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AMONG THE CHEROKEES.

INTERESTING INTERVIEW WITH AN INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL.

Tahlequah, the Capital of the Nation—The Peculiarities of the Legislature—Leaders Kept Out by Captious Contests Hooly Bell, Sam Houston Bengé, Etc.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, June 25.—An official of the interior department has just returned from the Indian Territory, where he has been in business connected with his work as a public officer for more than a month. He tells some very interesting stories about the civilized Indians, their manners and mode of living, their governmental machine, their chiefs, tribesmen, sisters and daughters. In the course of a general conversation with this gentleman a few days ago he gave me some ideas of Cherokee life that I must admit were entirely new. Here is the substance of his conversation, not in his exact language, but his ideas and observations are carefully set forth:

The Cherokee capital is happily located. Tahlequah is a beautiful little village nestling amid a quartet of wooded hills. It is thirty miles east of the M., K. and T. railroad and something over seventy miles from Fort Smith, Ark. The country surrounding Tahlequah is about the finest in the world. Wood, water and grass are abundant. Iron ore and coal are to be had for the digging and crop out at the grass roots, and the region is dotted with health giving mineral springs. Tahlequah itself does not amount to much. Nature did more for it than man. The streets are wide and kept in fairly good condition. But the houses are cheap and primitive. There are a few substantial brick buildings, but the majority are ill constructed frame structures. There are a few log cabins to remind you of old times.

The capitol is a two story brick building, with a gaudy cupola. It is too small for its purposes. The treasury department and the two houses of the legislature are situated on the first floor, and on the second floor the executive offices, the supreme court, the department of education and the auditor's office are located. The public offices are small and cheaply furnished. The floors of the executive offices are covered with matting, and the chief and his secretaries sit on dollar and a half chairs in front of plain pine board tables. The legislators are better provided for, so far as desks and chairs are concerned, but the members of the lower house are crowded as closely as sardines in a can. The treasury department looks like a village calaboose. A safe is hidden under a big counter, and the interior office is cut off from the public room by big iron bars. The outer windows of the office, too, are liberally barred.

The Cherokee legislators are a happy-go-lucky set and miscellaneous in appearance. About a third seem to be white, a third of mixed blood and a third pure Indians. There is one genuine negro in the lower house, an ex-slave of a Cherokee family. Procedure is slow. About a third of the members are not conversant with the English language, and everything said, even to the prayer at the commencement of each session, has to be translated. Only a few of the members are versed in parliamentary law, and the presiding officers are selected more on the score of personal popularity than because of fitness for the positions. The clerks are new to the business, like the legislature, and everything is done at a snail's pace.

When a member speaks in English the interpreter immediately arises and translates his remarks into Cherokee. When a resolution or bill is read in either language the interpreter immediately puts it into the other language and reads it in its new lingual clothing. The members smoke continually when they are not chewing. The presiding officers have no gavels, and make no effort to maintain order. The members talk to each other across the hall and swap jokes with the speaker. When a clerk or interpreter is reading or talking, however, a pin could be heard to drop, and the best of order is kept and the closest attention paid when members are speaking. The spectators crowd through the aisles and sit on the desks in front of the members, and frequently advise friends what to do or what to say in a loud voice. The house is very primitive in its actions and deliberations, and the procedure is very simple.

Senate bills are read but once in the house, and house bills are read but once in the senate. Two or three members of the house do all the talking, and oratory is not exuberant. The speaker is a bearded halfbreed, and understands both English and Cherokee. In the house prayer is first rendered in English and subsequently in Cherokee. Chaplains are provided in each house but not paid. It is merely an honorary position. The members pay strict attention and act decorously during prayer. As the Hon. Hooly Bell, senator from Delaware district, put it, "The Cherokees try to fool the Almighty just the same as white folks."

The senate has much the advantage of the house in point of ability. The senators are active politicians and evidently take the lead in all legislation, the house subsequently confirming or rejecting by one vote. The parties are well disciplined. Sam Houston Bengé, of Gibson, is the legislative leader of the Nationals, and Hooly Bell, of Delaware, is the unquestioned boss of the Downings. The loaves and fishes are the only real issues between the parties. At the opening of the session both the leaders are decapitated by notice of contest being served on them. By an absurd and dangerous law, senators or members on whom notice of contest is served must retire until the contest is decided. It can be seen that under the provisions of this law the organization of the legislature could be indefinitely postponed. A spiteful, defeated candidate has only to enter a contest against his successful rival to prevent him from participating in the preliminary proceedings of the legislative body to which he was elected.

There are only eighteen members of the senate, of which ten constitute a quorum. Thus contests against nine senators would prevent the organization of that body. The contestees cannot participate, and less than a quorum cannot effect an organization or transact any business whatever. It is one of the plans of the politicians here to have the seats of the leading members of each party always contested so as to prevent their participation in the early proceedings. At the last session Bengé's seat was contested, and the Nationals not to be outdone, contested Hooly Bell's seat. There is no pretense on either side that the contest is other than vexatious.

