

145

There is not at this time a single Indian reservation in any western state, or in any territory, on which intruders may not at all times be found; while in many the "squatters" are almost as numerous as the Indians, and have such force and influence that they can not be, or at least are not, removed. The government has lamentably failed in making good its treaty pledges, that Indians within their reservations shall be undisturbed by the intrusion of the whites. There are, in our past history, a few notable instances where the whites have been expelled, and in more recent years a few spasmodic efforts have been made, rather to appease the Indians for the time being, than to drive out the outlaws; but no persistent and determined course has been adopted to compel implicit obedience to law on the part of the whites, and to fulfill, in good faith, our obligations to the Indians. In addition to the class of persons who "squat" on Indian lands for the purpose of residing and cultivating, or taking the timber from them, there is another large class who invade the reservation to rob and plunder the Indians. The effect, as may well be expected, is to make the Indians restless; to check their progress; to engender strife, often resulting in loss of life; and in such cases, frequently troops move to the scene of disorder, not to drive off the intruders, but to punish the Indians, as though they were the aggressors, and the matter terminates, finally, in the expulsion of the tribe, and its removal to a new home!

The incessant destruction of the buffalo and other animals, as well as the game on the western prairies and the plains, and even in the mountain territories, has been a source of great injury to the native inhabitants. It has deprived the wild tribes of the support on which they had relied from time immemorial, and often induced them to take to the war-path. As well might we expect the farmers in agricultural regions / <sup>146</sup> to witness with composure the destruction of their crops by an invading force, as to suppose that the nomad Sioux, Cheyenne,