

Article

Indians

Last tribe at war

No. 3 / Vol 8.

Subject

The last tribe at war

in 1872.

Arizona

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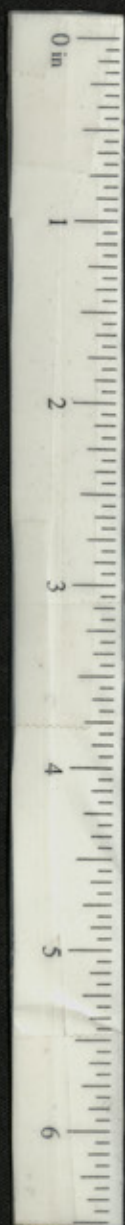
Burlington, Vt., _____ *1900.*

Indian. The last tribe at war.

By Gen. O. O. Howard.

(1)

President Grant, after his ^{first} inauguration, desired to complete his peace-making; and so included in his thought ^{+ plan} not only England and some other European nations, where our ^{pacific} relations had been strained, but ^{also} our own Indian tribes. He placed ^{as Commissioner} over the Indian Bureau Colonel Parker, a full blooded ^{highly educated} Indian, who had proven his ability on the General's staff during the Civil War. a man in special sympathy with this aboriginal people; he called upon all ^{missionary} Christian bodies to help him secure upright & goodly men for agents & employees; and he encouraged the work of schools and benevolent associations undertaken to civilize the various tribes. Chosen by the Society of Friends, and ~~Commissioner~~ - ~~as a special Agent by the Hon. Secretary~~ There was abundant success during General Grant's first term, yet there had been many hindrances and the pacification was not fully effected when he entered upon his second term of four years. In the winter of 1871 & 2, ^{Mr} Vincent Colyer, recommended by the Society of Friends & commissioned as a Special Agent by the Interior Department, went with full power to settle Indian troubles from tribe to tribe extending his trips to New Mexico & Arizona. After his return he read and published interesting reports, quite satisfactory to the Indian peace advocates the country over. But then appeared to ^{as yet} ~~be~~ no permanent settlement of complaints in the South

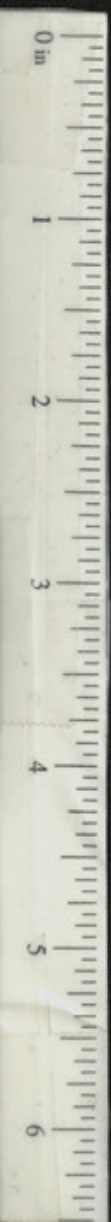


West. Various bands were at enmity with each other and with the white settlers. White prospectors had been killed by Apaches, and peace full Indians had been raided by the whites and some killed & wounded, and children captured. One particular band, called the Chiricahua Apaches whose ^{chieftain} ~~chief~~ was best known & most feared by white men & by Indians, was still on the war-path. These savages, believed to be the worst of all, ^{had} raided the settlements, helped themselves to animals & supplies and were said for the last ten years never to have spared but one white man of all those who had fallen into their hands. Their expeditions embraced not only our southern territories but parts of old Mexico. Calyer with generous military escort had not been able to get near this wily chieftain.

At the time, during the spring of 1872, my freedman's bureau duty not being quite completed, I was still at Washington, being engaged ^{in the same} daily at Howard University, where was the bureau office, and also as president of the university.

A well known member of the Society of friends from Maine ~~being~~ ^{being} at Washington ~~one of~~ the Supervisory Board of Indian Commissioners. (Usually called "Fletcher Lang") thought of a way to turn the military currents into peace channels.

He visited Mr Delano, the Secretary of the Interior,



and reviewed with him the ~~perturbed~~ accounts of (8)
the ~~perturbed~~ condition of the South West Territories, and
then said: "Why not send General Howard?" Mr Delano
answered that it would be a good expedient as General
would have besides his authority
~~had~~ sufficient rank ~~if he were~~ to control the military. ~~He~~
~~He~~ ^{he} would consent to go as a Peace Commissioner
-er? The Secretary ~~consulted~~ consulted with the President.
Mrs Grant, ^{'according to Mr Delano'} after paying me a pleasant compliment said
"yes, certainly, send him. There is certainly no
harm in one more trial for peace."

Whereupon Mr Delano sent for me and
with his Commissioner of Indian Affairs, gave
me ~~a full account~~ a fair understanding of what
was wanted. He placed in my hands not only the
formal instructions of a "Peace Commissioner"
but ^{copies of} all reports which I should need. To keep myself
straight with the War Department, I obtained the
military order for myself & one aide to proceed
to Arizona on duty for the Interior Department
and when that was completed to return to
Washington. So ~~as to~~ ^{that I might} work in harmony with
the military commanders, the President in his
own hand gave me letters to General Schofield
who then commanded the Pacific Geographical Divⁿ
and to General Crook who had under Schofield
the Department of Arizona & New Mexico.
Besides Captain M. G. Wilkinson, the guide de Camp,
Mr Delano allowed one whom he deemed his best
Indian agent, Hon. B. P. Smith, a close personal
friend of mine, to accompany me as an assistant.

