The Pittsburgh Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1860.

TROUBLES WITH THE INDIANS.

Without accepting the recondite ethnologic theory which classifies the savage tribes of abrogines found on this continent as belonging to a Pre-adamite genus, that by a stupendous forgetfulness of Nature have past their foreordained limit, it is not difficult to arrive at the conclusion that they constitute a worthless population, beneficently destined to swift coming extinction. Observation and experience of their character and conduct long ago disenchanted us of the illusions thrown over them by such writers as Cooper, Catlin and Everett; and led us to believe that the sooner they vanish, without inhumanity or crime on the part of the white race, the better it will be for the world.

Not that the worthlessness and depravity of the Indians are not matched by like qualities in certain classes among the whites. The Indian is not only evil, but is the occasion for the manifestation of much evil among whites, which is foreign to his nature, and which he would spurn with a grim, storical indignation.

The whole history of the annuities granted by our government to the Indian tribes illustrates this. Was there ever a contractor or agent for annuities that did not manage rapidly to acquire a fortune? It would go far towards disproving the doctrine of Total Depravity if one could be produced. Not only are the Indians constantly swindled, and so excited to acts of retaliation and revenge. Nay! nevertheless trains, freighted with annuities, have been conveniently captured by white men, disguised as Indians, the plunder appropriated and marketed with impunity. If the supplies belonged to the government, of course, it was the loser; if to a contractor, who, by collusion, aided in robbing himself, indemnity was wrung out of the Treasury, under the plea that the government was bound to keep communications open and safe. It has even happened that members of both Houses of Congress have been enriched by partnerships in these transactions.

This description of Indian depredations are always followed by an appeal for a military force to be sent to the scene of action. It is curious to note how small forces are derided as insufficient. Armies larger than that with which SCOTT conquered Mexico are clamored for. Does any innocent soul marvel why? Simply because large armies afford handsomer pickings than small ones. Those who furnish transportation, forage and provisions calculate on a fat harvest from the marching of ten or twenty thousand troops on such expeditions. Hence the manufacture of Indian wars has become a regular trade, and yields a larger margin of profits than most others.

In 1860 the Southern conspirators went into this business for the double purpose of plundering the treasury and scattering the army, both of which they did most effectually. From Texas and New Mexico swarming reports came up to Washington, and thence spread all over the country, of Indian depredations and atrocities. The men in power at Washington, understood the trick, because they had instigated it. The Indians were really the last people in those regions against whom the government had need to send military powers; but they were sent, and fully accomplished the end intended.

Now, there are reports of hostilities on the part of Indians in the west and northwest; some forces have been sent thither, and more are to follow. Perhaps rum furnished by white men, and swindling practiced by them, have influenced parties of Indians into doing horrible acts. But some white men out there are worse than Indians. Plundering Indians does not suffice them. They want an army out there, so that by means of it they may reach their long fingers away to Washington, and into the strong boxes of the Treasury. They are in a fair way to be gratified.

It may well be doubted whether, if the Indians should be absolutely exterminated this year, the government and people of this country would be allowed to find out the fact for a century. They are too profitable to be dispensed with, and if the last should expire, lay-figures of them would still be used by cormorants and speculators in order to produce the impression that tens of thousands were roaming the plains or held the fastnesses of the mountains, eager to scalp whites, men and women.

LECTURES AND LECTURERS.

Some years ago the writer hereof participated for several successive seasons in the management of Courses of Popular Lectures. The Committee with which he was associated were thoroughly anxious to please all classes of people, so as to secure the largest possible number of patrons, the object being to endow a Public Library. Animated by this desire to please the Committee secured the services of Lecturers of different religious and political faiths, the distribution being as nearly equal as practicable between Conservatives and Radicals, the most eminent of each sort being secured. Now mark the result: The Radical Lecturers regularly filled the hall to overflowing with auditors, while the Conservative Lecturers invariably left a freezing array of empty seats. The Conservatives in the community would not pay to hear their most conspicuous champions. It took all the money made for the Association by the Radical Lecturers to cover the deficit entailed by the Conservative ones. In particular, we remember that one week the chief iconoclast of New England Radicalism, since deceased, spake to a vast concourse, drawn from all classes of society. The week following one of the most eminent Conservatives of the city of New York, distinguished for the breadth and accuracy of his culture, was the speaker. Though the weather was favorable, there were not to exceed twenty-five persons in the hall, and they were mostly Radicals.

