

THE INDIAN HELPER

A WEEKLY LETTER
—FROM THE—
Indian Industrial School, Carlisle, Pa.

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Number 25

THE BLUE-BIRD.

A BLUE-BIRD—blue as an Easter sky—
Sang from a beech-bough brown and dry
A little song that was half a sigh.

She sang to heaven as pure souls do;
But the only heaven she ever knew
Was the sun-filled air with its roof of blue.

"Dear heaven,"—this was the soft refrain—
Let the trees laugh out into leaf again—
Let the earth grow green with the springing grain!"

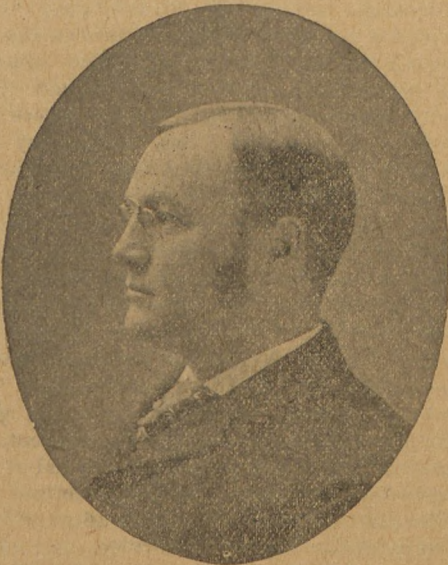
Alas, and alas! ere the night was o'er
The east wind rose with a mighty roar.
And the rain through the beechen boughs did pour.

And the blue-bird—who can tell the rest?
The fears that fought in her little breast
While there was no sun, no spring, no nest!

Three days—three nights of the wild March rain,
And the great sun smiled on the world again,
And the blue-bird piped to the sunlit plain

"Dear sun in heaven, for days of grief,
Let the trees laugh out into tender leaf;
Let the fields grow green with the coming sheaf!"

—[MARY A. LATHBURY.



HON. JAMES S. SHERMAN, NEW YORK,
Chairman House Indian Committee.

WILD INDIANS I HAVE KNOWN.

Old Blue Bonnet was as thoroughly unregenerate a pagan and as incorrigible an Indian as ever I knew. He steadfastly refused to make any concessions to the white man, even in the matter of dress, and still clung to a dirty handkerchief, wound turban-wise about his head, when nearly every other man in the tribe had adopted a hat. As for pantaloons, he repudiated them utterly, and leggings, made of cotton cloth that had once been white, were his summer and winter attire. It was laughable to see him the recipient of innumerable old hats and cast-off pairs of trousers from benevolent white people, who pitied his apparent poverty. These he accepted with a great show of gratitude, chuckled over in private, and in the end graciously bestowed upon somebody else.

Blue Bonnet had two passions: an unconquerable love of the chase, and a passion for "ituhanpi," or giving away. He periodically made feasts and gave away all his possessions with the reckless, yet calculating Indian generosity; careless of beggary but greedy of fame and praise! Every summer he set out upon the annual deer-hunt—a tradition that few but he continued to observe, since each year it led him farther from home and proved more disappointing in its results.

He had two wives, in accordance with the old Indian custom—one, a woman of nearly his own age, (which was fully fifty,) the other a girl of eighteen. The first ministered faithfully to his comfort and humored all his eccentricities; but the young wife, as usual, was the favorite. Pretty she was, but very wilful; and knowing that the Indian agent would not enforce his claim upon her, she repeatedly ran away from her queer husband, but was always fetched home again!

I was astonished when I heard, one day, that Blue Bonnet and both his wives had been baptized; for he was exceedingly superstitious, and took part in many of the heathen cere-

The Indian Helper

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—AT THE—

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BY INDIAN BOYS.

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Miss M. Burgess, Supt. of Printing.

Do not hesitate to take the HELPER from the Post Office for if you have not paid for it some one else has. It is void for in advance.

The Indian School at Fort Shaw, Montana, recently gave an entertainment in the neighboring town of Choteau which was so successful that it may be repeated before long. Comment in the local papers is kind and flattering. The band, says the Teton Chronicle, consists of 22 pieces, and furnishes a high class of music that is seldom excelled by bands of large cities. It also mentions that the discipline of the students was noticeably good—far in advance of that of average white children.

Base Ball Schedule for 1900.

Sat. April 7th, University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia; lost, 6 to 7.

Wednesday, April 11th, Mercersburg at Mercersburg; lost 11 to 12.

Thursday, April 12th, Syracuse here; won 7 to 5.

Wednesday, April 18th, Lebanon Valley College at Annville; tie 4 to 4.

Saturday, April 21st, Cornell at Ithaca.

Thursday, April 26th, our second team at Mercersburg.

Thursday, May 3rd, Susquehanna, here.

Sat., May 5th, Mercersburg, here.

Sat., May 12th, Albright, here.

Wed., May 16th, Lehigh at South Bethlehem.

Sat., May 19th, Albright at Myerstown.

Sat., May 26th, Bucknell at Lewisburg.

Tuesday, May 29th, Gettysburg, here.

