

Thomas C. Chandler, a member, as companion of Alice Chandler—
Nathaniel Russell, a member. Rochester Mo. Meeting, New York.

Epistles of correspondence were received from the Yearly Meetings of New York, Philadelphia, Ohio, Indiana, and Genesee, respectively, which were read to our comfort and edification, — and Philip E. Thomas, Samuel M. Lanny, Joel Garretson, John Sewell, Thomas P. Stabler, Abel Kinney, David Parry, Joseph Branson, William Underwood, Cyrus Grist, Nathan Hammonds, Wm D. Steer, Robert F. Roberts, William Spencer, Abel A. Hull, Samuel Townsend, and John E. Lamb, were appointed to prepare essays of Epistles as way may open, to the several Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, and report to a future sitting.

The following report was received, from the standing committee on Indian concerns, which being read, was satisfactory, and the committee were continued and requested to embrace every suitable opportunity of rendering service to these people. viz:—

To the Yearly Meeting, now sitting. —

The committee on Indian concerns Report, that from information received from Cattaraugus, it appears that the Indians there and at Allegany, are generally improving in their social condition and circumstances. No visit has been made to them by the committee within the past year, nothing having occurred that seemed to require any aid from us.

It is to be lamented that in regard to their political concerns, they continue to be much divided. The party opposed to their new form of government, lately succeeded in calling a convention of the Nation, with the intention, it is understood, of annulling their present Constitution, and of returning back to their ancient Government by Chiefs. In this contest, the committee have not interfered: adhering to the course heretofore pursued, they have not felt themselves called upon in any manner to become entangled in the civil or religious dissensions that, ever since the disastrous Treaty of 1838, have agitated and distracted these people. It is not known what may be the result of this movement, but there is no doubt it has been promoted by influences opposed to the further improvement of these Indians.

In a communication lately received from the United States agent, he says, — "touching the progress of industry and sobriety among the Indians I can say that those that have been under my charge, and particularly at Cattaraugus, have made a decided advance during the past year, of course in certain particular localities the opposite may be true, but I speak of each reservation at large. I was informed by Asner Wright at Cattaraugus that the Indians on that Reservation had, in his opinion, improved one-third in industry during the past

year. If this be true, as I hope it is, it certainly is a most promising fact: for usually industrious people can find leisure to be very vicious or very wicked."

In regard to intemperance the Agent says, — "I think that increased diligence on the part of certain white people, as well as the efforts of the Indians themselves, have diminished the pest of rum selling and drunkenness especially on the Allegany Reservation."

The Government School at Cattaraugus Reservation (he says) "is as nearly as I can learn, pretty much as usual. The orphan School is, I am informed, a good School, and I judge its condition is prosperous. I did not visit it, and cannot state the number of pupils. The Teacher was present at the distribution of annuities, and I was particular in all instances to ascertain the heads of families in the census Roll under whom these Orphan were respectively included, and to receive the shares going to them, and to pay the same into the hands of the Teacher, who appeared to be a good woman, and who needs the wherewithal to sustain her group."

Respecting the Indian crops the past season, the Agent remarks: "I am unable to give you any other information than that which my observation as I have passed over their grounds, has furnished me. The crops in this part of New York are generally good, and those of the Indians among the rest, according to the extent and the manner of the cultivation of the ground. Amongst the Indians this would be in proportion to their industry; and as this has increased, there can be no doubt that the amount total of their crops has this year exceeded that of previous years. I have seen some fine looking fields of corn and other grains belonging to them, from which I safely conclude that they are advancing in the art of Agriculture."

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

Isaac Tyson,

Lydia Jefferies.

The representatives were requested to confer together at the close of the present sitting, and nominate to our next sitting two friends to serve this meeting as clerk and assistant clerk.

Then adjourned to 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Pursuant to adjournment friends assembled.

Samuel M. Lanny, on behalf of the representatives reported that they had agreed to propose William Stabler to serve the meeting as clerk & Benjamin Hallowell as assistant clerk, which was united with and they were appointed to the service.