

the many depredations committed upon their timber and other property, as well as much embarrassment in the management of their municipal affairs, without any power to relieve themselves from these grievances, they determined to make application to the Legislature of New York, for a law which would afford protection to their persons and property, and also provide a police adapted to their present improved intellectual and social condition. This measure being deemed of great importance to the future welfare of these Indians, they requested the aid of the general committee, in effecting the object desired, by assisting them to prepare a suitable bill and promoting its passage into a law. A deputation of Friends accordingly met the chiefs at the time appointed, at Albany and rendered them the aid necessary; and we are gratified to inform the Yearly Meeting that after a protracted struggle with the opponents of the bill, it finally passed.

By its provisions, a mild and equitable system of municipal government has been provided for the Senecas, to be administered by themselves, which, it is believed, is well adapted to their present condition and necessities, and will afford ample legal protection to their timber and other property. The furnishing to any Indian, spirituous or intoxicating drinks, either on the Reservations or elsewhere, is also prohibited under adequate penalties.

The circumstances in which these Indians heretofore had been placed, having now become materially changed, and very important privileges having, by this act of the New York Legislature, been conferred upon them, requiring prudence

in the management of their affairs, and the general committee having also taken into consideration that the objects for which the joint committee of the several Yearly Meetings had associated were now, it was believed, accomplished, concluded to send a deputation to meet the Seneca Chiefs in Council, at Cattaraugus, in the 7th month last, for the purpose of holding a conference with them, ascertaining their present condition and views, and deciding whether there were any further measures that would properly claim the future care and attention of the general committee.

The Friends appointed, met the Indians at the time agreed on, and had a full and satisfactory conference with them. The Indians were told, that having after much labour and perseverance, secured to them the possession of their remaining lands, and having with their co-operation, succeeded in placing the title in a situation which put it out of the power of any one to deprive them of it, except with their own consent, this object originally undertaken by Friends had been accomplished, and that the committee might therefore now dissolve their connection and withdraw from them, particularly as such of the Indians as had been industrious and prudent, now knew well how to cultivate their lands, and had acquired a practical experience of the advantage of relying upon this means of subsistence in preference to an uncertain dependence upon hunting, even were there still game within their reach. But that upon looking round and seeing the degraded situation in which they continued to hold their females, and the unsuitable menial drudgeries in which they were employed as well as the general ignorance in which they were kept, the committee believed it right,