Essays of epistles to the Yearly meetings with which we correspond, were now produced and read, and directed to be transcribed signed and forwarded.

Notwithstanding there are several other nations, who appear desirous of the assistance and care of Friends: yet from the limited state of our funds, we have hitherto been under the necessity of confining our aid, principally to the Miami, Eel River and Wea Indians.

It will be perceived, that during several years of the first labours of the committee, but little progress was made; this may be attributed, in a great measure, to the pernicious effects of ardent spirits amongst them. For so soon as the introduction of this great evil into their country was restrained, there was an immediate improvement discoverable, and an almost universal disposition seemed to pervade them to abandon their former habits of living and turn to the cultivation of their lands: their progress in civilization, has, since then, been much more rapid, than the most sanguine could have expected; and on comparing the condition of these Indian tribes, at the time the last deputation from our committee visited them, with their present situation,

---

of ameliorating the situation of their red brethren in this country, I will take the liberty to observe, that the present is a very favourable time, to put in execution their benevolent views towards the distressed natives of the land, and that much good may be done on the Wabash by uniting one or two suitable men to reside amongst the Indians, and teach them how to raise stock, and cultivate the earth. Witness what Philip Dennis effected amongst them the last year. At a station where he had every thing to begin, there are now at least four hundred hogs and twenty cows, and the Indians, at no village in this country, live so comfortably, as those at that place. If this spirit of industry is kept alive for a few years, it will certainly have a powerful influence upon the minds of the Indians at many of the neighbouring villages. The Indians have lately concluded a treaty with the United States, which has settled all their jarring interests.

Our beloved friend William Crotch attended this Yearly meeting, and produced a certificate from Tivetshall Monthly meeting held at Tivetshall in Great Britain the 25th of the 5th mo. 1804 - indorsed by Norfolk and Norwich Quarterly meeting held at Norwich the 27th of the 3rd mo following - Also a certificate from the yearly meeting of ministers and elders, held in London by adjournments the 21 and 22nd of the 5th month, and 1st of the 6th mo 1804 - all of them expressive of the affectionate sympathy and near unity of his brethren with his prospect of paying a religious visit to friends on this continent, or some parts thereof. His company, edifying deportment & religious services have been truly acceptable to us.

---

we are of opinion, that there is great cause of encouragement for Friends to persevere in the benevolent work they have undertaken, and strong ground to hope, that our labours will, in the end, be crowned with the desired success

When we reflect on the gradual, but continued decrease of these people from the time the Europeans first visited this continent, until the present, and the many whole tribes, of which not any trace now remains, except their names, there is every reason to believe, that should the Indians continue to pursue their former mode of life, a few centuries more, many other whole nations of them will become entirely extinct.

Impressed with this melancholy consideration, it must be a prospect truly gladdening to the enlightened christian mind, to survey the hastening of that day, when this part of the human family weaned from savage habits, & allured by the superior advantages of civil life, shall exchange the tomahawk & scalping knife for the plough & the hoe; and instead of ranging the forests in search of prey to the wild beasts of the desart, shall peacefully & rationally enjoy the productions of the fruitful field! - Now is this all, added to the cultivation of the earth, the first step in the view of the committee, towards many other important temporal advantages, to be derived to this people from civil life, may not the promotion of this concern, which has thus far evidently prospered, prepare for, & prove the means under the divine blessing, through which, may finally spread & prevail amongst these our fellow men, that Light & knowledge, which so eminently distinguish the true Christian?

Signed on behalf of the Committee on Indian concerns, appointed by the Yearly meeting of Baltimore.

Philip E Thomas Clerk.

Baltimore 11mo 10 1805