

at the present time than ever before, and that the Indians have advanced more in civilization during the past eight years, under the policy inaugurated by President Grant, than in any other quarter of a century of our national existence.

There can be no question in the mind of any unbiased person but that the War Department is unfitted to civilize the Indians; of this the past history of the service furnishes sufficient proof. Could the Indian Bureau be organized into a distinct department of the Government, having for its direct head an officer who would be entitled to a seat in the President's cabinet, there is no doubt but that it would be more effective and the service be greatly benefited thereby; but as the creation of such a department is not very probable, the next best and only feasible means left for civilizing the Indians, and gradually relieving the government of this burden, is to let the Indian Bureau remain where it is and as it is at present organized. There might be some better rules of government subject to fewer changes, which, if properly administered, leaves no room for doubt but that the Indian tribes will continue to advance until they attain a much higher standing in the scale of civilization. The Indians must either fall in with the march of civilization and become independent citizens, or remain paupers upon the bounty of the government. To effect the first, the good work inaugurated has only to be continued; christianization and civilization will ultimately follow; but place the Indians under supreme control of the military, and the opposite will be the result. It is therefore for the American people to decide which shall be done, and a righteous God will surely hold them responsible. Like all true friends of the much oppressed Indians, I have strong faith in the peace policy as originally intended, which, with a thorough enforcement of the necessary laws through the civil departments of our government, and the service toned so that the office of Indian agent will be an honorable position, with the term of office contingent upon competency and good behavior, with salaries in proportion to the qualifications and service required, let dishonesty be punished through the proper channels, but do not allow every agent to be persecuted because some have been found guilty, extend jurisdiction of the United States courts over all Indian country, make some uniform and wholesome laws for the government of Indians, and the difficulties of this vexed Indian question will be nearer solution.