Article.

Vol.6,No.23.

Subject.

The number of Indians.

BURLINGTON, VT., _____ 189__

THE NUMBER OF INDIANS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Are the Indians, as some say, diminishing year by year? And will the time speedily come when the whole land will be as free of them as Massachusetts is to-day?

Two years ago the writer made this answer to similar inquiries: "It is pleasant for their friends and the friends of humanity to discover by actual counts that this testimony,(which anihilates them,) taking in the whole field, is erroneous." Subsequent facts go to strengthen his opinion.

True, like certain Danish and Celtic clans that once migrated from place to place on British soil, and then vanished from history, many Indian tribes have disappeared; others, like anglo-american households, have diminished till but few scattered names remain to mark the strange ways of a strange people. The Chenooks, for example, who met Lewis and Clark on the borders of Montana, and who fastened every baby to a board and tied another short board across the little forehead to flatten the frontal bone, are now extinct. There are too, their neighbors the Flat-heads, not far from Missoula. They have been absorbed by other tribes till but few of these odd human beings remain.

They used to imagine their Great Spirit living in the highest mountain, and the medicine man would take a beaver or some bird to represent the Spirit called down, and all the tribe would worship the inspired animal; they would take this sacred creature with them

in their hunts as a guardian angel. Their divinity is no more.

Cochise, the Apache chief, shortly before his death said: "The whites began a war with me years ago: I have slain ten for every Indian killed; but my people grew less and less. I want peace!" A few such war-like tribes have been altogether or nearly exterminated. But other large tribes have increased, some greatly and some but little.

With few exceptions the Indians of the United States have been gathered upon portions of the public lands. These portions called "Indian reservations" dot the best U. S. Maps with their little squares, i. e., the lands they stand for, which the surrounding white men desire to possess. Energetic pushers want to cross them with railroads, pasture sheep and cattle thereon, prospect for gold and silver within them, and ever regard it as a great harship to be kept outside. Indeed our white people who are neighbors to the Indians have curious and coveteous spirits.

Each reservation has an agent, a white man, appointed by the President. He, the agent, is a real king of a small kingdom. He has white employés, such as the farmer, the teacher, the blacksmith and the doctor. They constitute his counselors of state. Sometimes he adds to his governing force three Indian judges, and ten or twelve Indian policemen. So, we see, with so many white men among them it is easier than formerly for us to number them.

Not many years ago the counting was done by Army officers and

in their hearts as a guardian angel. Their divinity is no more.

Geronimo, the Apache chief, shortly before his death said:

"The white began a war with me years ago: I have slain ten for every Indian killed, but my people grew less and less. I want peace!" A few such war-like tribes have been altogether or nearly exterminated. But other large tribes have increased, some greatly and some but little.

With few exceptions the Indians of the United States have been gathered upon portions of the public lands. These portions called "Indian reservations" set themselves U. S. Maps with their little squares, i. e., the lands they stand for, which the surrounding white men desire to possess. Energetic squatters want to crowd them with railroads, pasture sheep and cattle thereon, prospect for gold and silver within them, and ever regard it as a great hardship to be kept outside. Indeed our white people who are neighbors to the Indians have certain and cavalcade spirits.

Each reservation has an agent, a white man, appointed by the President. He, the agent, is a real king of a small kingdom. He has white employés, such as the farmer, the teacher, the blacksmith and the doctor. They constitute his commissars of state. Sometimes he asks to his governing force three Indian judges, and ten or twelve Indian policemen. So, we see, with as many white men among them it is easier than formerly for us to murder them.

Not many years ago the counting was done by Army officers and

Government officials, loosely estimating the individuals and the tribes. It was when the nations were more nomadic than at present ; when tribes were ever changing their habitations; when they had to move great distances to supply their wants. Behold them on their ponies, women and children on the tops of the packs, and driving large herds of their small horses along with them! Their lodge-poles dragging, always marked their trail. Thus for a hunt or a foray they would journey, leaving nothing behind, from a hundred to six hundred miles. It was when the buffalo, a thousand or more in a herd, roamed over our vast praries. Writers for the papers and magazines of that time had to guess at the population, or take the official estimates, which were in fact only formulated guesses.