Three years ago we were spending some days with relatives in a city of Central New York. A nephew, intensely copper-head, was a member of the Lecture Committee of a Library Association. A Brooklyn Radical, of high repute, was to Lecture, and our nephew invited us to accompany him to the hall, which we did. After seating us comfortably he bade us good evening, and went away. Upon returning to the residence, we questioned the young man as to the motives for his conduct, when he frankly declared he would not hear such men speak. "Why, then, do you invite them?" we inquired. "Because I want money for the Library" he replied. "Why not invite equally eminent Conservatives?" I rejoined. "There is no money in them," was his business-like response.

Now, we venture to say that throughout the entire North, from Maine to Oregon, this is the general rule. Conservative gentlemen of learning may be superlatively proper, but the masses of men and women who attend Public Lectures do not care to hear them. A Lecture Course, supplied by Radicals is sure to pay; and the more strongly pronounced the Radicalism the better; while a corresponding Course, supplied by Conservatives, is a dead failure, involving certain loss. And this is natural. The leaders of thought and action inspire enthusiasm and excite curiosity, which the staid upholders of moderate and established opinions command only respect, and often hardly that.

PETROLEUM, OR "SENECA OIL," FORTY YEARS AGO.

The following communication, published in the Pittsburgh *Gazette* in the latter part of 1827, is curious, as marking the advance we have made since that *dark* age, when there were no lamps in our streets, and only a little crude oil was oozing through the rocks, and equally crude ideas taking form in the brains of our leading men.

It was an odd suggestion to propose to light a city with gas made from petroleum at a time when the supply was so extremely limited; and it is a striking evidence that no mind, however ingenious, can anticipate the results of science and art, that at this day, when "the rocks are pouring out rivers of oil," gas is still manufactured in this and other cities, from bituminous coal, the use of which the writer does not seem to regard with favor:

Observations on the use of Seneca Oil, and particularly on its employment for the purpose of producing illuminating gas, in the city of Pittsburgh.

* * * "I SEE that the corporation has, at last, determined to light the city; it is a very sensible determination, for indeed few places needed it more. I fear that lighting with gas will be found troublesome and expensive, in spite of the vast supply and cheapness of the coal. But I will tell you what is the cheapest, best, and most economical light you can use: it is what is called, in the west, Seneca oil; which is Petroleum, with some peculiar characteristics which distinguish it from that which is found in various other parts of the world, in the Cornish and Devonshire mines, in England, for example.

"It would be superfluous in me to describe this oil to you; to tell you how it is found throughout all the coal formation west of the mountains, in springs; in the rivulets which flow out of coal mines; in certain clays or earths, from which it is separated, as it was formerly, to cobsiderable amount, on Oil Creek, by manipulating it in water; and also floating on all, or nearly all, the salt wells. This substance, were there a ready market for it, might be supplied at your very doors, to an almost unlimited extent. At present it is almost valueless, being used only as an ingredient in what is called "British Oil," and as a horse medicine, (in which, by the bye, it is very useful.) The price of it is very low, because a few barrels glut the demand of the apothecaries; but if the city would take a large quantity, or if it were brought into general use otherwise, I believe it could be supplied at 25 cents per gallon. This may be said to be a very indifferent price for the article, unless it existed in great quantities in particular places—that it would not be worth the trouble of collecting; and of course being neglected, the price would rise for want of a supply; and then such quantities would be brought forward as to injure the dealers, a thing always to be deprecated in a well regulated country. Few things, however, offer so direct a proof of the doctrine, in political economy, that *rent* is the effect of labor—a doctrine which I do not confess to be true in every instance, nevertheless. The substance in question is diffused through out the country, and this will make it abundant in the market; but wherever it is found, it rises and accumulates slowly, and what is accumulated can be collected in a few minutes, with scarcely any labor, except where it is procured from the peculiar clays in which it is found. The salt well may be cleared of what floats, by letting a blanket down every quarter of an hour, and this will also apply to the springs where it is discovered. It is like honey and beeswax, of which few families have large quantities, but so many persons produce them that there is always a good and cheap supply in the market. Such articles, when extensively used in a city, and obtained from the surrounding country, beget an intercourse which is mutually beneficial. It is manifestly desirable for a city to waken to its interest by encouraging such a new object of trade, which, whilst it increases the circulation of money, will enable the country people to purchase more largely from the stores in town. In a word, it is the true policy of a city to enrich the surrounding country; and that city flourishes most, whose vicinage is the most prosperous.

