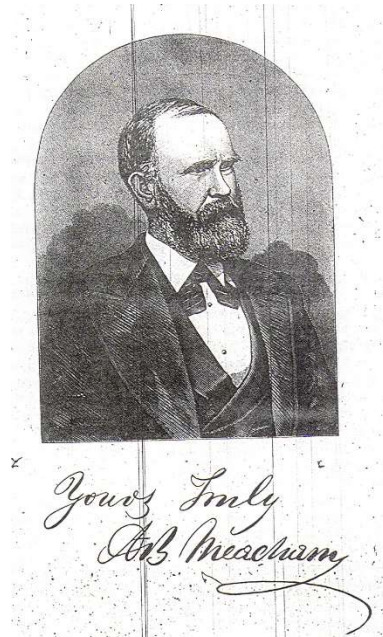


Alfred B. Meacham

(1826 – 16 Feb 1882)

The Evening Star, January 18, 1879

The Indian Council Last Night



Lincoln Hall was well filled last night with an intelligent audience to listen to the talk of the Indian chiefs, Joseph and Yellow Bull of the Nez Perces, through their interpreters. Seated on the platform were Colonel A.B. Meacham, Mr. A.J. Chapman, Little Red, Chief William, Sam. Tom, Wass, and Unquipaquit, of the Utes from the Los Pinos agency, Colorado, and U.M. Curtis, their interpreter; Colonel W.H. Adair and John Ross, of the Cherokees, and General Porter, of the Creeks. Colonel Meacham delivered a short address, explaining the object of the mission of these chiefs to this city, and then introduced Chief Joseph, who, through his interpreter, spoke for about forty minutes, detailing the experiences of his people in their recent conflicts with General Howard and the Utes in the Indian country and of the deceptions and cruelties practiced on them by the government after they had been driven out of their own country where they had been living for many generations. During the delivery of this account he was frequently applauded. Mrs. Dr. Bland read a poem on "Chief Joseph." Colonel W.P. Adair and General Porter made short addresses; after which Little Red, a Ute chief, was introduced, and made a brief speech, through his interpreter. A general hand shaking followed, the Indians appearing much delighted with the attention shown them.

The Evening Star, January 28, 1879

An Indian Council was held last night in the chapel of Lincoln Hall, under the supervision of Colonel Meacham. There were present: Colonel Adair and Mr. Ross, Cherokees; Judge Stidham, General Porter, and Mr. Hodge, Creeks; Colonel Brown, Seminole, and Captain Picket. Chief Joseph and Yellow Bull, Nez Perces, were also present, and made stirring addresses. There was a lively discussion on the transfer question. Remarks were made by Colonel Meacham, General Porter, Colonel Brown, Colonel Adair, and others.

The Evening Star, April 23, 1880

Entertaining the Indians

Social Reception to the Red Men

A novel but very pleasant affair was the reception given by Major and Mrs. F.P. Hill, at the Tremont House, to the Indian delegations there, last evening from 8 to 11 o'clock. Among the large company present were Hon. J.C.S. Blackburn; Hon. Alonzo Bell, Assistant Secretary of the Interior; Colonel Ainger, city postmaster; Major Harmon, deputy Second Auditor, and several officials from the Indian bureau.

The Red Men

present included Two Belly, Long Elk, Medicine Crow, Plenty Coos, Pretty Eagle and Old Crow, of the Crows, all in full and elaborate Indian costumes; Gabriel Reville, Drifting Goose, Left Hand, Jintayne and Smily Shepherd, of the Sioux, in citizens' dress, and Ten Day, Tische, Tisdimits, Grouse Pete, Capt. Jim,

Jack Gibson and Jack Ten Day, of the Shoshone and Bannocks, in full Indian costume. On taking seats they held quite a reception, assisted by the agents and interpreters.

Literary and Musical

Col. A.B. Meacham, as master of ceremonies then directed the exercises which consisted of music by Mrs. Applegate and Mrs. Culver; recitations by Master Buckley, Mrs. Parkhurst, of Lowell, "Emily Hawthorn" Mrs. Wells; Mr. Stephens, of the Interior department, and Mrs. Dr. Bland; and remarks by Mr. Blackburn and others. During the evening the Crows and Shoshones gave specimen songs, and the delegations were presented to the company and some of them made short addresses, which were interpreted to the audience.

Indian Taffy

Old Crow said: I am the Old Crow you have heard about, and I have heard about you good people every day where I live. I have seen plenty good people, but you art eh best I ever saw. Everything I see is pretty--pretty houses and women. Every house I see is better and better, and everything so nice I am ashamed to take hold of it. But I'm not ashamed of any act I have ever done."

A Woman's Experience With The Sioux

Mrs. Fanny Kelly, who was for some time a prisoner of the Ogallalla Sioux was introduced, and she stated that she was treated by them with the greatest consideration and kindness, even while their children were starving. It was explained that while she was a prisoner, the "Sweet Lip Sioux," some of whom were present, attempted to buy her with a horse and send her to the white people. One of the other Indians with an exclamation of astonishment said "She worth two horses," an interruption which caused some laughter.

More Indian Talk

Drifting Goose said:--"I have been brought up to sing, and sing all night, but that is not what I have been thinking of. From what I have seen, I am ashamed of my old ways, and I want to go back and do as the white men do, I've got nothing but love for you all, and I want to shake hands with all of you." Centayne (the man that has a tail) and Left Hand also made addresses. The most interesting feature of the evening was a conversation between Old Crow, of the Crows, and Ten Day, of the Bannocks, in the sign language--a practical exemplification of the fact that there is among the uneducated a universal language. The gist of this conversation was that the Crows and Bannocks are friends, and friends of the white people too, etc. The entertainment was concluded with an elegant collation.

