was an interpretation given to three treaties; one requiring a removal of the Seminoles, the whipping of Osceola, who escaped and became the leader of the war party. At about the same time a difficulty occurred with the Creeks, Cherokees and other Indians, costing in the aggregate \$1,000,000.

In 1852, we had the Sioux war on the plains, the cause, an Indian killed a cow worth \$10, the property of a Mormon. This war lasted nearly four years, and cost about 300 lives and nearly \$40,000,000. In 1864, came the Cheyenne war, which lasted nearly a year, costing 1,000 lives, and, with the Sioux war at about the same time, \$60,000,000. Cause of the outbreak with the Cheyennes, a false charge made against them of stealing a horse worth \$50; with the Sioux, the opening of a road and the establishing thereof, in their country, in violation treaty stipulations. The war with the Cheyennes ended with a treaty of peace in the fall of 1865, but that with the Sioux continued until the treaty which was recently made by the peace commission.

The Cheyenne war was resumed and continued seven months in 1867, in consequence of the burning of their village by Gen. Hancock. It cost about 300 lives, and from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000; and is not fully settled up yet. On the Pacific slope, during the last twenty years, Indian outbreaks have cost in the aggregate \$300,000,000. In New Mexico Territory, since we acquired it, three campaigns against the Navajoes, have cost \$30,000,000. The cause, the enslavement of Navajoe women and children by the Mexicans. The troubles in that territory with Indians have increased its cost to this government to \$150,000,000.

Indian troubles on a small scale in some of the States and Territories with the expenses growing out of a war, the claims for the destruction of private property, will make our Indian troubles foot up nearly \$1,000,000,000 during the last forty years, and in almost every case the fault was with the whites. The present conflict with the Cheyennes, Apaches, Arapshoes, Kiowas and Comanches grew out of a failure to fulfill treaty agreements, and the blundering of some of our military officers. To destroy the roving Indians, as is foolishly proposed by some, will cost, taking the Seminole war as a criterion, 37,000 of our own people and \$1,000,000,000, and keep 100,000 troops employed ten years.

Cor. of the N. Y. Tribune.

A Mr. Shannon, a native of the Emerald Isle, born in 1740, making him 119 years old, passed through Searcey, Ark., lately, on foot, en route to Texas.

SHARP REPARTER.—The celebrated Dr. Murray, (Kirwin,) of Elizabethtown, N. J., was a close reader of sermons. He rarely preached without manuscript.

Dr. Breckenridge, of Kentucky, has always been a fluent extemporaneous speaker, and somewhat prejudiced against written sermons.

These two eminent divines once met at dinner in Baltimore, at a party where several notable ministers and laymen were guests, when, during the conversation, the subject of reading sermons in the pulpit came up for a share of the remarks.

Said Dr. Breckenridge to Dr. Murray: "Doctor, do you always ask for the help of God in the pulpit?"

"Certainly," replied Dr. Murray.

"Strange," continued the Kentucky extemporizer, "that you should ask for divine assistance after your sermons is already prepared, in word, from beginning to end. What do you expect the spirit to do?"

Of course there was considerable merriment at Dr. Murray's expense; but when the laugh had subsided, the New Jersey reader propounded a question to Dr. Breckenridge.

"Doctor, do you always ask for divine assistance in the pulpit?"

"Most certainly and most emphatically," replied Dr. Breckenridge; "for I depend upon such aid, and expect it when I preach."

"Then," added Dr. Murray, "all that I have to say is, that the Lord sends very strange answers to your prayers."

The subject was dropped.

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF A CALIFORNIA MINING TOWN.

