

engaged in

The Reservation has lately been visited by several Friends from the committees of the Yearly Meetings united in this concern, among whom were two members of our committee.

From their reports and through other channels of information, we are assured that the Indians, under the care of Friends, are still improving in their domestic comforts, as well as in their agricultural employments.

Our friends inform, that during the time they remained at the Reservation they had an opportunity of seeing many of the Indians, and of visiting some in their families, and were gratified to observe the improvements made by a number of them who are settled in comfortable dwelling houses, which they have erected upon productive farms, with the requisite barns and other conveniences around them, while others are following the example of these, and making exertions that will render their situations more comfortable than it has heretofore been.

In a letter from our agent who now has the charge of the establishment at Cattaraugus, dated 10th mo. 6. 1848, he says "A number of the Indians harvested good crops of wheat the past ~~year~~ harvest, and I think all of them have cultivated more or less corn, and they are now busily employed in gathering it. I think they will mostly have a sufficiency of it for their own use, and a number will have to spare. Vegetables are plenty except potatoes, which are likely to prove a failure, being nearly all lost by the

prevailing disease.

There are some among them who do their work in a farmer like manner, but others are very careless.

They are going on improving their dwellings, and six or seven new frame houses are now under construction within a few miles from us; some of which are quite commodious.

During the past summer, six schools have been kept on this Reservation, all of which were taught by white teachers, except one, taught by a young Indian woman. At this time there are four in operation, located in different parts of the Reservation, and if kept up, they will be reasonably convenient to all the children. As regards the habits of the Indians, a considerable number of them are industrious working men, but I am sorry to find many others are rather disposed to cut and trade in timber, than till their land. This lumber business is promotive of much injury by bringing them in contact with white men, who do not hesitate to tempt them with ardent spirits, - a temptation they often are unable to resist.

At the date of the last accounts received, the Senecas were in a great state of great excitement in relation to the management of the business affairs of their nation, and a large proportion of them appeared determined to effect a radical change in their system of government. The chiefs who had formerly exercised unlimited control over their national concerns, even to the sale and alienation of the farms and dwellings occupied by the people, appear to have lost their influence, and they have been gradually divested