The Evening Star, May 1, 1880

The Crow, Sioux and Bannock Indians who have been at the Tremont House for some weeks are out nearly every night to an entertainment of some kind last evening. They were the guests of Col. Meacham at 508 13th street when Dr. Howland gave an interesting stereopticon exhibition.

The Evening Star, June 22, 1880

The Friends of Col. Meacham, who is about to go west on the Ute mission, met last evening to take leave of him. Dr. T.A. Bland, at whose residence they assembled, spoke of the devotion of Col. Meacham to the Indian cause, and Mrs. Bland read an original poem, written for the occasion upon the thrilling events of the tragedy of the Lava Beds, where the colonel received seven shots out of twenty-one. Other poems by Mrs. L.S. Burke and Mrs. Lydia Tilton were read. A feeling response was made to

these tributes of Col. Meacham that touched the hearts of all present. Mr. J.L. McCreery, Rev. Dr. Adams and Mr. Ireland of Oregon, each contributed to the occasion, which closed with a sumptuous repast tendered by Mrs. Bland.

The Evening Star, August 2, 1880

The Late Wm. S. Stickney

The Ute commission held a meeting at Los Pinos agency on the 21st ultimo to take suitable action in respect to the memory of the late Wm. S. Stickney, secretary and disbursing officer of the commission, Messrs. J.B. Bowman, A.B. Meacham and J.J. Russell were appointed a committee to prepare resolutions, which having been submitted to the commission, were adopted. The remains of the deceased have been enclosed in a zinc coffin and packed in a case with charcoal and deposited in a vault hewn in the mountainside, near Los Pinos agency, whence they will be removed to this city, the residence of his parents.

The Evening Star, October 18, 1880

The Ute Trouble

Agent Berry Takes Refuge with the Indians and Refuses to Surrender

Ounay, Oct. 14, via Lake City 17--The Indian agent of the Los Pinos has taken refuge in Chief Sapovonaris' camp and refuses to surrender himself. Meacham has taken up his abode in the military camp, fearing the vigilantes from Gunnison City. An officer has been at the agency five days trying to effect the capture of the prisoner who has sent him two communications promising to surrender, but so far has failed to do so. As soon as the papers were served on the agent he gave the information to the Utes, who collected at the bridge across the Uncompahgre river, five miles below the agency, in order to rescue the agent from the officers. By his remaining all night at the military camp the Indians were foiled and the prisoner made his escape. The agency is in charge of the blacksmith. The agent has telegraphed to Washington for instructions as to the question of surrendering. Cline is in jail at Gunnison. Hoyt is looking for a copper mine on the Utah trail, one hundred miles distant. Holmes passed through here since dark on horseback, attempting to escape by way of the Lake City trail. He was recognized by the sheriff of Ouray county, and a party started in pursuit. The people of Colorado express a determination to have the prisoner if it takes all winter. The citizens are clamoring for the removal of Meacham and Berry from their official positions. If the military will remain neutral, the people of the border counties feel confident of their ability to settle the difficulty without either state or national interference.

The Evening Star, November 2, 1880

The Ute Troubles

Indian Agent Berry Safe

Dispatches have been received from Ute Commissioner Meacham and Agent Berry announcing their safe arrival at Rawlins, Wyoming. They will place themselves at the disposal of the authorities in Denver today.

The Evening Star, November 9, 1881

Locals

At a meeting of the National Arbitration League at Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood's residence last evening, Col. A.B. Meacham was selected as the essayist of the organization at its next public meeting. The following persons were enrolled as active members of the league: D.P. Holloway, Hon. J.F. Farnsworth, J.C. Tasker, Dr. Jayne, A.B. Meacham and C.M. Lozler, M.D.

The Evening Star, February 17, 1882

Death of A.H. Meacham

Mr. A.B. Meacham died last evening at Dr. T.A. Bland's residence on G street, near 12th, after a few hours' illness of apoplexy. Arrangements were being made today to hold funeral services tomorrow, at 3 o'clock in the Metropolitan M.E. church, of which he was a member. The interment will be in the Congressional Cemetery. Mr. Meacham was born in Orange county, Indiana, in 1826, and moved with his family while a boy to Iowa. In 1855 he removed to Oregon, which state he represented in the electoral college in 1872. He was appointed a member of the Modoc commission by Gen. Grant, and in the massacre in which Gen. Canby lost his life received seven bullet wounds he devoted his life to the cause of the Indian. His last public service was on the Ute commission, of which he was a member when he died. He leaves a wife and son now in Oregon.

The Evening Star, February 21, 1882

Locals

At a meeting at the residence of Dr. T.A. Bland, last evening, for the purpose of showing respect to the memory of the late A.B. Meacham. Dr. Bland delivered a eulogy upon the deceased. Lydia Tilton and Jane Daniels read poetic tributes, written for the occasion. Hon. J.C. Barnett read an address upon the life and character of Mr. Meacham, and George W. Manypenny, Warren Chase, E. Daniels, Belva A. Lockwood, Phillip Rits, I.T. Gibson, Rev. Alexander Kent and Mr. McCarger made short speeches. Letters were read from ex-Senator Mitchell and Representative George, of Oregon.

The Washington Post, July 28, 1888, p. 4

People and Things

A movement is on foot to raise funds with which to provide a home for Wi-ne-mah, the Indian woman who saved the life of Col. Meacham (and the lives of many others), and also to erect a monument over the Colonel's grave.

F881.M47. Life of Alfred B. Meacham. By Bland, Thomas Augustus

F881.M47. Tragedy of the Lava Beds. By Meacham, Alfred B.

Microfilm 8121E. Wi-ne-ma (The Woman Chief).

Microfilm 53066E. Wigwam & Warpath.