At last in our time a correct census has been taken and the results put down in official books. From a careful study of these books it is evident that now the Indians, like the negroes of the South, are increasing.

Thirty years ago there were several causes which carried off the Indians, for example; contagious diseases which unintentionally the white people brought among them; sad indeed were the ravages of the small pox and the measels. That dreadful white man massacre not far from WallaWalla, where a band of missionaries were savagely murdered, doubtless resulted from the simultaneous incoming of Missions and measles.

This was then a new disease. They imputed it to evil Spirits

in Dr. Whitman's camp. Indian medicine men did not know what to prescribe. The sudden cold bath after the heat of a sweat-house was followed by death. Herbs and extracts, hitherto efficacious, gave no relief. So, like white people under yellow fever or cholera, being unable to stay the hand of the destroyer, multitudes of them miserably perished. Who, under such harrowing distresses, wonders at their superstitious folly and horrid resentment!

But now it is different. Indians have more knowledge. There are good reservation doctors or Army surgeons near at hand. Contagion and epidemic are met at the threshold and prostrated. There is no more sweeping of men, women and children from these causes into untimely graves.

Another dreadful scourge has ceased. There are no longer Indian wars. These fierce tribal conflicts, merciless, devastating and long-continuing, have at last passed away. One, the Chippawa was taught to hate the Dakota and the Dakota to return the feeling with interest. The Nez Percé detested the Snake, and the Snake gave the hunter of the Nez Percé no rest. Thus, like France and England in old times, each nation had its hereditary enemy. Tribes combined to fight other tribes and often they fought to extermination.

Some of our pioneers have caused the Indians untold woes and premature deaths through whiskey and other "fire-water;" some have carried to them fell-diseases too terrible to name, which have made

in Dr. Whitman's camp. Indian medicine men did not know what to prescribe. The native cold bath after the heat of a sweat-house was followed by death. Herbs and extracts, bitterly efficacious, gave no relief. Not like white people under yellow fever or cholera being unable to stay the hand of the destroyer, multitudes of them miserably perished. Who, under such harrowing circumstances, wonders at their superstitious(?) and barrid remedies?

But now it is different. Indians have been knowledge. There are good reservation doctors or Army surgeons near at hand. Contagion and epidemics are met at the threshold and prostrated. There is no more wasting of men, women and children from these causes into untimely graves.

Another dreadful scourge has ceased. There are no longer Indian wars. These fierce tribal conflicts, wrestlings, devastating and long-continuing, have at last passed away. Yes, the Chippewa was taught to hate the Dakota and the Dakota to return the feeling with interest. The Sioux force detained the Sioux, and the Sioux gave the quiver of the Sac force no rest. Then, like France and England in old times, each nation had its hereditary enemy. Tribes continued to fight other tribes and often they fought to extermination.

Some of our pioneers have caused the Indian mind were and premature death through whisky and other fire-water; many have carried to them fell-diseases too terrible to name, which have made

them weak and helpless; yet the white man's management have quenched the deadly strifes and wars; so, that we rejoice to say it, there is no danger from this source any depletion.

Our own wars with them too seem to have ceased, though it is a long time since these hide and seek affairs have greatly diminished their numbers.

People who hold to the vanishing theory declare: "Indians do not thrive on the white man's food!" And great losses are claimed from this source. The contrary is nearer the truth.

After a little experience, as soon as they catch the white man's regularity of supply, preparation and eating, taking as we do two or three meals every day, they are healthier than when they went days without food and then , like gourmands, gorged themselves; healthier than when they seized upon animals that had died, and, to satisfy the cravings of false appetites, like the foul birds of prey, consumed the poisonous flesh. Now much better now with good beef and flour in plenty, and with increasing skill in cooking.

