

## HOW ABOUT THE INDIANS' LAND RIGHTS?

Dear Editor: In the article on "Strange Bedfellows" in the October Freeman, the writer refers to our repeated tearing up of treaties with the Indians. There have been repeated crimes among white people toward each other and it would be strange indeed if there were none toward Indians. There are, however, some densely ignorant Indians who are multi-millionaires, notably in the Cherokee oil country. Their ignorance, rather than their being Indians, makes them targets.

Your writer will find in Woodward's "Life of George Washington" the story of treaties with Indians. One group of whites would make a treaty with a local tribe. Another group of settlers three hundred miles away would make a treaty with another tribe. Then the young bucks of Tribe No. 1, prohibited by treaty from scalping their white neighbors,

would go on a spree three hundred miles away, where their own treaty was inoperative, and come home decorated with the scalps that made them accepted men among their fellow-men. The White settlers did not know who did the scalping. To them

all Indians became the blackest of traitors; and in their indiscriminate revenging they became doublecrossers to the Indians with whom they had treaties.

The cause of the trouble was the Indians' barbaric practice of wearing human scalps as the only evidence that they were men; and if the net result was extermination of the Indians, it may be favorably compared with wanton scalping and murder.

The less we have to say about America's deficiencies the better. Let's remember the twenty million dollars wasted when we "took" the Philippines to pay for the Friarlands; of twenty million dollars "conscience money" paid to the Government of Colombia; the surplus from the Boxer claims returned to the Chinese Government; Gadsden Purchase; the purchase of Alaska. America's record is unassailable.—  
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