

# Weekly Chemawa American

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## The Qualifications of a Teacher of Indians

How shall we overcome the difficulties in the way of our understanding the Indian? First, we must go to him as brothers, be in thought and act his equals, neither assuming nor manifesting any superiority whatever. We must not let it appear for a moment that we would instruct, but that we would be helpful friends to him, that we come from liking and would be one with him. This I found to be absolutely essential, whether you would study the Indian scientifically or from humanitarian motives. Teachers who go among the Indians do not generally go in that spirit. They go too much imbued with their mission as teachers; for this idea of teaching too often gives rise to a feeling of superiority, and when that is so their work is at an end practically before it has a beginning. It seems to me of primary importance that in endeavoring to teach or help the Indian we should at first lose sight of the teaching part and strive to overcome his averseness to being taught. We should select and send forth among the Indians only teachers of high ability and talent; teachers of true and strong feeling for humanity, and possessed of large understanding of human nature; teachers who would go to these people sympathetically much as parents do to their little child-

ren, and full of the tact born of such sympathy. Only teachers of this kind can learn to fully comprehend the inmost nature of the Indian; can by study of his past learn how he came to be what he is, and thus learn how to make him other than what he is, how to win him to wish for education in the practical affairs of life, and then to wish for education in the higher planes of life.

—*Southern Workman*

### Chief Porter Dead.

General Pleasant Porter, whom President Roosevelt once characterized as the greatest Indian living, and famous as one of the foremost men in the history of the Five Civilized Tribes, died at the Cobb hotel in Vinita, I. T., on Tuesday morning Sept. 3. He was stricken by paralysis on the train and taken off at Vinita.

General Porter has for the past eight years been chief of the Creek Nation, and was a unique and forceful character. He was president of the Indian Territory Central Railroad, being the only Indian holding the headship of a railway. He was sixty-seven years old, and his death resulted from a stroke of paralysis.

He leaves an estate said to be worth \$100,000, and is survived by one son and two daughters. He was an honored member of both the Masons and the Elks.—*The Arrow*.