

Madison County
Historical Society
Oneida, N.Y. 13421

ONEIDA DEMOCRATIC UNION
JUNE 28, 1906

MISS LAURA M. CORNELIUS.

Miss Laura M. Cornelius is an Indian maiden whose whole soul and heart are wrapped up in advancing the interests of her people. Her marvelous energy in that direction furnishes a most praiseworthy example, one which entitles her to the kindest and earnest consideration of every philanthropist.

Miss Cornelius was born and bred on the Indian Reservation, near Oneida, Green Bay, Wis. Her forefathers were brave warriors and eloquent statesmen. She inherits these traits from her ancestors, who gave her not only the red blood of heroes, but the blue vein of the Iroquois. Her immediate grandfathers were chiefs and the makers of the new Oneida, and she is proud of her family's unbroken line of influence in the councils of the Oneida "nation".

She was early taken from the government Indian school by her father and placed in a white day school, where she made her mark. Later she graduated from a young ladies' seminary in Wisconsin, and longed for a college course, for which she had prepared herself, but was without means.

After hanging on the ragged edge of hope for a brief time, Miss Cornelius decided to bravely strike out for herself and to know more about all Indians, to travel extensively, to study higher civilization with a fixed purpose of bettering the condition of her race. To this end she made application for a position in the civil service and obtained it. Soon after there was an eviction of the Warner Ranch Indians in Southern California.

Hitler she went as a representative of the Riverside enterprise, and by a speech before the last council of the tribe at "Aqua Caliente," inducing the Indians to move peaceably to the new land, made her first hit. Following up one opportunity after another, she visited Boston and

New York, and after teaching another year, entered Leland Stanford University, California, with the idea of studying law.

For some weeks she has been in New York to know more of Metropolitan life, while getting her college course. During the summer Miss Cornelius expects to travel among Indians to learn better of their circumstances and needs, and to devise practical methods for encouraging industry, sobriety and organization for bettering the condition of 270,000 of her race. There are great possibilities in store for one thus strenuously engaged in so noble a calling.

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