

TALKS AND THOUGHTS

OF THE

Hampton Indian Students.

"Tahenan upi ya ounkiya biye,—Come over and help us."

VOL. V. No. 8.

HAMPTON, VA., FEBRUARY, 1891.

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A Plain Man's Philosophy.

"A Gloomy world," says neighbor Black,

"Where clouds of dreary dun,
In masses rolle, the sky infold,
And blot the noonday sun!"

"Ay, so it is," says neighbor White;

"But haply you and I
Might shed a ray to cheer the way—
Come, neighbor, let us try."

"A vale of tears," says neighbor Black,

"A vale of weary breath,
Of soul-wrung sighs and hopeless eyes,
From birth to early death!"

"Ay, so it is," says neighbor White;

"But haply you and I,
Just there and here, might dry a tear—
Come, neighbor, let us try."

"A wilderness," says neighbor Black,

"A desert waste and wide
Where rank weeds choke, and ravens croak,
And noisome reptiles hide!"

"Ay, so it is," says neighbor White;

"But haply you and I
Might clear the ground our homes around—
Come, neighbor, let us try."

Frederick Langbridge, in Sunday Magazine.

Our Petition to Senator Dawes.

The Indian boys and girls met in Winona Saturday evening, Jan. 24, to read letters which General Armstrong had asked us to write concerning the wants of our people out west, and how they might be helped. All of the letters were very interesting, and many good points were brought out. The letters were sent to Senator Dawes. We would like to publish some of them, but our small space will not allow it. At the close of the meeting a committee of three were appointed to draw up a petition. The committee drew up one, and, after

being signed by all the Indian students, it was sent to Senator Dawes with the letters. Following is a copy.

Hampton, Va.,
Jan. 30, 1891.

Hon. H. L. Dawes,

Dear Friend:—

We, the Hampton Indian students, write to tell you what we think our people at home need, and how they might be helped.

Many of us have been to Eastern schools for several years, and have seen the ways of the white people, and we want our race to become educated and civilized too.

We think it does our young people harm to be given rations for two reasons;—

First. It encourages laziness and vice.

Second. It causes the industrious much loss of valuable time in going after their food.

Our old people are really dependent upon the rations and if they were taken away from them, they would suffer, because the young people are not yet able to support them entirely.

What we want is a good start that we may earn our own living and not be dependent on the government.

To do this, we need farm implements and stock. We would like to be given a choice between rations and farm implements and stock in such a way that each one would get the full value of his or her share in either one way or the other. If the able-bodied men do not choose this way of helping themselves, we think it should be forced upon them.

Many of us come from reservations where no rations are issued and our people get along fairly well unless their crops fail.

We have been driven West continually, and our good lands taken from us, until some of us have very poor land now, and it is not fit for farming. But on it, we might raise stock.

When our crops fail, we think it is the duty of the Government to help us.

What every agency needs most is a good Christian agent. Some are thoughtless and careless, many are immoral and set bad examples before our

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TALKS AND THOUGHTS.

Edited, Published and Printed by the Indian students
of the Hampton Institute.

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Entered at the Hampton Post Office, Va, as
second class mail matter.

Huysen Powless left for his home in Oneida, Wisconsin, on the 19th of last month. We were all sorry to have him go, for we shall miss his bright face and pleasant smiles.

The announcement of the marriage of Mr. Walter Battice and Miss Rose Mahkosatoc at Sac and Fox Agency, I. T., on Jan. 8th, has reached us. We tender our hearty congratulations to them both.

Cold weather is almost over here, and base balls and bats begin to make their appearance on the grounds in front of the Wigwam and Academic Hall. The Normal school boys have very little time to practise.

Thomas Sloan returned home from St. Louis Christmas with a blushing bride. As he was manager of TALKS AND THOUGHTS while here, the little paper now extends its best wishes to him for a useful and happy life in the future.

Mary Jane White Crow was compelled to give up her studies after Christmas on account of her health. For the present she is assisting Miss Calthrope with her model training school in the Science building. This school is for the benefit of the Seniors and Middlers, who go in there to observe and take lessons in practice teaching. Mary Jane intends to teach when she goes home next year. We feel assured she will make a success of it.