Formerly the Pueblos (village Indians) excelled the Indians of the plains in the variety and preparation of food; but now all, coast, interior and village are, in such knowledge, ahead of the old Pueblos.

Search the country over from Alaska to Florida, and you will nowhere find the Indians contented with poor food, no more than with lame ponies and shoddy blankets.

them work and helpless; yet the white man's management have wounded the deadly strife and wars, so, that we relate to say it, there is no danger from this source any longer.

Our ever man with them has been to have cannot, though it is a long time since these hide and seek affairs have greatly diminished their numbers.

People who hold to the wandering theory declare: "Indians do not thrive on the white man's food!" And great reason are claimed from this source. The contrary is nearer the truth.

After a little experience, as soon as they obtain the white man's regularity of supply, preparation and eating, taking up to two or three meals every day, they are healthier than when they went into without food and had to live hunting, prepare themselves healthier than when they noised our animals that had died, and, to satisfy the cravings of hunger appetite, like the foul birds of prey, consumed the poisonous flesh. Now much better now with good beef and flour in plenty, and with increasing skill in cooking.

Formerly the Pueblos (village Indians) excelled the Indians of the plains in the variety and preparation of food; but now all, coast, interior and village are, in much knowledge, about of the old Pueblos.

Search the country over from Alaska to Florida, and you will nowhere find the Indians contented with poor food, no more than with lame ponies and ragged blankets.

One cannot help thinking that our fathers, who were usually at war with them, exaggerated their numbers. It is always difficult to count the forces of an enemy. Ten stand for a hundred and a hundred for a thousand. And it is harder to count the followers of a hostile Indian chief, because they are always experts at hiding.

Making a careful computation from the latest reports which embrace all the States and Territories excepting Alaska, we make 264,369.

The accompanying table shows us how they are distributed:

Arizona	21,163	New York	5,007	
California	11,409	North Carolina	3,100	
Dakota	31,051	Oregon	5,055	
Idaho	4,276	Texas	387	(387)
Indian Territory	32, 354	Utah	2,699	
Iowa	354	Washn. Terr.	10,996	
Kansas	976	Wisconsin	7,838	
Michigan	9,577	Wyoming	1,355	
Minnesota	5,237	Florida (Semineles) and Indian Territory	392	
Montana	14,773	Maine (old town Indians)	410	
Nebraska	3,602			
Nevada	3,316			
New Mexico	30,003	TOTAL	264,369	

These Indians are to be found upon about seventy reservations. Some of the reservations, like the Yakamee in Washington Territory, have several tribes. On the Colville reservation, in the same Territory near the British line, the several tribes, four or five, speak different languages, but generally it is sought to have Indians together who agree in language and in habits of life.

The names of the reservations are generally descriptive, sometimes of the country, as the "Round Valley" in California or the

One cannot help thinking that our fathers, who were usually sufficient [illegible] at war with them, exaggerated their numbers. It is always to count the forces of an enemy. Ten stand for a hundred and a hundred for a thousand. And it is harder to count the followers of a hostile Indian chief, because they are always experts at hiding.

Making a careful computation from the latest reports which embrace all the States and Territories excepting Alaska, we make 304,500.

The accompanying table shows on how they are distributed:

Arizona	21,103	New York	5,227	
California	17,469	North Carolina	3,132	
Dakota	31,231	Oregon	5,055	
Idaho	4,273	Texas	227	(227)
Indian Territory	68,324	Utah	3,145	
Iowa	324	Wash. Terr.	10,592	
Kansas	275	Wisconsin	7,322	
Michigan	5,277	Wyoming	1,270	
Minnesota	5,527	Florida (Seminoles)		
Montana	16,273	New Indian Territory	202	
Nebraska	6,024	~~Maine (Penobscots)~~		
Nevada	3,215	Indiana)	418	
New Mexico	32,033	TOTAL	304,500	

These Indians are to be found upon about seventy reservations. Some of the reservations, like the Yakamas in Washington Territory, have several tribes. On the Salvilla reservation, in the same Territory near the British line, the several tribes, four or five, speak different languages, but generally it is sought to have Indians together who agree in language and in habits of life.