Bengé, the National party legislative leader, is really an able man. He is a lawyer and a farmer. He speaks both English and Cherokee fluently, and has the reputation of being the best orator in the nation. He looks like a writer man a little browned by exposure to the sun. It is whispered around here that he is a son of the famous Sam Houston, of Texas. He has the Houston eyes, the Houston jaws, the Houston walk and the Houston temper. It will be remembered that Sam Houston resided for a couple of years in the nation after he resigned the governorship of Tennessee. He lived about fourteen miles from Tahlequah.

Lucien B. Bell, commonly called Hooly, is a lawyer, cattle raiser and farmer. He is shrewd, round and jolly. He claims that he is a Cherokee by blood and related to half the people in the nation, but he has none of the appearance of an Indian. Hooly lived in Texas for a number of years, and is a college graduate. He is a slick politician, but cannot speak Cherokee, which is a great disadvantage to him. In the debates in the legislature Bengé invariably gets the best of Hooly, because of Bengé's knowledge of Cherokee. Bengé will talk five minutes in English and then five minutes in Cherokee. He will swap languages as often as it suits him during his speech, and Hooly, not understanding the native tongue, is placed at a decided disadvantage. Bengé invariably captures the full blood support, because he can appeal for it eloquently in the native tongue. However eloquent Hooly's appeals in English may be, they are cold and unimpassioned when rendered in the machine sentences of the interpreter.

The Cherokee politicians are patterned after their brothers the world over. Study a practical politician in any part of the world, and you will find him duplicated wherever you go. They are the same in the Cherokee Nation as in Missouri, in Illinois, in New York, in Texas. Office is the usufruct of politics, and it is the aim of the Cherokee statesman the same as the man of Missouri or New York. By common consent the two smartest politicians in the nation are Denis Wolf Bushyhead, the ex-chief, and Secretary of State W. P. Bondinot. Old Bill Bondinot, as he is called, is a character in his way. He is a man of a good deal of learning, was educated in Connecticut and is now on the shady side of seventy years. The Bondinots' original name is Watie. They are consins of General Stan Watie, of Confederate fame.

A missionary named Bondinot, from Massachusetts, went among the Cherokees while they were yet in Georgia. When he returned to his New England home he carried a young Cherokee named Elias Watie with him. Watie remained in Massachusetts until he married and adopted the name of Bondinot. When his kinsmen moved to Indian Territory he joined them with his Yankee wife, and old Bill and Elias are the fruits of the marriage. When the old man died the mother returned to New England with her two sons, where they remained until the boys were educated. Old Bill's eyes are in the middle of his face, and his forehead sticks out like John L. Sullivan's muscles. He walks around town dressed in a heavy ulster overcoat and linen trousers. The bosom of his shirt is open summer and winter. He never ties his shoes, and the tops of his stockings are invariably doubled under the heels of his shoes, while the strings on the extremity of his drawers trail behind. His make up is picturesque, and those who know him best say it is not the result of affectation, but of carelessness.

According to the Downing party old Bill is the heavy villain of Cherokee politics. He is always thinking, always scheming, always working some problem through his head. His engineering of the National party kept its members in office for years, even when the popular vote was against its candidates. Old Bill is a student and a philosopher. He is a voracious reader. He sleeps five hours in twenty-four, devotes about three-quarters of an hour daily to eating, and spends the rest of his time reading and writing. He is a great admirer of Henry George and a believer in his theories. He is, however, the strongest kind of a Republican in United States politics.

Bushyhead is sixty-two years old, fat, good natured and easy going. He claims to be a quadron, but looks like a white man. He lived twenty years in California, and was one of the forty-niners. His brother is now sheriff of San Diego county, in the Golden State. Bushyhead returned to the Indian Territory about eighteen years ago, and immediately began to take a hand in politics. He was appointed treasurer about two years after his return, served eight years, and was then elected chief, in which office he also served eight years. There is nothing remarkable about him. He is a smooth talker, learned politics in California, and is ready and willing to hold office the rest of his life. His wife, who is a granddaughter of the celebrated Pierce Butler, of South Carolina, is a finely educated and refined woman, and has contributed much toward creating her husband's popularity.

The Downings say that Bill Bondinot furnishes Bushyhead with his brains, and the Nationals are not over eager to deny it. However, there is no doubt that Bushyhead has rendered good service to the Cherokee people, and that the public affairs are now in much better condition than when he took hold.

WALTER WELLMAN.

Mr. Clark, to the Public.
I wish to say to my friends and the public, that I regard Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy as the best preparation in use for Colic and Diarrhoea. It is the finest selling medicine I ever handled, because it always gives satisfaction. O. H. Clark, Orangeville, Texas. For sale by Chas. C. Reed, Druggist.

A Pertinent Question.
They took the Fitchburg road from Boston to Troy. At the Falls the brakeman thrust his head in at the door and seemed to interrogate:

"Hoosick? Hoosick?"
Alfred Rufus looked inquiringly around the car, and discovering no object in need of a physician's care, appealed to his father:

"Papa, who is sick?"—Pharmaceutical Era.

