

carried out. The chiefs were duly tried, convicted of murder in the first degree, and sentenced to be executed. We learn, however, that the Governor of Texas has commuted their punishment to imprisonment for life. It is also asserted that a petition largely signed by the citizens of Texas living near the border, against the execution of the chiefs, was presented to the Governor. This Committee brought the subject recently before President Grant, and requested such intervention on his part as might be legal and proper.

We have heard of no depredations by the Kiowas since the arrest of their chiefs, and we hope they will take warning by what has occurred. The Cheyennes and Arapahoes do not seem inclined to justify the Kiowas, and will hardly be persuaded by them to join in measures of retaliation.

In judging the action of agent Tatum, Friends must remember that he had been placed in a position by the Society itself, in which he must have acted as he did, or have stood justly charged with upholding acts of murder and rapine, and with protecting those who boasted of their guilt. The latter charge, justly founded, would not only have been lamentable, but also far more damaging to the cause in which we are engaged, than are the present futile attempts of those who oppose our work and attempt to prove it a failure by citing the above case of arrest. We deny totally that this is any evidence whatever of the failure of the peace policy. From the nature of men, even in civilized communities, there is frequent necessity for legal restraint and punishment; and it cannot be wonderful, that some Indians should so persistently violate law as to render necessary the enforcement of its provisions. Most surely Friends have never claimed that if they were permitted to fill all the offices in the land, no occasions would arise for arresting and punishing criminals. It is true, that Lawrie Tatum

called upon the military to make the arrest; but there was no other authority in existence in that section. In short, we feel that under all the exceedingly trying and perplexing circumstances which have surrounded our agent during his period of care over these Indians, not one of us can feel confident that we would have done better than he.

In the above enumeration in the several Agencies, various small and scattered bands have not been estimated. Recently also there is a large accession of Northern Cheyennes and Arapahoes to the tribes under agent Darlington. We think a complete census of the Central Superintendency would exhibit not less than 20,000 Indians.

The Indians of our country may be classified into Semi-civilized and Blanket tribes. In the former class there are some individuals much in advance of others, educated, industrious and thrifty. As a class they are located, and live mainly by the cultivation of the soil. Many of them profess Christianity, but the greater portion are heathen, pay comparatively little regard to the sacredness of the marriage relation, and indulge in their dances and accompanying revelry and dissipation. Their numbers usually diminish rather than increase, for a state of semi-barbarism is less favorable to health and longevity than either civilization or the savage state. The savage is accustomed to constant exposure from infancy; the civilized man protects himself against exposure; whilst the semi-barbarian, in his ignorance and improvidence, sometimes protects himself when he does not need it, and thus relaxes and debilitates his system, and then again exposes himself to wet and cold without protection, and suffers the penalty in disease and premature death. The semi-barbarian, unchristianized, also gives a looser rein to his animal passions, in those increased facilities of indulgence, afforded by contact

home one every week, and all have quite a number; and they repeat in concert some 20 texts—wall texts, and such as have been printed on black-boards. I will mention a few that have been used in oral teaching—God is Love; God is a Spirit; Love one Another; Cease to do Evil, learn to do Well; Thon God Seest Me; Be not Drunk with Wine; Love your Enemies; Thon Shalt Not Steal; Lying Lips, &c.; Children, Obey your Parents, &c.; Christ Died for Our Sins; Follow Peace, &c.; Hold Fast that which is Good; Except ye Repent, &c.; The Blood of Jesus Christ, &c.; I am the Way, the Truth, &c.; Remember the Sabbath Day, &c.

"I have dwelt largely on the following themes: Love of God; creative power of God; the divinity of the Son of God; Jesus as a Saviour; necessity of repentance; pardoning love of God through Christ; the duty and benefit of loving enemies; the sins of fighting, lying, cheating, swearing, stealing, drinking, &c.; duty of obedience to parents; reverence for age.

"Such is the character of our teachings. We have to be very simple in our talk with them; some things they receive at once as being true, such as moral, filial, and parental duties. We feel that we have their confidence, but some things are new to them, and they hardly know how to receive them. Especially is this the case in reference to what we teach about the creative power of God. We think the majority understand what we say. The children have many things to learn; but their progress in learning, their improvement in behavior, their affection for each other, their strong memory, and their perseverance, are encouraging features. We do feel encouraged, and, I trust, thankful for the success granted by our Heavenly Father to our efforts. But we often feel weak and lonely, and unfit for the responsibilities of our position, and earnestly desire thy sympathetic prayers, and of all dear friends, that we may be blessed

for the cause's sake with humility, patience, judgment, and discerning, for each day as the need may be."

The Kiowas have as usual given much trouble this summer. The most of their depredations have been committed upon the military; they having succeeded, in various instances, in stampeding horses, mules, and cattle from encampments of soldiers, and from the vicinity of the military posts. Several other robberies and some murders have also been attributed to them, probably with good reason. Repeated efforts have been made by the Government to persuade the chiefs of these tribes to visit Washington, but hitherto without success. At the General Council of the different tribes of the Indian Territory, held at Okmulgee, in Sixth month last, a delegation was appointed of Cherokees, Choctaws, Creeks, Seminoles, Wichitas, and others, to meet the Kiowas and Comanches in friendly council on the 22d of Seventh month, at the Wichita Agency. It was believed that the influence of these friendly and civilized Indians would be greater in the interests of peace than any other that could be brought to bear upon those wild and warlike people. The Council was accordingly held, and was attended by a large delegation of the Kiowas and Comanches. An earnest effort was made to induce them to forsake their nomadic and predatory life, but apparently with little or no success.

Amongst the subjects which claim the serious attention of the friends of the Indian, and one which is a source of much uncertainty, solicitude, and discouragement to the Indians themselves, is the apprehension that the Government may be induced to disregard its reiterated pledges to the present occupants of the Indian Territory of perpetual and undisturbed possession of their lands. The President has manifested a decided disposition to protect the Indians against intruders, and