"I need not argue further, to show the advantage of using Seneca Oil to light Pittsburgh, if it is applicable to the purpose. The proof of its applicability is only to be procured in the old and sure way—TRY IT. Let any one who doubts that it is a perfectly good oil for lamps, send to the apothecary's for a half a pint, and burn it one night, in a lamp of any kind, precisely as fish or spermaceti oils are burned, observing only that to avoid smoke, it is necessary the length of the wick should be deminished. I have tried it, and found it succeed perfectly; but I have not tried it, clarified; and there is no reason why it should not be clarified as well as any other oil, (and then it will burn as free from smoke,) by filtering or precipitating the gross particles contained in what is now brought to market. I am not chemist enough to give a definition on its component parts, but combustion shows that it contains more inflammable matter than animal oils."

"Fish oil, to a considerable amount, is now taken over the mountains, for which, you have to pay money, or money's worth; but if this oil gets into general use, I should not be surprised, if in a few years, it becomes an object of very large transportation to the east; thus affording a new article, to bring money to you. I proposed last winter, to one of the directors of the light-houses, to try this oil for those establishments; but, as yet, there is not a sufficient quanity on the sea-board, to authorize a large experiment of the sort. I believe it applicable to most of the articles which oil is used, and have now employed a capable person to begin some experiments on it. Some of these applications are of my own invention, and if they answer my expectations, I think I shall patent them, which will be a slight recompense for introducing a new means of wealth to an extensive region. If no other good is produced by this communication, I hope it will have the effect of attracting attention, and causing experiments on a subject so abundant, which now runs to utter waste.

"Let me add another idea, which I am conscious, will at first view be thought very visionary; but I say, *only try it;* the experiment will cost nothing. Many of the salt wells are filled, from the surface of the water to the mouth of the well, with inflamed gas: let a tight barrel with the head out, be let down, perpendicularly, into such a well, and after having remained some minutes, as the gas is heavier than the atmosphere, it will displace the latter, and fill the barrel; then let a wet blanket down, to cover the head of the barrel; and after it is drawn up, uncover a small space and tilt the barrel; long pole, be placed at the aperture; if the barrel be full of gas it will take fire, and probably explode. If this experiment succeed, the use of the city, if you choose to light with gas, will become as constant an article of commerce from the salt works as salt is now. These barrels may be emptied into a grand air-tight receptacle, easily contrived, and thence distributed exactly as gas made from coal. Here, then, is another source of income to the country. Indeed, Providence has been so bountiful to the whole west, that wealth seems to court you on every hand. Should the experiment of filling barrels with gas at the salt works, not answer, it will be very desirable that the city should cause an essay to be made on the production of gas from the Seneca Oil, which abounds with the materials for its production. It is well known that the use of animal oil to produce gas, has been extensive in England, after its superiority over gas from coal had been tested; but the high price of those oils there will probably prevent the general adoption of them for this purpose. Some writers, however, contend that they will produce gas at a cheaper rate than coal, in spite of the cost of them. If Seneca oil will equal more gas than animal oils, which I do not doubt; and if it can be procured at 25 cents per gallon, a fair trial of it in this way, would, assuredly, be demanded by common prudence.

"It seems to me, that indispensable as lighting the city is to the comfort and safety

"It has been recently discovered by Mr. Keller, governor of the isles of Trockenis, in Galicia, that paytha gives a light which compared with that from tallow, is as 1000:31.—*New Repertory of Arts and Sciences.*

of the inhabitants, the corporation ought to deliberate maturely on the plan it will adopt, because any future alteration will be expensive, and because the lighting of a town is among the heaviest of its charges.

"You will excuse my troubling you so much at length, as it is only a fresh proof of the interest I constantly feel in every thing which concerns a city and a country where I have been kindly treated, and of my desire to repay that kindness with my feeble exertions. Were I to do them tenfold the good I ever expect will be in my power, I should still think myself in arrear." * * *

MARCUS SCAEVOLA.