"The Lay of the Last Minstrel."
Primus—Briggs has been courting an heiress, who, by the way, was old enough to be his mother, but she married his rival.
Secundus—Yes, I know, and yet Briggs sent them an epithalamium he wrote and set to music.
Primus—Very generous. Was it sung at the wedding?
Secundus—No. The tune was "Old Hundred."—Life.

Had to Blame Something.
Not a great while ago one of Quitman's popular disciples of Blackstone was defending a negro charged with having stolen a pair of shoes. When he took the case he did not know of the conclusion to which the prosecutor had. That individual testified that he found his shoes on the thief's feet. Of course he was convicted in spite of the eloquent effort of the lawyer to save him.

"I don't blame you, boss," said the father of the boy, addressing the lawyer; "I don't blame de judge, an' I don't blame de jury, but I does blame dat testimony."—Quitman (San.) Press.

Great Progress.
"How are you progressing with your French?"
"Well, I am getting so that I can make myself misunderstood perfectly."—Harper's Bazar.

"Maid, Wife or Widow?"
He—Won't you be mine? I would give my life for you.
She—You may take me—on those terms strictly.—Kate Field's Washington.

The Shah of Persia

Though advanced in years, his hair of raven hue. Gray hairs are strictly prohibited in his dominions, and hence the large shipments to that country of Ayer's Hair Vigor, by the use of which the Shah's subjects save not only their hair but their heads. Ayer's Hair Vigor restores the natural color of the hair. It should be on every toilet-table.

"Some time ago my hair began to fade and to fall out so badly that I thought I should be bald; but the use of Ayer's Hair Vigor has restored the original color and made my hair strong, abundant, and healthy. It does not fall out any more."—Addie Shaffer, 546 Race st., Cincinnati, Ohio.

"My hair (which had partly turned gray) was restored to its youthful color and beauty by the use of a few bottles of Ayer's Hair Vigor. I shall continue to use it, as there is no better dressing for the hair."—Gaido Gapp, Georgiana, Ala.

Ayer's Hair Vigor,
PREPARED BY
DR. J. C. AYER & CO., Lowell, Mass.
Sold by all Druggists and Perfumers.

In The District Court Lancaster County, Nebraska.

I. L. Blackman, Howard Antos and Mrs. Antos, first name unknown defendants, will take notice that on the 18th day of March, 1891, Wallingford & Shamp, plaintiffs herein, filed their petition in the district court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, against said defendants, the object and prayer of which are to foreclose a certain mortgage by the defendant Blackman to the plaintiffs upon lot twenty-six (26) in block two (2) in Irving Place addition to the city of Lincoln in said Lancaster county and State of Nebraska to secure the payment of a certain promissory note dated Sept. 11, 1888, for the sum of \$50.00 and also one other certain note dated July 25th, 1888, for the sum of \$125.00 each due and payable on or before the first day of July 1890; that there is now due upon said notes and mortgage the sum of \$180.00 and interest thereon from the date of the said notes for which sum together with the interest thereon plaintiffs pray judgment and for a decree that the defendants be required to pay the same, or that the said premises may be sold to satisfy the amount found due.
On a petition to answer the said petition on or before the 18th day of July 1891.
Dated June 4th, 1891.

WALLINGFORD SHAMP
by ABBOTT, SELLER & LANE
their Attorneys.

Lincoln Park

Lincoln's Great Pleasure Resort

Now open daily to the public. The finest picnic grounds in the state, with fine boating and fishing. Dancing pavilions, illuminated with Electric lights and beautiful drives.

The Park is large and will accommodate everybody. Secluded places for private picnics can be had.

JULY 4th,

Lincoln's Grand Celebration.

Basket picnic, amusements, and rare attractions. Fine display of fireworks in the evening. Music and dancing day and night.

BASE BALL

Lincoln vs. Nebraska City!

BALLOON ASCENSION

Band Concert every evening from 7 until 9:30 o'clock, commencing June 25th.

Electric cars run to the Park every 12 minutes from 6 o'clock in the morning until 11:30 at night.

An Admission will be Charged

SEASON TICKETS

On Sale at Harley's, Shilling Bros., Odell's Restaurant and Ed. Young's.
Buy Condon Tickets and Save Money.

Ladies' Paragon



Gents' Paragon



E. R. GUTHRIE

1540 O STREET.

The Season's Novelties!

Just Arrived Fine Dress Patterns

A beautiful line of in Polka Dots, Combination Suits, French and English Goods. We have about 35 of the most stylish patterns left and have concluded to place all of them on Special Sale next week, same to be sold at

Tea Gowns

Latest cuts and designs, made of Challies, Henriettas and Combination Goods.

These goods are elegantly made up, are very stylish and will be sold at

Popular Prices.

We have also just received a limited quantity of Long Military Capes made of Cheviot, Camel's Hair and Broad-Cloth. If you have not already a Spring Wrap, please call and see the new and beautiful designs. The sample lines now being shown for fall trade by the manufacturers in New York show these same cuts.

BLAZERS

of White French Flannels in Blue, Red and Black Stripes at \$1.75, \$2.50, \$3.50, \$4.00.

The Bazar.

1023 O STREET.