

1866, consequence of the advance in the price of laborers, both so, the appropriation from the State of New York would not allow of the schools on the Reservations being continued longer than twelve weeks for the winter term, which he regarded as entirely too short for the Indian children. The Seneca Inquiry, he said, was aided, by the extraordinary appropriation, which the Council had been compelled to make to repair the damages from the freshets so, that the much help could not be obtained from that source, and he suggested the propriety of the Committee furnishing the means to prolong the term of the schools for the winter session, one month each, which would make the term fifteen weeks instead of twelve.

The Committee, accordingly, sent funds for the purposes proposed, and on last Thanksgiving, President Silverthorn, guardian to the teachers of these schools, that through the liberality of the Friends of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, their schools would be extended four weeks longer, than had previously been concluded upon. The acknowledgment of the Seneca Government was returned for what they called "this timely, great, and truly general benevolence, to the Indians on the Cattaraugus, and Allegheny Reservations."

John Wright, the Missionary, on the Cattaraugus Reservation says in a letter, "I think your gift of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars to schools, has accomplished great good. Silverthorn and Strong gave public notice that you had furnished the means of adding a month to all the schools in both Reservations, further in numbers."

In the third month last we received a touching appeal for aid to the Orphan Indian Children in the Thomas-Asylum. They said "the Board Bill of one Hundred Dollars, for the Asylum is due and sent in for payment. There is no money in the Treasury, and none expended for a month," and the Committee were solicited to extend a helping hand in their time of need. The Committee, therefore, made them a remittance of two Hundred Dollars from the Indian Fund, the receipt was gratefully acknowledged.

In the 8th month last a letter was received by the Committee from H. B. Whipple, Bishop of Minnesota who has been long

1866 and ardently laboring for the protection and welfare of the Great Indian in relation to a Bill that had passed the Senate of the United States and was then before the Committee of Indian Affairs of the House of Representatives, of which Bill he said, "while it is not all that should be, it is the only Bill that has ever looked to the protection of the Indians," and he asked the aid of Friends, in endeavoring to secure its passage.

On procuring a copy of the Bill, and perusing its general provisions, we such as we could afford, the Committee appointed a delegation to proceed to Washington and give attention to the subject. This delegation had our interesting interview with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and found the Bill met the approbation of the Indian Department. Also with the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, and of the House, and with several members of the House of Representatives, and there was reason to believe the Bill would pass, if it could be brought before that body, which however was done.

One of our Committee, during the past summer, while on a mission of love, as a companion to a missionary friend to the Meeting of Friends in the State of New York and Seneca, without the opportunity they presented of making a visit to these interesting objects of our care and concern on the Cattaraugus Reservation, and was informed that there was much peace and harmony among the Indians at present, that at some previous periods that there crops this season were good, and that the Indians were generally in a prosperous condition. Much gratification was felt at interesting the natives, and even which prevailed in every department of the Asylum for Orphan Indian Children to which we have long been an aiding our aid.

The Committee was gratified at the evidence that had been afforded on different occasions, that the little misunderstanding on the part of the Indians, which for a brief period prevented a friendly address towards, has been entirely removed, and that mutual respect, their confidence and respect and affection, as much mutually as at any other time.

Our sympathies have been deeply awakened during the past year, on behalf of some of the Indian tribes, beyond the Mississippi River who have been the victims of great injustice, hardship and cruelty, but we have been sorry by which we could be serviceable to them. Our aspirations have been raised that a brave unsparing Shepherd who is God of the