Wed., May 30th, Pennsylvania R. R. Y. M. C. A. at Philadelphia

Sat., June 2, Lafayette at Easton.

Sat., June 9, Gettysburg at Gettysburg.

Wed., June 13th, State at State.

The Band discoursed sweet music on the campus on Monday evening.

Miss Senseney went to Pittsburg Easter Sunday for a week's visit.

The Baseball game with Syracuse last Thursday resulted 7 to 5 in favor of our boys.

Frank Yarlot and Lottie Harris are doing clerical work in Miss Luckenbach's office.

Dr. Montezuma, who accompanied the Band on its recent tour, has returned to his practice in Chicago.

Mrs. Baird, wife of Agent Baird of Santee, was here between trains on her way to her home in Nebraska.

A complete history of the Carlisle "Outing," covering the successful experience of twenty years, has just been prepared at the request of the Indian Office.

Invitations have been received to the Thirty-second Anniversary Exercises of Hampton Institute. The date is Thursday, April 26th, and there is to be a Conference on the day previous, in which Dr. Curry, Mr. Walter Page, Mr. Booker Washington and others interested in Southern education will take part.

The Band arrived from Boston and New York on Sunday morning. The boys report large and appreciative audiences and a good time generally. Mr. Dennison Wheelock was entertained by a Musicians' Club in Boston and received many compliments upon his original work.

Nora Jamison writes of attending a Home Missionary meeting in Philadelphia with Martha Enos. They were surprised to hear a lady say that if she were an Indian maiden she would not want to be civilized. She would run away from the school! There are a few white people who talk as if they did not believe in civilization, but it will hardly do to take them too seriously.

Easter.

The day was a perfect Spring one after a cold and backward season. The maples on the school campus were dressed in fringes of scarlet, the birds were singing and every one seemed happy. Fourteen hundred Easter eggs had been colored for the children. The Club tables were tastefully decorated with red and white azaleas and brilliantly colored eggs. At the Sunday School several of the pupil teachers spoke on the Resurrection.

The platform was beautifully adorned with flowers for the afternoon service, and there was special Easter music and an Easter sermon by Rev. Mr. Hagerty. Many attended the different churches in town.

"April showers bring May flowers."

The Spring shirt-waist is in blossom.

Twenty-three girls left for country homes yesterday.

Some of these April days are less "rare" than "raw."

Major Pratt was in Chambersburg, on business, one day this week.

Grease the screen door hinges! It will soon be fly time.

"The first thing to do, if you have not done it, is to fall in love with your work."

Miss Barr is grateful to Miss Edge of Downingtown for a supply of Bibles and Testaments for the use of the sick.

Mr. W. H. Miller, formerly of Gettysburg Junction station office, has joined Ma or Pratt's clerical force.

Mrs. Shaffner Etnier has been appointed Supervisor of Education in Porto Rico for the district in which she lives (Ponce).

These are the days when the witless boy or girls sitteth or lyeth on the damp ground, and declareth vehemently that the ground is dry.

Major Pratt has been selected as Chairman for the Industrial Section of the Ecumenical Conference on Missions to be held in New York in Carnegie Hall, beginning April 21st.

The girls at Miss Edge's home in Downingtown are sending in some rare and beautiful wild flowers to their classmates, the seniors, for botanical work.

The Committees of the Standard and Invincible Societies wish to extend, through the columns of the HELPER, a cordial invitation to the school faculty, to be present at the Standard-Invincible reception to be held in the Gymnasium, Friday evening, April 20th, from 7 to 9:30.

The Invincibles elected the following officers for the ensuing term: President, John Powlas; Vice President, Arthur Pratt; Secretary, Donald McIntosh; Treasurer, Samuel Brown; Reporter, James Johnson; Sergeant at arms, Wallace Miller; Critic, Hawley Pierce; Assistant Critic, Charles Roberts.

A recent letter from Cassie Hicks, who is employed in the school at Chilocco, Oklahoma, tells of missing Carlisle and her old friends here. She asks for a letter from her church in Carlisle to the First Presbyterian church of Arkansas City. Several years ago Cassie met with an unfortunate accident which resulted in the loss of a hand; but she says bravely that she "can do just as much work as any with two hands."

The band will furnish the music at the society reception this evening.

Miss Burgess has been confined to her room this week by illness.

"What does sea-sick mean?" asked a little girl. She was told. "O, I thought it meant sick to be on the sea—like home-sick, you know!"

We shall all miss our "money mother," Miss Luckenbach, whom we have lost by transfer to Phoenix, Arizona. She will leave for that place in the near future.

At the last meeting of the Susans, the usual programme was set aside for a talk and drill on parliamentary practice by Miss Cutter. At its close a vote of thanks was tendered Miss Cutte by the Society.

We are sorry to record the death on Tuesday of Raleigh James, who came to us last fall from Carson, Nevada. Raleigh was a member of the Band. He was a patient and cheerful invalid and made little trouble.

