

## The Chemawa American.

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### FALSE AND FOOLISH.

A story republished in yesterday's Telegram from the Pendleton Tribune is one of many that might be told showing how difficult, if not entirely vain, is the attainment of the desired result of the work being carried on by the Government of educating Indian youth in schools. Jenole Pao, a Umatilla Indian woman, was graduated at Chemawa and went home—to do what? What use had she for education? What could she do with it? It was too hard a problem for her, so she relapsed into a mere Indian squaw again, married an ordinary buck Indian, and not being satisfied with him, "estranged the affections" of another squaw's husband, and the two women had a rough-and-tumble, half-pulling, face-scratching, mud-slinging fight in a Pendleton street. What good did the "education" do? May it not have done more harm than good? It might be too much to say that this and many other incidents that might be narrated prove conclusively that the system of Indian education is an entire failure to a very great extent. It will take not a few years, but several generations, to educate the Indians into citizens anywhere nearly approaching the Caucasian standard. As

a rule, after their education is gained they relapse either swiftly or gradually into their old life. —Portland Evening Telegram.

The above from our Portland exchange of some days ago was headed, "A Chemawa Graduate." Now, the Indian woman in question is not a Chemawa graduate. She never attended school at Chemawa at all. She was for a few months a student of the Indian School while it was at Forest Grove.

But there are men in the Oregon Penitentiary who attended public school in Portland. Is this an argument that the public schools of Portland should be abandoned?

The writer in the Telegram who lodged the above made a false statement when he classified the Indian woman as a Chemawa graduate, and he came to a foolish conclusion when he attempted to show that the education of the Indian is a failure, or a failure to a very great extent. All Indians are not ambitious, nor are all of them capable of taking an education. Neither are all of their Caucasian brothers. But many of the Indian students at Chemawa are ambitious, and most of them receive great benefit from their education and training there. Almost every one receives something that will help to raise him above the conditions surrounding him before coming here. The graduates at Chemawa are filling many responsible positions throughout the Northwest. They have not gone back to the conditions of blanket Indians on the reservations, who were their mothers and fathers, for the most part.

There are discouraging features in Indian character, to be sure. But they are vastly outnumbered by the encouraging features. What else would the writer on the Telegram do with the Indian boys and girls? How would he treat them, if he would not educate them, as the Government is doing?

It is easy to find fault and detest. But it is not always so easy to point out a better way. —[Statesman.]

About one person out of ten makes a real success in this world.