

1862 had just occurred among the Indians, and soon after we reached home, we received a letter giving a most touching picture of the deplorable condition of these people, among whom that dreadful disease had broken out badly, and asking if the Friends could not do something for them immediately, in this their time of great suffering and need. To this appeal instant attention was given, and Friends of the three yearly meetings - Baltimore, New York and Philadelphia - sent \$345.30 and a box of clothing to their relief, our Committee sending \$150. - thereof.

N. H. Pierce the benevolent Missionary on the Alleghany Reservation, under whose immediate care and supervision the sick Indians were, by letter dated the 1st of last month, gives the gratifying information, that the dreadful disease, with which the Indians had been afflicted, had entirely subsided, having been with them about two months. There were 130 cases of the disease in all, and eight deaths.

He stated that \$50. of the money, sent by Friends for their relief, remained unexpended, which he proposed to employ in a general vaccination among the Indians, and the relief of some cases of peculiar distress, occasioned by the disease, which the Committee approved. He says in his letter: "Our people seem to appreciate your kindness. We feel that it was Providential you visited us at the time you did. It has been very pleasant to feel that there were those, though far from us, who sympathized with us, and were ready to aid in this time of need."

We have additional reason to believe, that the recent visit of the Delegation to these Indians, was a very timely one. They found a coolness towards the Friends, and towards the Committee, among the Indians, and especially with the officers of the Nation, partly arising from a misapprehension of the meaning of a letter which the Committee addressed to them in the 1st Mo. last, and also from some proceedings in relation to their claims to lands in Kansas from 1855 to 1859, which are

very unexpected and embarrassing to the Delegation. There is reason to believe, that the visit of the Delegation and the explanations and proceedings consequent thereon, have tended greatly to correct and remove the wrong impressions they were under in regard to Friends. Nevertheless, in a careful review of the present condition of these Indians, the development made to our Delegation during their recent visit, and the sentiments they found to exist with some of the officers of the nation and their leading men, it is our united and deliberate judgment, that the time has arrived when it is right and proper for this Committee to withdraw its official connection and concern from the Indians on the Cattaraugus and Alleghany Reservations, to whom the care of the Committee has of later years been principally directed. These Indians can now walk alone. They exhibit a keenness and shrewdness in their financial concerns which show them to be fully competent to manage their own pecuniary affairs, and protect and advocate their own interests. They are happily free from all external interference, and nothing merits attention but their own domestic and internal concerns. Now, the Society of Friends is a religious organization, whose legitimate efforts are directed and confined, to the improvement of our moral and religious natures; the elevation of man as an intelligent and responsible being to his true dignity; the relief of the wronged and oppressed from external injury and oppression; and the promotion of peace, love and good-will among all men and all communities of men. With the internal or domestic affairs of a community or nation, the only ones, as just remarked, now remaining to these Indians, the Society as a body, can have nothing whatever to do, in harmony with the great and legitimate objects of its concern.

We therefore recommend to the Yearly Meeting, that official information be given to these Indians, through their President and Council, that the Committee of this Meeting on the Indian Concern, having accomplished all the purposes originally contemplated by the connection of Friends of this Yearly Meeting with these Indians, is instructed to discontinue its official connection and