

B60 To the Yearly Meeting, now sitting:-

The Committee on Indian Concerns report, that we have continued our attention to the service to which we are appointed, and on several occasions the Senecas have applied to us for advice and assistance, which we have in conjunction with our friends in New York, extended to them, as far as has been in our power.

In a communication from an educated Seneca who is the United States Interpreter for the New York Tribes he says:- "The proceedings of the Society of Friends, touching the interests of the Indians is no doubt preserved as a part of history for future generations that may come after us. If the Indian finds this history his heart will throb with gratitude when he learns that the Society of Friends, ever since their exilance upon this continent, have, in all times of difficulty and trouble, stood by the Red Man of the Forest and advised and assisted him, and it is to be hoped that this friendship will ever continue to exist."

Light is dawning upon the Indians and they are fast extricating themselves from the indolent habits of their fathers, and are improving in their social and domestic comforts. While in their wild state the men were unused to manual labor: hence while they were off hunting or following the war path the women were obliged to till the land and raise corn for the subsistence of their families. Thus it was, that household labor was neglected by them, and they had only such comforts as were derived from savage life; but since the chase and war path have been abandoned, the men have turned their attention to agriculture, and women are now rarely seen laboring in the fields, and are employed in their household duties.

There are now seven schools on the Reservation and the average number of attendants is about one hundred and seventy five. All these schools have good and accomplished Teachers."

In a letter from one of the Trustees of the Orphan Asylum he says:- "The Institution appears to be prosperous in every respect, except pecuniary aid; and thus far the kind Providence of our Heavenly Father has furnished enough

of that to keep up our hopes and prevent the abandonment of the enterprise. We have fifty four children now in charge, and have applications to receive several others, which for the present we are obliged to deny, notwithstanding they are very needy, and proper subjects for this charity.

In regard to the condition of the Indians you will be pleased to know that they are becoming more and more industrious, and that their crops this year have been remarkably fine, and the harvest unusually abundant, if the frosts shall be restrained a few days longer, the prospects of the poor for the coming year winter, will be better than for many years past, perhaps better than ever before."

According to these representations, we may hope the Indians heretofore under the joint care of the yearly meetings of New York and Baltimore, are now so far improved in their social, moral and intellectual condition, as to be able by their own efforts to provide the requisite food and comforts for themselves and their families, and we trust they will hereafter do so; but though it appears they may need no pecuniary aid for these purposes, they will require assistance to enable them to support their Orphan Asylum. Upon a representation being made to the Indian Bureau at Washington of the important benefits conferred by this Institution, and its embarrassed situation, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs furnished within the last year five hundred dollars for its assistance. By this aid the establishment was relieved from its present embarrassment.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Committee,

Matthew Smith

10th Mo 29th B60.

Lydell Jeffries

It having been several years since this committee was appointed to this trust, it was released, and the following named Friends were appointed, to act in conjunction with a Committee of Women Friends and bring forward to a future sitting the names of suitable Friends to constitute a Standing Committee on Indian Concerns viz:

Wm C Cleveland	Wm Huchee	David Pyle
Gerard H Rose	Wm B Steer	Joseph T Wallen
Cyrus Grist	John Smith	Jesse Blackburn
	Saml Kirk	