

## **PASSING OF THE RED MAN**

Canada for 1904 is kindly noticed. He gave M. E Companion Gibson's silver testimonial to M, E. Companion Murray, and will insist on misnaming the writer. But all will be forgiven if he will permit us to copy his concluding words, which, although he claims they should not be included there, are such excellent and interesting reading that we feel sure our Companions of Canada will appreciate this glimpse of the passing of the red man:

"We love Masonry and have worked hard for its life and health in Indian and Oklahoma Territories. It is in a very prosperous condition. Its growth equals the growth in population and development of this marvellous country — one of the richest portions of the United States.

"There are over a million people in these two Territories now, and everything is growing by leaps and bounds. There are nearly 10,000 Blue Lodge and nearly 2,000 Royal Arch Masons in the two Territories. My brethren call me the Father of Masonry in these Territories — the Patriarch, and with some reason, because I helped to organize the first Lodge, the first Chapter, the first Council, and the first Commandery. So far as Masonry is concerned I can say: 'Now, Lord, lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace.'

"But my heart still lingers with a people with and for whom I have lived and labored far more than for Masonry. I allude to the full-blood Indians. For them I have labored nearly forty-seven years, as a missionary. I was active in the development of the mission work from a mere handful of churches to more than seventy; from a small membership to more than four thousand. Once there were more than 50,000 full-bloods in this Territory and scarcely any whites. They were prosperous and happy; they were rich and respected. Alas! all is changed. The country is full of whites, and very few full-blood Indians compared with the whites. Most of the churches are broken up. The members are in Heaven. The full-bloods are miserably poor, and for a few dollars in cash, with which to purchase food and clothing, are selling their lands for a song. My heart still yearns over them. For them I am willing to live and labor a few years more. I am establishing, under God, a home for orphan children of full-bloods, open to any tribe of Indians in the United States. It will be an industrial Christian Home. Whites and half-breeds will be excluded for the simple reason that they would soon run the full-bloods out, if admitted.

In this Home the orphan children of the Indian race will be taught to work, taught English, and trained to become good citizens of our country. Here a few will be saved from ignorance, indolence and extinction."

M.E. Companion, J. S. Murrow

### **Sources:**

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1905, report on Foreign Correspondence – INDIAN TERRITORY