

Nathan Hammond, William Charr, and John Way,

The following friends were appointed to unite with a committee of women Friends, to take into consideration the subject contained in the Report from Centise Quarter, and if way should open therefor, bring forward to a future sitting, a suitable minute of advice and assistance as asked for by that meeting, on the subject to which they refer viz.

Mrs. A. Hull, Philip C. Thomas, Benj^d. Halliwell, Henry S. Taylor, Benj^d. P. Moore, Joseph B. Brown, Nathan Smith, David G. McCoy, William Garthorpe, Jesse Cooke, Samuel M. Sannoy, Chalkley Gillingham, Thomas Matthews, William C. Bartlett, Samuel Townsend, Joseph Roman.

The Committee on Indian concerns produced the following Report, which was read, and was satisfactory to the meeting. The Committee was continued and encouraged to embrace every right opening to be useful to this People viz.

In the Yearly Meeting now sitting—

The Committee on Indian concerns Report that the Senecas at Cattaraugus continue to improve in the management of their farms and as regards their social habits and domestic comforts, but they still are greatly agitated and kept in a state of excitement by party dissensions, relative to their political and other concerns.

The Committee have not seen their way to make them any visit during the past year, there has however been maintained with them an active correspondence, by which we have been kept regularly informed of the occurrences that have transpired among them. The following extracts from some of their letters will place before the Yearly Meeting satisfactory evidence that they are greatly improving in their condition and circumstances, and that there is an encouraging prospect, notwithstanding the unfavorable influences which still operate to retard their advancement, that they are gradually, and we hope successfully, advancing in civilization.

In a letter dated 5th month 18th. last they

say "the Senecas begin to feel that their children must be educated. They appreciate this more than they formerly did, and we think we may say with truth, that there is a gradual improvement in their domestic habits. Many families now possess in a good degree nearly all what may be called the substantial comforts of civilized life. A stranger passing through some parts of the Reservation, would be surprised to learn that the inhabitants a few years ago totally unacquainted with farming, and obtained their subsistence by hunting and fishing. Here and there may be seen houses surrounded by yards and gardens, and orchards of fruit, and many farms well cultivated, which bespeak that the owners are possessed of intelligence with industry and thrift.

Many of the farmers have good teams and farming utensils of various kinds, such as are in use by the white people around them; in fact the mass of the people are fast becoming a working community, and before many years they will derive their subsistence entirely from the cultivation of the soil." They add—"as respects the females we believe a change for the better has taken place—Comparatively little field labor is now performed by them, and they are becoming better acquainted with the cares and duties more appropriate to their sphere. Their children are better cared for in health and better nursed in sickness than formerly—their houses are kept in better condition, and their husbands and children are made more comfortable and happy, and we hope the time is not far distant when it will be as disrespectful for a woman to be seen with a hoe in her hand, as it was a few years past to see a man employed with that instrument." In an official communication from the President of Seneca Nation, after requesting attention to some of their concerns at Washington, he says:—"Our people are progressing slowly and are becoming an agricultural community.

If you could see us now you would observe a great change in the looks of our farms and in our habits generally.

We are determined to progress at any rate.

Since you were here many of our old men and women have passed away, and all will soon be gone. The few that remain among us are generally in good health."