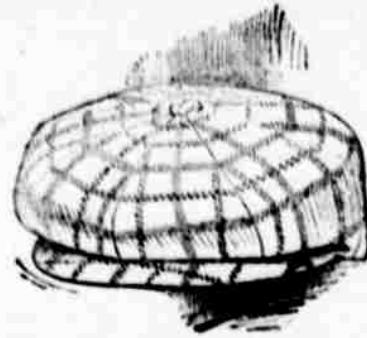


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LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

[Communications sent to the Herald for publication in this department should not exceed 300 words in length and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender.]

The Right Kind of Men

The right kind of men are what we want today. Where are they? Who are they? And of what nationality may they be?

The true type of man is understood too well for my pen to define. I may call to your memory the lives of such as Lincoln, Washington and Grant. The noble spirit, the courage and the integrity of the men brings us all back to this one vital truth, that it takes men to carry any good work to its goal. I am not trying to coax you from the opinion that you already have of the Indian of America. I can not deny that there are what any person would think a great many useless Indians.

I cannot say worthless. Why? I say it is natural that any human being, uneducated, knowing that he will get so much money at such and such a time, regularly, would soon grow into the habit of doing nothing. In popular words, worthless.

A few years back, when America was silent, the natives treading the paths through the deep forests, over the mountains and down the gentle slopes of the valleys, the buffalo, deer and bear roaming here and there, the time before our civilized brother discovered this country, stamped itself upon the minds of our forefathers. The pathetic stories, the hard struggles against starvation and sickness, the heroic efforts to secure food and clothing for mother and child, all are handed down to us in verbal history, which proves to us he was not a weak coward.

The Indian not only fought for his livelihood. He has, as United States history tells us, fought manfully in his own crude way for his own dear land. Foot by foot, mile by mile, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the dear old motherland was shamefully robbed of the native. The noble spirit of the Indian and the proud, courageous heart of the chief was unmercifully imposed upon.

Our civilized brother, after conquering us in battle, had peace with us by making treaties—treaties which had the important bearing of peace documents of foreign nations, which tended to delude the proud spirit of our chief into signing it. This was the beginning of the babying of the Indians of America. I say babying, because we were thereby thrown into dependence, by the government setting aside reservations for our use, giving us rations, money, clothing and implements that we did not earn. I don't doubt, at the time, the Indian was ignorant, did not know how to work, and had all the other disadvantages that would make him an independent man. Yet he was worthy to uphold the emblem of this country. I am not whining. I am not, indeed, finding fault with our government. But merely stating facts.

But I do hope the Indian will have all the money coming to him from the sale of his own dear land. His right to his land and his right to citizenship in it and independence, given to him in the near future.

A few years back the members of the Klamath, Modoc, Yakosum band of Snake Indians of the Klamath reservation, Oregon, were further progressed in the raising of vegetables, hay and grain than they are today. Where is the reason? It is getting to be a common thing to see a drunken Indian riding or driving up and down the road the year around. Why is this? Indian doctor practice prevails, and an old time stick game, sometimes called gambling, is universally practiced throughout the entire reservation. A game that was abolished twenty or more years back. This game since being abolished was played only for Fourth of July exhibition to our curious civilized brother.

Permission has been frequently granted by our late superintendent to play this game among ourselves, which resulted in our out and out gambling, thereby losing money, time and, worst of all, upright manhood. Would any one doubt that the fact (money is coming) would have any other influence among the older and some of the youth who have no higher ambition.

The above heading, perhaps, causes you to wonder why I wrote it. I do not claim to be a writer, nor am I educated beyond a common Indian school. But can I not try to pen what I think?

There is a certain type of character in all men that have lived to distinguish themselves as honorable men. And you will find this same character in whatever nationality you may look.

By looking here and there through our country you will find rising statesmen, lawyers, doctors, mechanics, etc., of Indian blood. And this alone stirs the blood of Indian youths. But alas, what of the grown reservation Indian? Can we not hope to have this system of giving? giving! all the rest of his life abolished. And whatever money that is coming to him tendered to him in such a way that it would inspire him to multiply it or expend it in such a way that won't give credit to any citizen.

I am sure the Indians of Klamath Agency, Oregon, are quite capable of handling their own affairs with very few exceptions.

You may trace your history some thousands of years back to Adam and Eve. But let me briefly state from the legends told us by our forefathers which dates back long before our white brother set foot upon our soil, that the Klamaths of long ago treaded the same paths, drank the same water and lived upon the same land that the Klamaths of today are living upon.

With this knowledge the Klamath Indians are grieved because they have had no voice in the late transactions of their tribal lands. The government is practically taking everything in their own management of this reservation with no voice whatever from the said Indians.

Actions like these by any government to any race of people would tend to have them calmly sit down and fold their arms and go to sleep in other words, throw them completely into dependence.

Let me yell at the top of my voice with might and main for this one right. Give me voice or banish me

from the hope of citizenship. Acknowledge my right that I may have some conceit, which is better than being a subdued animal.

Nevertheless we are coming! There may be drunkards, spendthrifts, etc., among us—we find them everywhere—all, on upward you'll find us coming to shoulder any responsibility of citizenship, is the cry and spirit of the Klamath Indians.

I hope these statements may not convey any other meaning than is intended by myself, a humble ward of the government. S. E. KIRK.

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NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Klamath County, In the Matter of the Estate of W. G. Roberts, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that Anna Reinhardt, administratrix of the estate of W. G. Roberts, deceased, has rendered and presented for settlement, and filed in said court, her annual account of her administration of said estate; and that Friday, the 5th day of January, A. D. 1911, at 10 o'clock a. m., at the court room of said court, in county court house, Klamath Falls, Oregon, has been appointed by the Judge of said court, for the settlement of said account, at which time and place any persons interested in said estate may appear and file exceptions in entirety to said account and contest the same.

NORA REINHART
Administratrix of the Estate of W. G. Roberts, Deceased. 12-7-14 r



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