

From Centre

Nathan Hammond Robert Wilson Thomas Kirk &
Thomas Wilson *John Spencer *William Cleaver.

All of whom were present except the seven to whose names a mark is prefixed, and for the absence of two of these sufficient reasons were assigned.

The meeting being informed of the death of our friend W^m Stabler, clerk to this meeting last year, Benj. Hallowell was requested to serve as clerk this morning session and Thomas P. Stabler to assist him.

Certificates and Minutes for the following Friends who are with us in attendance from within the limits of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting were received and read, viz:-

John Hunt, a minister from Burlington Mo. Meeting, New Jersey
John Jackson, a minister from Darby Mo. Meeting, Pennsylvania.
Henry W. Ridgway, a minister from Chesterfield Mo. Meeting, New Jersey
Ann P. Jackson, a minister, from Birmingham Mo. Meeting, Penn.
Ann A. Townsend, a minister, from Green St. Mo. Meeting, Philad.
Ann L. Singley, a minister, from Salem Mo. Meeting, New Jersey
Nancy Yerkes, a minister, from Gwynedd Mo. Meeting, Penn.

Epistles were received from the Yearly Meetings of Ohio, Indiana and Tennessee, which were read to our consolation and encouragement; and Philip E. Thomas, Isaac E. Steer, W^m D. Steer, Joseph Branson, Joel Garrison, George Rouse, Benj. P. Moore, Samuel Townsend, Edward Lea, Benj. Hallowell, Edward Painter, Samuel M. Sauney, Tho^s P. Stabler, David Pamy, David G. McCoy, and John Way, were appointed to prepare communications, as may may open, to the several yearly Meetings with which we correspond, and report to a future sitting.

The Committee on Indian Concerns produced the following report, which was read, and was satisfactory, and the proceedings of the committee approved.

The committee were continued, and directed to embrace every suitable opportunity of being useful to these people viz:-

To the Yearly Meeting, now sitting:

The committee on Indian Concerns Report, that since our last Yearly Meeting, they received a visit from a deputation of the Nanticoke tribe of Indians, whose ancestors formerly inhabited and

owned the country now included in the lower counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and who represented themselves as having been appointed to apply to the Legislature of this State, for indemnity for land, which they allege the last remnant of them surrendered on removing, under a promise, that "when persons who might have authority to convey the title to this Land should come forward and do so, a just compensation should be paid for it."

These Indians, who appeared to be respectable men, not being able to furnish evidence to the committee, either that they were Nanticokes, or were authorised to represent that tribe, the committee declined any interference in their case.

Since that visit, the committee have received from this tribe full evidence, duly authenticated, that they are the lineal descendants of the Nanticokes who formerly dwelt in Maryland. In their application to us, they say, "We have no written records to which we can appeal, but we are informed by our traditions, that our Grand Fathers and yours, once lived in peace and friendship near to each other, and to this day we talk of the kindness they received from the Quakers. We have all heard of W^m Penn, and we venerate his memory, and continue to look to his successors, as our best and most true friends. We have a claim upon the people of Maryland for Land, which once belonged to us, and for which we have never been paid. We are now very distant from that country, and too poor to travel so far, and even if we were to go, we would not be able to manage our business without help, we therefore have turned our eyes to you, and ask you to appear on our behalf, and endeavor to obtain justice for us."

With this appeal they forwarded a Memorial to the Legislature of Maryland, in which they say, "Our forefathers in former times owned and occupied a district of country within the province of Maryland, lying upon the borders of a noble River which still bears our name. They were planted there by the Great Spirit, and found abundant means in the surrounding forests and adjacent waters, for the easy and comfortable support of themselves and their families. According to the traditions which have been handed down to us, they received with hospitality and kindness, their white brethren who came among them from towards the rising Sun, across the great water, and when requested to do so, they freely gave them liberty to settle near them, opened a trade, and lived in peace and harmony with them; so that from the time of their arrival until your Memorialists removed, there had never been any war or hostile feelings between your forefathers and ours."

"It is not necessary for your memorialists here to state all the causes that induced their forefathers to leave that country. It is only requisite for them to say, the game on which they mainly depended for subsistence, had either been destroyed, or driven