

Indian Rights

By Richard C. Adams

This is a short poem by Richard Adams and it is part of a political plea for fair treatment of Indian people. This was written by him in 1899. Adams' wit surfaces in this poem. Richard Adams was a Lenape and an attorney. He liked to write poetry in English and here is one he wrote about the Indian people:

If the Indian seeks the Government,
there his grievance to relate,

He must first obtain permission
from those who rule the State!

If his rights are there denied him
and an attorney he would seek,

He is sternly then reminded
he has no right to speak!

"For under section so and so
which guides your legal move;

You see no attorneys can appear for you,
except if we approve,

And then, in our opinion,
your claim does not adhere,

To the interests of the public,
then your cause we cannot hear