

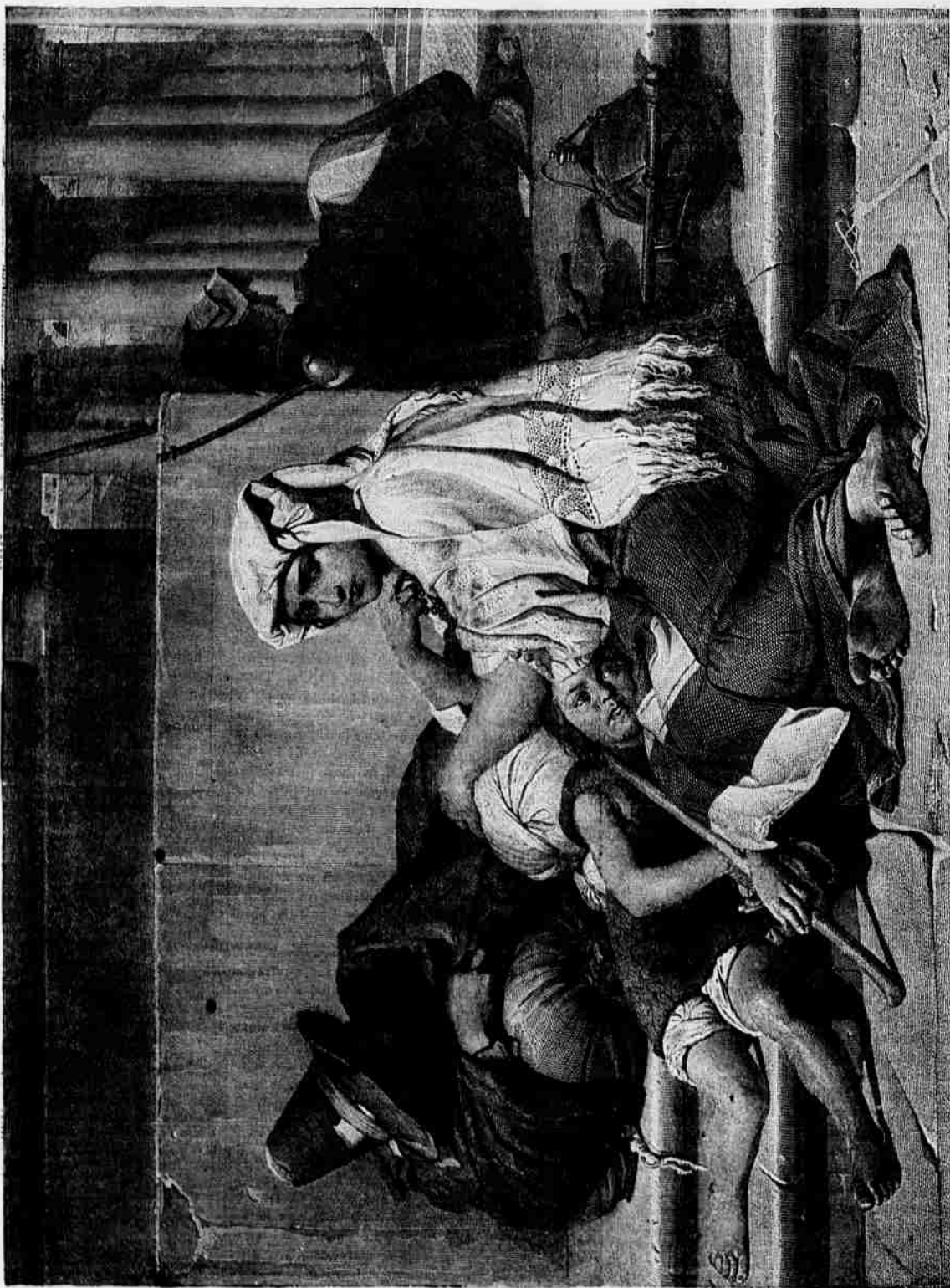
THE INDIAN QUESTION.

Glancing back over the political history of the United States, one can scarcely avoid being struck with surprise at the prominent place the administration of Indian affairs has assumed in the general government of this country. As with the European "Eastern question," every successive cabinet has come into power firmly convinced of its ability to solve the important problem; but, alas, following in the footsteps

There can be no doubt that the groundwork of all the subsequent troubles was laid when our forefathers, in all good faith, admitted the inherent right of the Indian to the soil. Never before, in the history of civilization, do we find the white man allowing the title of the savage to the land on account of previous possession. Had such been the case, civilization must long, ere this, have starved itself out in the small corner of the earth in which it first had birth.

from it. Had they done so, the march of civilization must have stopped, for the colored and inferior races have ever, to the utmost extent of their power, opposed the advance of the Caucasians. Whether the opposition is to be traced to an instinctive or intuitive knowledge, that as the superior race increased in strength and numbers, all others were fated to gradually dwindle away until, at length, they became altogether extinct; or whether it arose from a natural hatred and an-

Greece, and then Rome swayed the world, the area of civilization rapidly increased, but ever with war and carnage, conquest and subjection, as its apparently inevitable precursors. The conquest and subsequent civilization of Britain is a good example of the times a policy which, cruel and barbarous as it may appear to the unthinking masses, always has been and ever will be found necessary in dealing with races which can never be taught to understand or appreciate a manner of living so utterly



ITALIAN BEGGARS IN ROME.

of its predecessors, only, in the end to lay it aside in disgust as incapable of solution. Could the Indian but be made aware of the number of eminent statesmen who have devoted their time and energy to the task of satisfactorily fixing his political status, he might well be proud. But, notwithstanding all the time that has been spent, all the intellect that has been called into requisition, all the arguments exhausted, and all the theories mooted, this vexatious question still remains *in statu quo*.

Passing back to the far distant ages, when Egypt was in the height of its magnificence and grandeur, and the Egyptians stood forth as the representatives of that race which was, ultimately, to possess and inhabit all the corners of the earth, do we find that people—the first to whom we are able to trace back the germs of our present civilization—hesitating to consider the prior rights of the savage and barbarian hordes which might infest the land that they desired to occupy. Far

tipathy to the manners and customs of the whites, is a matter of little consequence. Certain it is that the opposition to the advance of civilization that was made in the early period of the world's history, by all the colored races, and which could be overcome only by force of arms, would be made to-day with unabated vigor by the same races, had they the requisite strength and courage. When, in the course of time, Egypt fell from the utmost pinnacle of her greatness, and first

at variance with their native habits and traditions, as ours is. Nor has Christianity, much as it may have benefited the civilized world, been successful in subjugating the savage races of mankind. Immense sums of money have been spent, hundreds, nay, thousands of brave and devoted men have lost their lives in the attempt to instill into the savage mind the beauties of the Christian doctrine: and with what result?

Painful and humiliating as the con-