The Indian Report

An Increased Interest in Agriculture Reported From Some of the Reservations.

WASHINGTON, December 2 .- The report of General J. D. C. Atkins, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for the year ending June 30, 1885, shows a hopeful sign of Indian progress in the increased interest in agriculture and the preparations for increased acreage of crops on several reservations. The Commissioner recommends apportionment of lands in severalty and the sale of the remainder of the reservations for homestead entries, the money thus obtained to be put in trust for purposes of education and civilization.

There are in the United States, exclusive of Alaska, about 260,000 Indians, 64,000 being in the five civilized tribes in the Indian Territory. There are in New York 4,970; in North Carolina, 3,100, and there are some in Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and a few in California and the North-west, who are civilized, and still others who can lay some claim to civilization Many others on the reservations have cast off the blanket and are adopting the fashions and dress of white people. But among all these, except among the Indians of New York and North Carolina, a few in some of the North western States and a part of the five civilized tribes in the Indian Territory, a very large number do not till the soil. Nearly all who are called "blanket Indians" have never tilled the soil to any extent, and fully half of the Indians of the United States, exclusive of Alaska, as yet have declined to commit themselves to the farmer's life.

Exclusive of the lands cultivated by the five civilized tribes, the number of acres in cultivation by Indians during the present year is 248,241, an increase of 18,473 acres over last year's figures. Reports of the Indian Agents at agencies where courts for trial of Indian offenses have been established show that they have been entirely successful and in many cases eminently useful. Referring to Indian police the Commissioner says : To a great extent they have met the necessities of the situation and have proved valuable aids to the Indian proved valuable aids to the Indian A gents in preventing trespassing and robbery by lawless whites and in suppressing disorder, violence and incipient revolt among the most restless of their own people. Many instances of surprising fidelity to the trust imposed upon them, under circumstances which would swerve many a white man from his duty, might be related of these Indian policemen.

A Borealis Story.

The place was the old Warsaw Campground in Milton County, Ga. The time recently. A large and seriously attentive congregation had assembled for the night service, the negroes in the rear of the pulpit, as was the custome in those days before the war. The preacher was a talented young man, at that time stationed in Marietta. He had reached a point in his sermon at which he held the almost undivided attention of the vast audience, and perfect quiet reigned. Just at this moment, when the interest was most intense, an old negro women hopped over into the altar, right in front of the preacher, and shrilly cried out: "Halle-lujah! the judgment day am come!" Her joyful exclamation caused the crowd to look out from under the arbor, and sure enough, there was a striking and magnificent spect-

The Northern heavens were lit up by a gorgeous anrora. Not many in that crowd understood the phenomenon, which, in fact, is rarely observable from Southern latitudes. And not understanding, many concluded that the old auntie's explanation, was the true one. "Ah! then there was hurrying to and fro, and gathering tears, and tremblings of distress." Indeed, so great was the commotion that there was imminent danger of a stampede and that somebody would be crushed in the swaying crowd.

It was at this crisis a well-known preacher, tall and angular, and with the voice of a stentor, ran out and mounted a convenient stump. "Be calm, my friends," he shouted, "be calm. This is not the judgment day, for how could the judgment day come in the night?" The incongruity struck the people with soothing force, their ears subsided, the preacher finished ple at once. Or send us his sermon, and 'order reigned in Warsaw."

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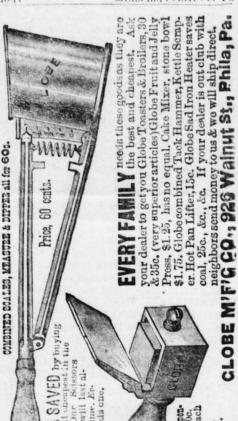
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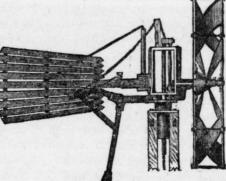
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