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DIRECTING THE MESSENGER

FACTS

*Every Presbyterian
Should Know*

about

INDIAN WORK



KEE-YASHI SHOTS A PARTRIDGE



THE MISSIONARY WATERING HIS HORSES

Facts Every Presbyterian Should Know About Indian Work

By THOMAS C. MOFFETT

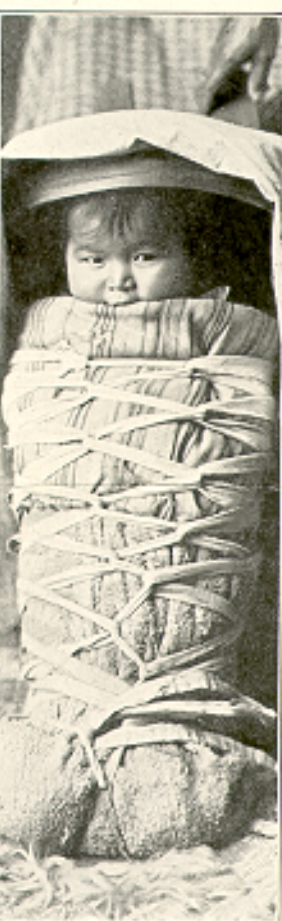
THE page of "A Century of Dishonor" in our dealing with the American Indian as depicted by Helen Hunt Jackson has been turned. It was a sad story of the white man's injustice and cruelty to the Red man. But today at least two decades or a quarter of a century may be scanned in which both Church and State have done much in the way of reparation for past injustice and neglect.

THE INDIAN IN THE STATE

The government reports the Indian population of our country, not including Alaska, as 340,917. During the year statistics were collected for two-thirds of these, showing 6,510 births and 6,070 deaths, evidencing a continued increase in population as the figures for many years have shown. The number of families living in houses is 44,195, in tents and other primitive dwellings 10,946. Conditions of health and sanitation have improved with stricter federal supervision, but tuberculosis and trachoma are the two diseases which are prevalent, 24,773 cases of the former and 30,795 of the latter being estimated from the 207,000 Indians reported.

As to means of support and advancement in education and citizenship, the following tabulation is indicative:

Two-thirds of the Indians are American citizens
133,193 speak English
91,331 read and write



AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL.

OUR CHURCH AT FORT DEFIANCE



ORPHANS OF THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC





THE NAVAJO IS A STOCKMAN AND SHEPHERD



SAND-PAINTING OF THE MEDICINE MAN

Out of 62,138 adult men enumerated

40,962 were engaged in farming

44,847 raised stock

26,949 were engaged in other occupations

The native arts and crafts do not occupy as large a place in the material advancement of the Indians as tourists and those having a sentimental interest in the Indians would imagine. The enumeration of the native occupational life of the Indians, however, is worth noting as summarized in the following figures:

3,935 engaged in basket making

5,557 in blanket weaving

1,350 in gathering wild rice

566 in making pottery

2,755 in bead-work

2,144 in fishing

3,559 in wood cutting

105 in silversmithing and

212 in lace making

The output of Indian blankets during the year netted \$710,175, and that of basketry, \$83,918.

The educational record was tabulated from a total enumeration of 312,381 population. It showed:

85,689 children eligible for school attendance

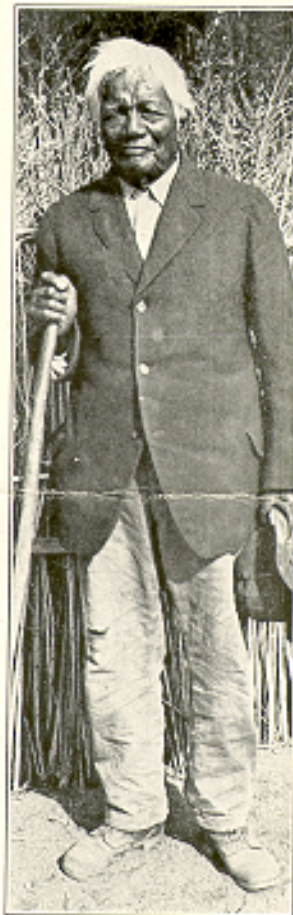
64,943 children in school

20,746 children not in any school

Of the last number, 5,624 were Navajos of Arizona and New Mexico, 644 Pueblos of New Mexico, 1,006 White Earth Chippewas of Minnesota and 840 Turtle Mountain Indians of North Dakota.

THE INDIAN IN THE CHURCH

Consider the spiritual man, the Indian's advancement in religious life, and the ethical, moral aspect of his present day development. The Federal government collects its figures from the reservation superintendents, and these estimates are very inaccurate and incomplete. The contrast



A BLIND PIMA ELDER

PATIENTS AT RED ROCK MEDICAL STATION



INDIAN CLIFF DWELLINGS AT CHIN LEE



in a period of eight years however is suggestive:

Churches reported	657
Eight years Ago.....	513
Protestant attendants	47,318
Eight Year Ago.....	29,897
Roman Catholic attendants.....	58,858
Eight Years Ago.....	39,632
Protestant Missionaries	419
Roman Catholic Missionaries.....	208
Protestant Mission Schools.....	25
Roman Catholic Schools.....	47

The extent of the religious influence is indicated rather by the quality than the quantity of Indians embracing Christianity. Tribes such as the Nez Percés of Idaho, the Pimas of Arizona, the Umatillas of Oregon, and the Sioux of the Dakotas furnish the greatest power of the gospel in the lives of the Indians of today.

The figures secured through the Home Missions Council from the Protestant workers a few years ago make a somewhat different showing as they were more complete for the Evangelical agencies at work:

Protestant Indian Churches.....	460
Additional preaching stations.....	545
Ministers	433
Additional helpers and interpreters.....	375
Sunday-schools 418. Enrollment.....	17,771
Mission Schools (boarding and day)...	56

During the year 1,636 marriages by regular legal license have been recorded and 237 by tribal custom. Of plural marriages only 187 were reported. With native leadership being developed more rapidly and Christian training schools established for educating ministers and lay

missionaries we may expect even more rapid progress and higher attainments in the church life of the Indians.

Contemplating that the Red man, who was without written language, without book or printing press, a primitive untutored nature worshipper, has been so largely won into the Christian faith within one or two generations, one is led to exclaim, "See what God hath wrought."

THE NEEDS OF THE HOUR IN INDIAN AFFAIRS

It is easier to survey the past and the present conditions of Indian life than it is to forecast the future and to predict the course that the development of the Red man will take. But certain needs are manifest, each in a sentence:

The Indian in community life must "find himself" and claim a place as a self-supporting citizen.

Helpful service and the betterment of the Indians by up-to-date forward-looking efforts

of Church and State must make reparation for past wrongs.

The administration of the Federal government must deal fairly and adequately with both its Indian wards and its citizens.

Education should be given the eligible children now out of school and the returned student be encouraged to keep up Christian standards on the reservations.

The Protestant Church must make its work count more intensively and inspire hope and effort on the part of the Indians themselves.



Permission of E. S. Curtis
A TYPICAL NAVAJO

WHAT YOUR DOLLARS WILL DO IN INDIAN WORK

\$1,500 will provide the salary of a Missionary for one year; \$600 that of a native helper

AT RED ROCK NAVAJO HOSPITAL

\$900 will provide the salary of a Superintendent Nurse

\$360 will provide one-half the salary of a Navajo assistant

\$400 to \$500 will furnish an operating room

\$400 will help to furnish wards and pay an assistant's salary.

The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City