The names of the reservations are generally descriptive, sometimes of the country, as the "Round Valley" in California or the

"San Carlos" in Arizona, or of the nation as the "Crow Reservation" in Montana, or

The number of Indians in the U.S.

Are the indians, as some say, diminishing year by year? And will the time speedily come when the whole land will be as free of them as Massachusetts is today?

Two years ago the writer made this answer to similar inquiries: "it is pleasant for their friends and the friends of humanity to discover by actual counts that this testimony" (which annihilates them), "taking in the whole field, is erroneous". Subsequent facts go to strengthen this opinion.

True, like certain Danish & Celtic clans that once migrated from place to place on British soil, and then vanished from history, so many indian tribes have disappeared; others, like anglo-american households, have diminished till but ~~but~~ few scattered ~~families~~ names remain to mark the strange ways of a strange people. The Chenooks, for example, who met Lewis & Clark on the borders of Montana, and who fastened ~~their~~ every babies to a board & tied another short board across the little foreheads to flatten the frontal bones, are now extinct. There are too their neighbors the flat-heads, not far from Missoula. They have been absorbed by other tribes till but few of those ~~curious~~ odd human beings remain. They used to imagine their Great Spirit living in the highest mountain-

and the medicine man would take a beaver or some bird to represent the spirit called down and all the tribe would worship the inspired animal; they would take this sacred ~~animal~~ creature with them as a guardian angel in their hunts. Their diversity is see more. cochise the apache chief shortly before his death said: "The whites began a war with me years ago: I have slain ten for every indian killed: but my people grow less and less. ~~Yes~~. I want peace!"

A few such warlike tribes have been altogether or nearly exterminated.

But other larger tribes have increased, some greatly and some but little.

With few exceptions the ~~great majority~~ indians of the united states have been gathered upon portions of the public lands. These portions called "indian reservations" dot the best U.S. maps with their little squared patches (i.e. other lands they stand for) the surrounding white men desire to possess. ~~They~~ energetic pushers want to cross them with rail roads, pasture sheep & cattle thereon, prospect for gold & silver within them and ever regard it as a great hardship to be kept outside. Indeed our white people who are neighbors to the indians have curious & covetous spirits.

~~But~~ each reservation has an agent, a white man, appointed by the president. He, the agent is a real king of a small kingdom. He has white employees, such as the farmer, the teacher, the blacksmith and the doctor. They constitute his counselors of state. Sometimes he adds to his governing forces three indian judges

and ten or twelve indian policemen. So, we see, with so many white men among them it is easier than formerly for us to number the indians.

Not many years ago, the counting was done by Army officers & Government officials, loosely estimating the individuals & the tribes. It was when the nations were more nomadic than at present; when tribes were ever changing their habitations, when they had to move great distances to supply their wants. Behold them on their ponies, women & children on the top of the packs, and driving large herds of their small horses along with them! Their lodge-poles dragging, always marked their trail. Thus they would journey, leaving nothing behind, from a hundred to six hundred miles for a hunt or a forag.

It was when the buffalo, a thousand & more in a herd, roamed over our vast prairies. Writers for papers & magazines of that time had to guess at the population, or take the official estimates, which were in fact only formulated guesses.

At last in our time a correct census has been taken and the results put down in official books. From a careful study of these books it is evident that now the indians like the negroes of the south are increasing.

