

away. Their numbers were rapidly diminishing, and crowded as they were on all sides, by a people whose views their young people were more prone to adopt, than to imitate their virtues, they saw their extermination, or removal to a country better adapted to their habits, inevitable.

"Your memorialists have no written Records to which they can refer, but they have a tradition that certain annuities were regularly paid to their forefathers, for cessions of portions of land, which they from time to time gave up to the white people; the amount of which they cannot now state, and they have also been told by their grandfathers, that when the last of the Tribe removed, they left a considerable body of land which they had not sold, and for which nothing has ever been paid them. Among these last emigrants, who were few in number, there were no chiefs who had power to cede this land; they were however promised, that whenever authorized persons should come forward and convey this land, a just compensation should be paid for it.

"When the Nanticoeks removed from your country, they went to different places, and became scattered abroad. Some went to the head waters of the Susquehanna - some to the northern parts of New York, and some into Canada, and the Revolutionary War coming on soon after, and most of our old people having died off, the matter remained dormant."

"The several remnants of the once numerous Nanticoeke Tribe, now only numbering about one hundred persons, are at this time collected and settled on lands upon the upper waters of Grand River, north of Lake Erie, and remembering the uniform kindness of the people of Maryland towards their forefathers, and relying upon the justice of their descendants, they make this appeal to your humanity. They ask you to look into your ancient Records, where they hope will be found evidences of the annuities formerly paid to their forefathers, and they rely upon your justice to make a reasonable compensation for the land that has, without any equivalent, been relinquished by them."

"Being now poor, the Nanticoeks have not the means of going themselves to see you; they have therefore, placed this appeal in the hands of their ancient, and always true friends, the Quakers, and have requested them to present the case on our behalf to you."

The committee have yet taken no action in reference to this application. The request of these Indians, is only that Friends would bring their Memorial before the Legislature, and endeavor to obtain for it a favorable consideration, which at a suitable time, should way open, the Committee propose to do.

No visit has been made to the Senecas since our last Report, nor

has there been any direct communication with the present constituted authorities of the nation, but several requests have been received from individuals, both at Allegany and Cattaraugus, that the Committee would make them a visit. The acrimonious party divisions, however, into which these Indians have become involved, render it, in the opinion of the Committee, most expedient that Friends, who hitherto have carefully avoided becoming entangled in their dissensions, should suspend any interference in their affairs, until harmony shall be restored among them. - They are now in a state of high political excitement - one of the parties among them, is endeavoring to overthrow their present constitution and to return back to their ancient form of government under chiefs, while a large portion of the people, it is represented are opposed to this retrograde movement.

In a late address to the Committee, signed by Governor Blacksnake, the senior Sachem of the nation, and a number of other chiefs, Warriors, and aged men" they say, "we still feel attached to the chain that bound our forefathers together, and it ought not to be a light matter to separate us in good feeling towards each other."

"The Indian is fast passing away, and but a small vestige of his former greatness is left. Then let us rescue the little that remains of them, and raise them to their proper position in the scale of being. Only a few more setting suns will set over us, who have completed our three score and ten years: and we remember too, that our aged friends, whom we have met on former occasions at our council fires, will soon meet us no more for ever. They with us are hastening to that world whence no traveller ever returns.

To us it is very pleasant to think of former years, when we met & counselled together for the best good of our people. Those days we hold in remembrance when other things of a more conflicting nature have arisen. For the purpose, therefore, of having ample time and opportunity to review our relations, we now give you a cordial invitation to visit us at your early convenience."

In reply to this invitation, they were assured "that the Society of Friends, continue to feel an unaltered solicitude for the welfare of their red brethren, but under present circumstances, they are not willing to engage in any further operations in regard to your concerns, until they receive evidence, through the constituted authorities of the nation, that it is their desire we should do so. You will perceive the prudence of this caution: It is with deep concern and sorrow, your friends have seen that the Seneca Nation continues to be divided into parties hostile towards each other: - in this condition of your affairs, should they attempt in any manner to interfere in your concerns, upon the invitation of any section of your people, they might find themselves opposed by other parties; and as the Society of Friends are a quiet peace-loving people,