

STURM'S OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE

Tulsa, Indian Territory  
Vol. 1-2, pp 84-85  
October 1905

PROMINENT INDIAN WRITERS

Having begun the study of the Creeks, or Muskogee, Indians, in the brief historical sketch published last month in this department, it will be perhaps interesting to follow with a glimpse at some of the present day Creeks before passing on to the study of another tribe.

The advancement of the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes in educational development, and consequently in business ability, has been wonderful, and is no less marked in the case of the Creeks than in the other tribes. The Creek Nation is rich in natural products, has maintained splendid schools, and a number of the largest towns of the Territory are within its boundaries. Many of the leading business men are of Creek Indian blood and some of the handsomest homes of the Territory are owned by Creeks. It is interesting to note that eminent lawyers, physicians, instructors, writers, etc., of Indian blood are winning name and fame

side by side. With their white brothers, and in the great future that is opening up for the Territory, beyond doubt the Indian will hold his own and be a leader of affairs in his home State.

Of Indian writers who have made for themselves a name in the literary world, perhaps the most distinguished and best known is the young Creek poet and humorist, Alex Posey. Under the caption "Fus Fixico's Letters," Mr. Posey has gained a wide reputation, depicting public affairs as from a full blood Indian's point of view. These Letters are written in what might be termed Indian dialect, somewhat similar to the Mr. Dooley series, and have been widely copied in the large newspapers. One of these Letters, written by the inimitable "Fus Fixico" at the time of the Indian Statehood Convention held in Muskogee, Indian Territory, in August, is published in this department this month, and to those acquainted with affairs in the Territory and the personages mentioned in the "Letter" it will appeal as being a clever expression of the true feeling of the full blood Indian on this subject.

Under the pen name of "Chinnubbie Harjo," Alex. Posey has contributed many able articles and poems to prominent Western magazines. That he is a born poet is

easily recognized in his poems. Nature inspires him, and has furnished subjects for a number of his most admired poems. What could be more expressive of the wild drifting of the seared leaves of Autumn than the following lines of Chinnubbie Harjo's poem, "An Out Cast:"

Pursued across the waning year,  
By winds that chase with lifted spear,  
A leaf, blood-stained, fell spent at last,  
Upon my bosom. Poor outcast!

Or this, of the blythe singing of the robin:

"Out in the golden air,  
Out where the skies are fair,  
I hear a song of gladness,  
With never note of sadness,  
Ring out thy heart's delight,  
And mine of every sorrow!  
Sing, sweet bird, till the night  
And come again tomorrow!"

The evening star inspires the following in this young Indian's poetic soul:

"Behold, Evening's bright star,  
Like a door left ajar  
In God's mansion afar,  
Over the mountain's crest,  
Throws a beautiful ray--  
A sweet kiss to the day,  
As he goes to his rest!"

Another beautiful poem from the pen of Chinnubbie Harjo" is entitled "Bob White," and is quoted below:

A speck of brown adown the dusty path-  
way runneth he,  
Then whirreth, like a missile shot, into  
a neighboring tree.  
Bob-Bob White!

The joyous call comes like a silver chime,  
And back across the fields of summer  
time,  
The echo, faint, but sweetly clear,  
Falls dying on the list'ning ear--  
Bob-Bob White!

And when the cheery voice is dead,  
And silence soothes the wind to rest,  
Among the oak boughs overhead,  
From valley, hill or meadow's breast,  
There comes an answering call--  
Bob-Bob White!  
And, once more, over all

The spirit Silence weaves her spell,  
And light and shadow play  
At hide-and-seek behind the high  
Blue walls around the day.  
Again, from where the wood and prairie  
meet,  
Across the tasseled corn and waving  
wheat,  
Awak'ning many tender memories  
sweet--  
Bob-Bob White!

Alex Posey was educated in the Creek Indian schools at Eufaula and Muskogee, and he now lives in the latter city. Although a young man, he has held many positions of honor and trust in the Creek government,

and his deserved success is a matter of great pride to his people.

Another Creek writer whose Indian legends and stories have made for him many interested friends and admirers is Charles Gibson, of Eufaula. Mr. Gibson is a full blood Creek Indian and glories in the fact. He is what the world is pleased to style a self-made man. If asked where he obtained his education, Charles Gibson will smile his droll smile and tell you he isn't educated. Nevertheless he is one of the best story writers among the Indians. His writings are full of wit and humor, yet in all there is imbedded a tinge of pathos, with often a mixture of keen sarcasm, showing a spirit of never having been reconciled to some things that the Indians have endured. His subjects strongly tend to the philosophical, yet at the same time showing a personal feeling not altogether in harmony with existing conditions. Charles Gibson's Indian fables are gems to lovers of Indian lore--humorous, spicy, yet always containing a moral depicting the Indians' true condition as well as the part played by the white man.

Mr. Gibson keeps well posted on passing events

and often his fables are based on some incident in which his own people play an important part. "Gibson's Rifle Shots," published in the daily papers of the Territory, are widely read and are simply timely "shots" at passing events.

One of Gibson's best fables is published in this department this month.