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EDITORIAL ON ISPARHEECHER

It may be true that legislative matters are not the only ones that attract Indian lobbyists in Washington. A glimpse at some of the picturesque characters of Indian tribes, men who have shaped the affairs of government shows that in more than one instance Indians who have gone to Washington to represent their tribe on legislative matters have brought back with them wives who came from the social set. The prominent Indians who go to Washington divide their time between making love and making law.

Isparheecher, one of the most noted chiefs the Creeks ever had, married a woman in Washington who had not a drop of Indian blood in her veins. She was Miss Alma Harrower, and moved in good society in the capital. In the early seventies Isparheecher went to Washington as a representative of the Creek nation to get some legislation through congress. While he was there he married Miss Harrower.

The Indian Chief, while he was then young, was a striking figure and attracted attention wherever he went. He could not speak a word of English nor could his sweetheart understand Creek. The entire courtship, proposal and all, was conducted through an interpreter, Capt. S. B. Callahan, who now lives at Muskogee and who is the sole surviving member of the Confederate congress. Capt. Callahan this day remembers the confidence reposed in him by the chief and with a delicate sentiment refuses to give the details of the courtship, and the wording of the proposal of the chief to the maid.

The wedding took place in Washington. It was a simple affair. Immediately afterwards the Chief brought his young wife to the Creek nation, taking her to his home out west of Arbeko, nearly one hundred miles from a railroad. It is reported that she lived in great domestic happiness with her chief for a few years. The first purchase that she made after having visited the Indian home was a lot of wash tubs and material for cleanly housekeeping. A few years after her marriage, however, it is reported that her love for the chief began to wane and she pined for a mate of her own race. She at last found her life unbearable and the chief secured a divorce in the courts at Mus-

kogee. She then married a white man with whom she had fallen in love and is now living near Coweta, I. T.

Another instance was that of D. H. McIntosh, who was not chief of the nation, but was one of the leading men. He was a highly educated man, courtly and handsome. He went to Washington regularly as a delegate from his nation, and it was on one of these trips that he met Miss Nina Gawler. A courtship followed and they were married. The marriage was an unusual one and when Col. McIntosh returned to the Creek nation it was predicted that his marriage was the end of his illustrious career. He was old enough to be the father of the bride and she came of a gentle family and had never seen the west, much less the abode of an Indian. It is told, however, that there never was a more happy wedding. The young white bride proved the most devoted and contented of wives and until the dying day of the old Indian their devotion to each other was the subject of much talk in the Nation. Mrs. McIntosh is still living. There was a large family of children born to this marriage and they have grown up to be able men and women. The mother now divides her time between Washington and the Indian country.

In the Cherokee nation Chief Chas. Downing,

the founder of the Downing party in the Cherokee nation and a famous politician, on one of his trips to Washington, met a Miss Ayers, and the meeting led to a courtship. He returned to the Cherokee nation without marrying, however, and shortly afterwards married a Cherokee woman. Miss Ayres was almost heart-broken. Finally she came to the Cherokee nation, so the story goes, and remained at Tahlequah for a long time. The Cherokee wife died and soon after that Chief Downing and Miss Ayres were married.

It is a matter of history that Chief John Ross, one of the most noted chiefs the Cherokees ever had, also married in Washington.

It is from such marriages that have sprung a people who have shown remarkable brilliancy in lines. All the mental powers of the white and the physical of the Indian seem to have been blended in the mixed blood. It is equally true, however, that, in some instances, such a mixture of blood has proven disastrous to intellectual and physical powers. It has made a cosmopolitan class, however, which has played and still plays an important part in the history of this country. -- New State Tribune.