The town of Angels presents an instructive sample of the ups and downs of California. It is a well chosen spot for a village, being in an open country of fertile land, with sufficient undulation for healthful drainage, and plenty of water for mining purposes. It was first settled by placer miners, and in the days of its glory was a very money making place. A wide area of fertile surface has been washed away and forever destroyed, by sluicing process, to get the grains of gold that are found in the underlying gravel. The surroundings present a pitiable spectacle of desolation. Where once were rich verdure and green trees, nothing remains but naked boulders and bare gravel barrens, to make record of improvident waste. It is as if a farmer should, by some exhausting process, destroy his land forever to get one crop of something more than ordinary production. To stop this terrible destruction of farming land seems to call for restrictive legislation. Like many of the mining camps, Angels became almost a deserted village after the exhaustion of the surface deposits. But now it is rising again. Every house is occupied, and new dwellings are being built. Orchards are bearing their plentiful fruits, gardens are being cultivated, and cottages are being adorned with roses, honeysuckles and shrubbery. In no country can regeneration be so rapidly effected as in California. Angels is a speaking illustration of the maxim that "all is not lost that is in danger;" and its history brings glad tidings to many a mining village now deserted.

Alta California.

MIRACULOUS EVENT.—Preston Fowler, who, three weeks since, jumped from a three story window in the residence of Col. Michael Thompson, corner of Massachusetts avenue and Fourteenth street, in Washington, while suffering from typhoid fever, (an account of which we have heretofore published,) has almost recovered from the injuries received by the fall. "His physicians state that the shock received by the fall knocked all symptoms of the fever out of him, they have treated him for injuries received by the accident since, and not for typhoid fever. His recovery will certainly be a miraculous one. It has been suggested by a wag that physicians, in future, who have typhoid fever patients and desire to cure them, had better pitch them out of a three story window.

Wash. Chron.

Calcutta has exported \$25,000,000 worth of opium within a year.

CHOOSING FOR LIFE.—There is a general impression that the only end of an occupation is to make a living, and that the boy or young man who selects that employment by which he can make the most money with the greatest rapidity makes the best choice. This is a deplorable error, wherever it exists. To provide an honorable and comfortable support for himself and family must ever be a main object of every man's business, and yet it is an unworthy thing to toil year after year unceasingly with no other aim in life than to make money. The conviction should be present with every young person, in selecting his occupation, that all his time, powers and circumstances should be so engaged as to produce the greatest possible amount of good to the community around him, as well as to himself. Some may esteem this visionary and impossible, but in reality it is the foundation of success. No one who gives to society, with wisdom and judgment, the benefit of a portion of his labor will fail to reap a richer reward than mere personal ambition or love of money can secure.

The choice of an occupation should be considered with all the care and thought due to a matter that is due to what may be a choice for life. It includes a thousand other choices, and if at first wisely made, nothing will be wasted, nothing lost, and life will be a continued progress. Benedict Arnold had ability and courage, but in his supreme selfishness and love of display and of gold, he sold his honor, and would have sold the lives of his soldiers and the liberties of his country for a paltry bribe. Every man who lives merely for self and to gratify ambition, is a traitor to his own welfare, his country and his race. In the character of Washington it is not chiefly his abilities that have won for him the admiration of the world, but the fact that duty was supreme, and that although he longed for ease and the quiet of home, he sacrificed it all at the call of his country, and put his life and fortune at stake upon a perilous issue. Unselfishness makes men really greater than ambition.

A choice of occupation made on these principles will probably lead to the greatest success of which the nature of him who pursues it is capable. As the efficiency of a watch depends upon the various parts being so adjusted as to bear that relation to each other that was intended by the maker, so the complicated mechanism of man can only obtain real power and ultimate success in life by the proper adjustment with his various powers.

Phil. Ledger.

NAPOLEON'S TENURE OF OFFICE.—Twenty years have passed since the present Emperor of the French was elected President of the French republic, that election having taken place on the 10th of December, 1848. Already the second Bonaparte was held power longer than most of the living monarchs of Europe. A new generation has sprung up since he has been at the head of the French nation, and all the European sovereigns who at first viewed him as an adventurer have admitted him to equality.

