

*Millions of offense -1-
but not one cent for
tribute!*

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1867

Department of the Interior
Office Indian Affairs,
November 15, 1867.

Sir: I have the honor, in the absence of the Commission of Indian Affairs, who is now and has been for some time past engaged in the discharge of duties devolved upon him, under the act of Congress of 20th July ultimo, creating a commission to establish peace with certain hostile Indian tribes, to submit the usual annual report of the Indian Bureau.

Most of the tribes, particularly those settled upon reservations, who are friendly and peaceable, have, to a considerable degree, made advances in the attainment of many of the benefits of that condition of civilization to which the government, by treaty stipulations, and under a sense of its obligations as their guardian and protector, has sought to raise them. Although their progress has been slow, hardly answering the expectations of those who have looked for more general and marked results, yet the instances are frequent, as the facts in their history develop, of a decided change, indicating the practicability of their being brought from a state of barbarism and ignorance to the possession of a nobler and higher style of life. The reports of the various Indian agents, not only for this year but of preceding years, show the good spirit that prevail with many in regard to their moral, intellectual, and social elevation, and their willingness to engage in industrial pursuits. But so long as the red man remains in a position where he is subject to influences more numerous and potent for evil than those put in motion for his good are capable of counteracting and overcoming, no great progress in these respects may be realized or even expected. No doubt the greatest obstacle to the consummation of ends so much desired is to be found mainly in his almost constant contact with the vicious, unscrupulous whites, who not only teach him their base ways, but defraud and rob him, and, often without cause, with as little compunction as they would experience in killing a dog, take even his life. Another cause or hindrance is the fact that the Indian has no certainty as to the permanent possession of the land he occupies and which