We hear that Richard Powless is working in a printing office in Cambridge, Mass. If all our boys would learn their trades well while they have a good chance here, there would not be much trouble about their getting employment when they leave.

Edna Traversie has given up her regular studies, and goes to the Whittier school every morning to practice with the little children down there. She is interested in her work, and will make a very successful teacher. In the afternoons she works in the Industrial Room.

Indian Citizenship Day, Feb. 8, 1891.

This was the fifth celebration at Hampton, but owing to the recent trouble among our people at home we did not feel like celebrating it in the usual joyful way. As it came on Sunday we thought it would be more appropriate to have a service about it. Mr. Gravatt delivered a striking address, which everybody enjoyed. We, the Indian students, were seated upon the platform where the choir usually sit. The front of the platform was prettily decorated with flowers from the green-house. Below is the order of the service:

OPENING EXERCISES.

SINGING; "Watchman, tell us of the Night."

RESPONSIVE READING.

CHANTING OF THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

SINGING.

APOSTLES' CREED.

PRAYER.

COLLECTION; "For an Indian Hospital, to be established at Crow Creek Agency, S. D.

SINGING; "All hail the power of Jesus' Name."

ADDRESS; By Rev. J. J. Gravatt, Rector of St. John's Church, Hampton, Va.

SINGING; "Spirit of Peace." Written for the occasion by Miss Ludlow.

CHANTING OF THE LORD'S PRAYER.

BENEDICTION.

people. We do not care whether our agent is a military officer or a citizen, but what we do want is a good Christian man, one who will not be changed except for bad conduct or mismanagement. Another great need on all the reservations, is an Industrial Training School. At most of the agencies there are small Government Schools. These could be enlarged and shops added to them, so that those who are too old to go to school could learn a trade, for, like the white people, all Indians do not like farming, and these might do well at trades and professions. When the graduates and other students return home from the eastern school, there is not work enough for all of them at the agencies, and their people say "What good does an education and civilized ways do?"

Some have learned trades, and if these shops were established, it would furnish employment for them, and they could thus set a good example before those who do not believe in civilization. Besides furnishing employment, it would enable our people to get a better grade of farm tools and other articles, as many of them could be made in these shops. When anything is given now, it is let out by contract and consequently we get poor article and sometimes it can't be used. Many of the things that are issued to us could be made in these shops, and many things could be repaired which would otherwise be good for nothing. These shops would save a waste of time and money.

There is another great need at all the agencies, and that is a hospital for our sick people. When they get sick now, they cannot have even the most necessary things for food and care. They are scattered all over the reservations, which are very large, and the agency physician cannot attend to all of them, as it takes a great deal of time going about. If there were hospitals at the agencies, our sick people could be brought there, where they would receive the proper care.

If the rations are stopped, it will take away the support of our old people who are not able to work and earn their own living. There should be a home established for the old and infirm people on every reservation where they could be cared for.

The Government has promised a great deal more than this, but has never kept its promises in full. We think the Government should be more careful about what it promises and be sure to keep one when it does make it. If it had done this, we would have been further advanced to-day. We believe the Government has intended to do right by us, but it has made mistakes. We feel assured it will remedy this now by giving us all a fair start.

Your friends,
The Hampton Indian Students.

JOHN P. PATTEE, <i>Chair'm.</i>	} <i>Committee.</i>
JOHN WHISTLER, <i>Sec.,</i>	
LYMAN POWLESS.	

John Pattee has just returned from Washington. Some chiefs from the west have been holding Council there. John will give an account of his trip in the next number.

Visitors from Cherokee.

Three weeks ago we had a very pleasant visit from Mr. H. W. Spray and wife, from the Cherokee Training School, North Carolina. They have had charge of that school for seven years. Their whole hearts are in the work, and the Indians realize that Mr. Spray has done more for them than any one else who has ever worked among them.

They have eighty-three boarding pupils, eighty of whom are supported by the government. They are taught all kinds of work. The boys work on the farm before and after school, while the girls do all the housework. Some of them oversee the others while in their different departments of work.

