

The Indian question was further brought to public attention, in the year 1876, by the enforced removal of the Ponca Indians from their homes in Dakota to the Indian Territory. This was done by United States troops, under orders from the government. The Indians were bitterly opposed to this banishment from their homes, and some of them made their way back to Dakota on foot, often suffering great hardships. They were arrested, and were about to be returned, when their case was brought into the courts through the exertions of Mr. T. H. Tibbles, a western newspaper editor, whose sympathies had been aroused in their behalf. His exertions were successful. Judge Dundy, before whom their case was tried, made his memorable decision, that their forcible removal was unlawful. They were at liberty, and, accompanied by Mr. Tibbles and Bright Eyes, a Ponca Indian woman of remarkable intelligence and education, several of these Indians visited eastern cities, made their wrongs known through a series of public meetings, and aroused much popular sympathy in their behalf./page 14.

The work of civilizing and regenerating the Indian can never be done but by the personal endeavor and self-sacrifice of the people of the United States. The machinery of representative government becomes but the tool of oppression and wickedness, unless they feel that a personal responsibility rests upon them for its healthful, beneficent operation. Let us remember that it is our government,--yours and mine,--the outward expression of the dignity and majesty of the nation, for which our fathers labored, fought and died.