Thirty years ago there were several causes which carried off the indians; for example: contagious diseases which

unintentionally the white people brought among them; said indeed were the ravages of the small pox and the measles. That dreadful Whitman massacre not far from Walla Walla, where a band of missionaries were savagely murdered, doubtless resulted from the simultaneous incoming of missions & measles. This was then a new disease. They imputed it to evil spirits in ~~Dr~~ Whitman's camp. Indian medicine men did not know what to prescribe. The sudden cold bath after the heat of a sweat-house was followed by death. Herbs & extracts, hitherto efficacious, gave no relief. So, like white people under yellow fever or cholera, being unable to stay the hand of the destroyer, multitudes of them miserably perished. Who, under such harrowing distresses wonders at their superstitious folly & hasty resentment!

But now it is different. Indians have more knowledge. There are good reservation doctors or army surgeons near at hand. Contagion & Epidemic are met at the threshold and frustrated. There is no more sweeping of men, women, and children, from their camps, into untimely graves.

Another dreadful scourge has ceased. There are no longer indian wars. Those fierce tribal conflicts merciless, devastating and long continuing, have at last passed away. Once, the Chippewa was taught to hate the Dakota and the Dakota to return the feeling with interest. The nez-perce detested

the Snake and the Snake gave the hunters of the Nez Percé no rest. Thus, like France & England in old times, each nation had its hereditary enemy. Tribes combined to fight other tribes and often they fought to extermination.

Some of our pioneers have caused the indians untold woes and premature deaths through whiskey and other "fire-water"; some have carried to them foul-diseases too terrible to name which have made them weak and helpless; yet the white man's management has quenched the deadly strifes and intercecine wars: so that we rejoice to say it there is no longer from this cause any depletion.

Our own wars with them, too, seem to have ceased, though it is a long time since these Indian & white affairs have greatly diminished their numbers.

People who hold to the vanishing theory declare: "Indians do not thrive on the white man's food!" And great losses are claimed from this source. The contrary is nearer the truth.

After a little experience, as soon as they catch the white man's regularity of supply, preparation and eating, taking as we do two or three meals every day, they are healthier than when they went days without food and then like gourmands gorged themselves;

6 healthier than when they seized upon animals that had died, and to satisfy the cravings of false appetites ~~[illegible]~~ like the foul birds of prey devoured the poisonous flesh. How much better now with good beef & flour in plenty, and with increasing skill in cooking.

Formerly the pueblos (village indians) excelled the indians of the plain in the variety and preparation of food: but now all, coast, interior and village are, in such knowledge ahead of the old pueblos.

Search the country over from Alaska to Florida and you will nowhere find the indians contented with poor food, no more than with coarse ponies and shoddy blankets.

One cannot help thinking that our fathers who were usually at war with them exaggerated their numbers. It is always difficult to count the forces of an enemy. Ten stand for a hundred and a hundred for a thousand. And it is harder to count the followers of a hostile indian chief, because they are always experts at hiding.

Making a careful computation from the latest reports which embrace all the States & territories excepting Alaska, see Statistics 264. 369.

The accompanying table shows us how they are distributed:

Arizona	21.163	New York	5.007
California	11.409	North Carolina	3.100
Dakota	31.051	Oregon	5.055
Idaho	4.276	Texas	.387
Indian Territory	82.334	Utah	2.699
Iowa	354	Washington Territory	10.996
Kansas	976	Wisconsin	7.838
Michigan	9.577	Wyoming	1.855
Minnesota	5.287	Florida (Seminoles) + Sud. Territory	.892
Montana	14.775		
Nebraska	3.602	Maine (Oldtown indians)	.410
Nevada	8.316		
New Mexico	30.003	Total	264.369

These Indians are to be found upon about Seventy Reservations. Some of the reservations like the Yakima in Washington Territory have several tribes. On the Colville reservation in the same Territory near the British line the several tribes, four or five, speak different languages, but generally it is sought to have indians together who agree in language and in habits of life. The names of the reservations are generally descriptive - sometimes of the country, as the "round valley" in California or the "San Carlos" in Arizona - or of the nation as the "Crow reservation" in Montana or