Mr. and Mrs. Spray enjoyed their visit to Hampton very much. They did not stay long enough to see much of the school, but they were very much pleased with what they did see, and also the kindness shown to them by the teachers.

Vesper Services in Winona.

The Vesper Services of the King's Daughters were held on the evening of the first Sunday in February in Winona Hall. The Colored girls were invited over, and most of the teachers were also present. The music was mostly of plantation melodies. Then the reports of the different circles were read. The names of the circles are very interesting, but their works are far more so. They have all been engaged in sending Christmas boxes to the ones working in the "Field," and have received letters of gratitude, which were read. Some were written by the children and some by the workers. They were all very interesting. The Vesper Service, printed on leaflets, was distributed around, and was the last thing on the programme for the evening. This Vesper Service is the service of the King's Daughters in Boston, but some of the teachers had made some few changes by putting in plantation songs instead of the hymns. Most of the circles are making more things for next Christmas. This is quite a length of time to look forward to, but part of our motto is: "Look forward and not back."

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TALKS AND THOUGHTS.

From the J. S. of C. E. Bethel, Conn.

The Junior Society of Christian Endeavor at Bethel, Conn., met several weeks ago. Their subject was "Indian Work." Some of our scholars wrote a letter to them, and it was read at this meeting. After the regular meeting was over they carried a vote to send some money to help us Indian boys and girls here. We thank them very much for their kind interest in us, and also for the kind and helpful letter which we print below.

BETHEL, CONN., Jan. 27th, 1891.

INDIAN BOYS AND GIRLS OF HAMPTON, VA.

Dear friends :

I wish I could see each one of you, to thank you personally for sending us those letters.

The Junior Society were delighted and willingly promise to answer them. And, when at the close of the meeting, I asked them, "If we should send any money to Hampton?" there was a regular chorus of voices—all speaking at once,—"yes, yes, can't we send them five dollars?" I said, "why, yes; if any one will make a "motion" and not all speak at once."

Then a little girl arose and said, "I move we send five dollars to Hampton to help the Indian boys and girls."

Some one else seconded it, and every hand was raised when I asked "all who were in favor of the motion, to raise their hand?"

You may be sure of finding many warm friends among this society in Bethel.

We are glad you and your people are learning about God and heaven, and what a beautiful thing it is to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

What a grand opportunity you boys and girls will have, when you return to your homes, of teaching those you love about Him who died for us all.

That is just what we are all trying to do, to tell others about Him.

We shall watch for your name and your influence among your own people, and pray that you may be His chosen instrument to do much good.

I wonder if you have a Christian Endeavor Society? And if you would like to hear

about ours?

Next Sunday afternoon we are going to celebrate our 2nd Anniversary. We will first elect our officers and then the Superintendent will name the committees, which are, namely: Lookout, Missionary, Music, Sunshine and Executive, and other business will follow. After that we have a programme of music, recitations, etc. Then we shall have games. One is going to be a "potato race," and the other will be a "hunting game."

I shall hide five or six small articles in the room, and the one who finds it may have it for a prize. There will be other games also.

Then we shall have refreshments together, consisting of sandwiches, cake and lemonade.

The girls bring the edibles, and each boy brings a lemon. Don't you think we shall have a good time? I wish you could be here to enjoy it with us. But we are not banded together as a society for good times only, but that we may receive good and learn to do good.

The boys and girls, in turn, lead the meeting, speak and pray and work for Jesus.

Last year they planted "missionary corn," and after harvest gave a "corn supper." Everything on the "bill of fare" was made from corn, and we made over fifty-five dollars, which we sent to missionaries.

We have a missionary meeting once a month, and they are very interesting, because we learn all we can about the people we are going to help.

I must close my letter with kind remembrances from all the Juniors.

Yours in C. E., EMMA MCGREGOR,
Supt. of J. S. C. E.

Our Lend-a Hand Club here takes the place of the Christian Endeavor Society in many ways, as it does about the same work. It has several committees. These did a great deal of work during the holidays, and several large boxes were sent out west. We are very busy with our studies and do not have as much time for such meetings as we wish. We are always glad to hear from any society of this kind, and if we receive any letters we will answer them and tell more about our society.