Remarks by the Editor.—We have inserted the foregoing observations, because we apprehend that a portion of the information which they contain will be new to most of our readers, as it was to us; we refer particularly to the large quantity of Petroleum which can be obtained in the vicinity of Pittsburgh. That this material will afford an illuminating gas, by destructive distillation, is undoubtedly true; but we apprehend that it will not be superior to that obtained from the bituminous coal in its vicinity, and are convinced that it would be inferior to the gas from oil. In a manufacturing town, like Pittsburgh the coke from a coal gas establishment, will be a very valuable article, and will, of course, greatly diminish the expense of carrying on the works. In Baltimore, where the gas is made from coal, the gas company have been unable to sell their coke, excepting on very disadvantageous terms; and we have but little doubt, that were it in their power to change the system, without serious loss, they would there adopt the use of oil, which possesses several advantages over coal; among these, the trifling residuum left from the distillation; the diminution in the size of the retorts, ascensions, and pipes, which from the great illuminating power of oil gas, may be of less than one-half the dimensions of those required when coal is employed; the avoiding the necessity of using lime to purify the gas, a process both troublesome and expensive; the comparative freedom of oil gas, from that offensive smell which predominates in coal gas, from the presence of sulphuretted hydrogen, which is but partially separated, by the purifying process, in the way it is actually conducted.

Those persons who have visited London, or Baltimore, and who have had an opportunity of comparing the odor emitted by the gas works in those places, with that from the oil gas in New York, must be sensible of the very great difference between the two. At coal gas works, they tell you that this is accidental, but this information affords little consolation, as it is the accident of every day occurrence that meets us unwittingly traveling from Pittsburgh, to which we at first intended to have confined our remarks, leaving their application to other cities, to the understanding of the readers; we have taken a glance at London, Baltimore, and New York; and although we have not mentioned, we have thought of Philadelphia, and whilst we hope to see the brilliant gas light, illuminating our streets and stores, we also hope that they will never be polluted by the nuisance of coal gas. In Pittsburgh, where bituminous coal is generally used as fuel, the force of this objection is greatly diminished, and its cheapness will probably insure it a preference to all other substances. The high price of oil, in England, has not even there prevented the extensive use of it in gas works, and on our Susquehanna, it is afforded at a less price than that assigned to Seneca oil by the writer of the observations. It has been purchased in New York by the gas company, at less than 25 cents per gallon, and, it is said, can generally be so purchased in the large way.

The suggestions made respecting the obtaining of a combustible gas from the salt wells, which are generally filled with it, are, we believe, founded in an imperfect knowledge of the chemical investigation of the gases so produced; but as this is a subject with which the writer does not pretend to be intimate, the suggestion was perfectly natural; this gas absorbs an extremely feeble flame, and were it possible to transport it to the city, without incurring an expense manyfold greater than that of generating gas from coal, or from oil, it would be entirely unfit for domestic use. All the species of carburetted hydrogen, are lighter than atmospheric air, and if that contained in the wells is heavier, this must arise from its being contaminated with carbonic acid gas, (fixed air) which would still decrease its illuminating power.

IMMEDIATE RELIEF.—A CURE AT LAST.—METCALFE'S GREAT RHEUMATIC REMEDY, for Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Gout, Sciatica, Sores, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, Scalds, Wounds, Contracted Limbs, Chilblains, Chapped Hands, Lumbago, Sore Throat, Quinsy, Croup, Whooping Cough, Asthma, Diphtheria, Colds, Coughs, Influenza, Tic Doloreux, Toothache, Earache, Headache, Pains in the Face, Breast, Back, Limbs, Joints, Stiffness of the Joints, Numbness, Pains in the Side, Hip, Loins, Kidneys, Bladder, Female Complaints, Pains and Weakness in the Spine, Nervousness, Sleeplessness, Hysterics, Fits, Spasms, Cramp, Colic, Diarrhœa, Dysentery, Cholera, Cholera Morbus, Sick Stomach, Sick Headache, Vomiting, Nausea, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint, Jaundice, Piles, Worms, Fever and Ague, Intermittent Fever, Bilious Fever, Typhus Fever, Scarlet Fever, Yellow Fever, Erysipelas, Measles, Smallpox, Chickenpox, Mumps, Scurvy, Blotches, Pimples, Boils, Carbuncles, Ringworm, Tetter, Salt Rheum, Scald Head, Barber's Itch, Blisters, Chafings, Frost Bites, Chilblains, Corns, Bunions, Nail Rot, Ingrowing Nails, Sore Eyes, Inflammation of the Eyes, Weak Eyes, Films, Specks, Cataract, Amaurosis, Gutta Serena, Drowsiness, Dizziness, Vertigo, Loss of Memory, Paralysis, Numbness, Trembling, Nervous