We regret to learn of the death of Mrs. Schweigman of Rosebud Agency, South Dakota. She was Winney Kinney, who came in the first party to Carlisle, and remained three or four years. The bereaved husband writes that she has often thought of the school where she learned to be a Christian.

Joseph La Framboise, John Garrick, William Pallado and Charles Butler have been transferred to the U. S. S. Dolphin at the Navy Yard in Washington. Maximilian Osuna was transferred to the U. S. S. Yankton at Banes, Cuba. The Dolphin is the official naval vessel to be used by Gov. Allen of Puerto Rico.

Dr. George Bird Grinnell, the author of "Pawnee Folk Tales," "The Story of the Indian" and other books about Indians, accompanied by the well-known artist, Mr. E. W. Deming, was here on Monday upon a special mission for Harper's Magazine. They left on Tuesday morning to visit a number of our boys and girls in country homes. Dr. Eastman went with them.

Rev. J. J. Methvin of Oklahoma writes in the Indian-Okla Methodist that he was both pleased and profited by his visit to Carlisle. In this school, he says, is demonstrated what may be done for and with Indian youth under proper training in an improved environment. He knew of both Major Pratt and Mr. Standing as pioneers among the Indians in former years—the first as a soldier of his country and the latter as a soldier of the cross, and thinks it a fitting and a comforting providence that the two are associated.

monies of the native conjurers; but the explanation was convincing. The discontented girl-wife had left him again; and the old man, despairing of keeping her in his possession by ordinary means, had applied to have her baptized—and for consistency's sake, himself as well. Probably he hoped that the sacred rite—which to him was only another sort of magic—might have a restraining effect. It is unnecessary to add that he did not tell the minister the secret of his sudden conversion.

Big Star was another middle-aged Indian whose unexpected application for church-membership was a little disconcerting to the authorities. A communion service was soon to be held at which a number of new converts would be received on profession of faith; but while the missionary—(not the same one who had baptized Blue Bonnet)—disliked to repulse any one, the past life of Big Star had not been such as to inspire confidence. He was accordingly put upon probation for a season.

His first temptation seemed to come in the form of an invitation to participate in the ceremonies of the vapor-bath—a popular institution among the wild Sioux, who resort to it for a cure in sickness, a luxury in health, and likewise for the observance of some mysterious heathen rites. A number of large stones are heated in a fire, and placed in a small wickiup, covered with blankets. As many men as are able then enter the enclosure, and water is dashed on the hot stones, enveloping the bathers in a cloud of steam. Upon emerging from the bath they all plunge into a neighboring stream, or cold water is dashed upon them.

Big Star had been in the habit of indulging often in this performance, but his newly acquired Christian principles now caused him to hesitate. His friends, however, persuaded him that it was simply for cleanliness and health this time, and he went in with them. As the hot vapor rose from the stones, the old pagan songs began to issue from the lips of the bathers.

"Let the Dakotas remember their own gods," exclaimed one, "and let each sing to the god he worships!" Big Star was aghast at what now seemed to him the impious sounds that followed. He bore it as long as he could, and then struck up "Jesus, Lover of my Soul" in the native dialect. It produced an astonishing effect. In less than a minute the "sweat-lodge" was cleared, and the Christian worshipper was left alone.

This brave act was made known to the hesitating missionary, and Big Star was permitted to join the church on the communion Sunday following.

Iacozawin.

FROM INDIAN LIPS.

In a curious little book, written by one or two Omaha Indians, the following incident is told by Inshta-Theumba, the educated Christian daughter of the chief, Iron Eye:

We were out on the buffalo hunt. It was evening. The tents had been pitched for the night and the camp-fire made. I was a little bit of a thing, playing near my father. A little Indian boy came up and gave me a bird he had found. I was very much pleased, and tried to feed it and make it drink. After I had amused myself with it for some time father said:

"My daughter, bring your bird to me."

He held it in his hand for a moment, gently stroking its feathers, and then said: "Daughter, I will tell you what you might do with it. Take it carefully in your hand out there where there are no tents, where the high grass is, and put it softly down on the ground and say, 'God, I give you back your little bird. Have pity on me, as I have pity on your bird.'"

I said, "Does it belong to God?"

He said, "Yes, and he will be pleased if you do not hurt it, but give it back to him to take care of."

I was very much impressed, and carried the bird into the high grass, saying my little prayer as it flew away.

Iron Eye, the chief who taught this lesson to his child, could neither read nor write English. His daughter calls attention to the fact that it is the same lesson which Coleridge teaches in his wonderful poem of the "Ancient Mariner."

"He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all."

It is with antiquity as with ancestry; nations are proud of the one, and individuals of the other; but if they are nothing in themselves, that which is their pride ought to be their humiliation—[Colton.

Enigma.

I am made of 12 letters.
My 6, 11, 9, is not dry.
My 7, 2, 9, is what the Carlisle boys and girls do every day.
My 6, 12, 7, 4, is a small bird.
My 10, 8, 3, 1, is what every body have on their heads.
My 10, 2, 5, is what horses eat
My whole is what the Carlisle foot-ball players do not like.

R. M. A.

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S ENIGMA; The outside of a horse.