BUILDING IN BALTIMORE AND PHILADELPHIA.—During the year just closed 4,109 new buildings were erected in Philadelphia, of which 71 were four story, 2,361 three story and 1,664 two story. The number of buildings erected in Baltimore the past year was 2,878, our population being estimated at about 300,000. Philadelphia claims at least 800,000. Philadelphia claims at least 800,000; hence the building in Baltimore the past year has, according to population, largely exceeded that of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Jan. 1.—The jury in the case of Twitchell, for the murder of Mrs. Hill, went out about nine o'clock this evening, and returned in about twenty-five minutes with a verdict of "Guilty of murder in the first degree." The prisoner received the verdict by throwing up his hands in a deprecating manner.

No such cold weather has visited Florida since 1835—so say our exchanges. Ice was formed an inch in thickness at St. Augustine on the 12th ult.

SPECULATING IN BREADSTUFFS.—The New England Farmer gives the following account of the recent corner in the corn market:

"A little party of men visited Chicago a month or two ago, with perhaps about a half a million dollars at command, and began privately buying up all the corn in the market, contracting for its delivery in thirty days. The contractors, not thinking that a "corner" was forming, neglected to buy corn with which to fill their contracts until the month was nearly ended, and then, to their surprise, found an alarming scarcity in the market. The price began to rise as the time of delivery approached, and the contractors grew more alarmed at their prospects, and bid still higher for the quantity needed. Before the hour of filing the contracts arrived, corn was held at \$1 15, and many prominent dealers were ruined. When the hour struck the price dropped to 91½ cents, and the "corner" was ended. The president of the board of trade was the first to go under, with reported liabilities for 300,000 bushels of corn, or some \$20,000. Other commission men have been dropping by the way since, and the aggregate loss and distress was very large. The sharp and unscrupulous manipulators of the "corner" made from \$100,000 to \$300,000, and many outside the "ring" who were fortunate enough to hold their grain and sell it at the right time, also made handsome sums. About one hundred thousand dollars are required to make a "corner" on wheat, and from one-half to three-quarters of a million on corn."

WHAT YOU DRINK.—The board of excise in New York have just completed a chemical analysis of the various kinds of liquors sold at various saloons in that city as "Bourbon whiskey," and the result is published for the benefit of those whom it may concern. Out of thirty-eight specimens subjected to test, only two were found pure. The ingredients of which most of this "fine old whiskey" is composed are as follows: Fusil oil, rancid lamp oil, green tea, prussic acid, wintergreen, and strychnine. The commodities sold as brandy and gin were found to be made up of compounds equally vile. Some of the newspapers have been making these exposures of late, but as these were set down as sensational, they did not attract much attention. But the exposures of the board of excise are official and will probably open the eyes of the public to the poisons that are pawned off on them.

"Such is Life."—The ups and downs of life are completely and sadly illustrated in the lives of George D. Prentice and Walter N. Halderman. The latter, when a boy, entered the Louisville Journal office as a clerk, when Mr. Prentice was in the zenith of his power. George D. Prentice, in those days, was a great man. He stood second to none among the editors of whig journals in the land; indeed, he had national reputation. He was known as a man of talent, power and influence in the country. Geo. D. Prentice was among the foremost journalists of the times; but now, alas, how changed. He is in the employ of Mr. Halderman, his former clerk, now the principal owner of the Courier and Journal, and receives a salary of \$40 per week. Such is life.

Wash. Rep.

GOOD ADVICE FROM A MORMON.—Brigham Young does not want the female Mormons to wear long dresses, but he does not want their garments too short, either. He says:

"Bring them down to the tops of your shoes, and have them so that you can walk and clear the dust, and do not expose your person. Have your dresses neat and comely, and conduct yourself, in the strictest sense of the word, in chastity. If you do this, you set a good example before the rising generation. Use good language, wear comely clothing, and act in all things so that you can respect yourselves and respect each other. We wish you to remember and carry out these counsels."

Last year the damage done to the crops in France, by insects, exceeded \$105,000,000.