

**THE PONCA CHIEFS: AN
INDIAN'S ATTEMPT
TO APPEAL FROM THE
TOMAHAWK TO THE COURTS**

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The Ponca Chiefs: An Indian's Attempt to Appeal from the Tomahawk to the Courts by T. H. Tibbles

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T. H. TIBBLES

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PRICE FIFTY CENTS.

THE
PONCA CHIEFS

AN INDIAN'S ATTEMPT TO APPEAL FROM THE
TOMAHAWK TO THE COURTS,

WITH SOME SUGGESTIONS TOWARD A SOLUTION OF
THE INDIAN QUESTION.

BY T. H. TIBBLES

WITH AN INTRODUCTION
BY INSHTA THEAMBA (BRIGHT EYES)

AND DEDICATION
BY WENDELL PHILLIPS

BOSTON
J. S. LOCKWOOD
1887

FANEUIL HALL RESOLUTIONS.

At a largely attended meeting held in Faneuil Hall, Dec. 2, 1879, over which His Honor, Mayor Prince, presided, the following preamble and resolutions, written by Mr. W. H. Lincoln, were adopted with a rousing, unanimous "aye."

Whereas, Great and inexcusable wrongs have been committed by the National Government and its agents upon peaceful tribes of Indians, in removing them, against their will and consent, from the lands they occupied to a sickly and malarious climate; and whereas, the petitions and remonstrances of the chiefs of these tribes have been totally disregarded; and whereas, this action on the part of the government has produced great distress and suffering and death among these tribes, and has led to wars in which both white people and the Indians have suffered severe losses; and whereas, the Indians have been denied the protection of law in the assertion of their just rights and privileges, — it is hereby

Resolved, That in the case of the Poncas we recognize the insufficiency of the treaties and promises of the government to protect them, and therefore the necessity of placing them under the protection of our laws.

Resolved, That the present system of agencies and traderships, placing the authority in the hands of one man, and compelling the Indians to sell the products of their labor to him, and to buy all their necessary supplies from him, is detrimental to the welfare of the Indians, discouraging to honest labor, and corrupting in its tendencies to the government.

Resolved, That the only solution of the Indian problem is to recognize the Indian as a fellow-citizen, and to accord to him the rights that are declared by the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved, That while we heartily commend the Indian policy suggested by the Secretary of the Interior to educate the Indians, to convey to them in fee, individually, titles to their farms, and thereafter to treat them like other inhabitants of the United States under the laws of the land, we earnestly urge and declare that immediate measures should be taken to secure to them their legal rights and due protection and compensation under the law; and especially to restore to the Poncas their former homes and property as indemnification for the wrong which the Secretary of the Interior says has been done them.

NOTE — This pamphlet was published several years since, under the auspices of the Boston Ponca Indian Committee, out of which grew the present Boston Indian Citizenship Committee. As it contains exceedingly valuable matter relating to the beginnings of the agitation for Indian citizenship, this new edition has been issued to supply a felt demand. This little book will also serve as a mark by which progress can be measured.

THE
PONCA CHIEFS.

AN INDIAN'S ATTEMPT TO APPEAL FROM THE
TOMAHAWK TO THE COURTS.

A FULL HISTORY OF THE ROBBERY OF THE PONCA
TRIBE OF INDIANS, WITH ALL THE PAPERS
FILED AND EVIDENCE TAKEN IN THE
STANDING BEAR HABEAS CORPUS
CASE, AND FULL TEXT OF
JUDGE DUNDY'S CELE-
BRATED DECISION,

WITH SOME SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS A SOLUTION OF
THE INDIAN QUESTION.

BY ZYLYFF,

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
INSHTATHEAMBA (BRIGHT EYES),

AND DEDICATION BY
WENDELL PHILLIPS.

Edited by J. S.

SECOND EDITION.

BOSTON:
LOCKWOOD, BROOKS, AND COMPANY.
1880.

Dedication.

TO

THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES,

Those who love liberty and intend that their Government shall protect every man on its soil and execute justice between man and man,

THIS NARRATIVE,

With an Introduction, written by an Indian Girl,

of the wrongs suffered at the hands of the Government by the Poncas, in consequence of which one-third of the tribe died within the last eighteen months, and the rest have endured and still endure cruel and wasting oppression.

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

as a fair specimen of the system of injustice, oppression, and robbery which the Government calls "*its Indian Policy*," which has covered it with disgrace as incompetent, cruel, faithless, never keeping its treaties, and systematically and shamelessly violating its most solemn promises; has earned the contempt and detestation of all honest men and the distrust and hate of the Indian tribes.

WENDELL PHILLIPS.

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INTRODUCTION.

This little book is only a simple narration of facts concerning some of my people. Many of the transactions recorded in it came under my own observation, my uncle, White Swan, being one of the chiefs who underwent so much suffering after being left in the Indian Territory.

Wrongs more terrible than those related here have been practised on others of my people, but they have had no writer to make them known.

I wish for the sake of my race, that I could introduce this little book into every home in the land, because in these homes lies the power to remedy the evil shown forth in these pages. The people are the power which move the magistrates who administer the laws.

It is a little thing, a simple thing, which my people ask of a nation whose watchword is liberty; but it is endless in its consequences. They ask for their liberty, and law is liberty. "We did not know of these wrongs," say the magistrates. Is not that only the cry of "Am I my brother's keeper?" For years the petitions of

my people have gone up unnoticed, unheeded by all but their Creator, and now at last a man of your race has arisen, who has shown faith enough in humanity to arouse the nation from the sin of its indifference. Thank God, it was only indifference, and not hatred, which withheld from an oppressed and unfortunate race, justice and mercy.

May those who read this story, when they think of the countless happy homes which cover this continent, give help to a homeless race, who have no spot on earth they can call their own.

INSHTATHEAMBA (Bright Eyes).