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of the Indian, namely: Swift extermination by the sword and famine, or preservation by gradual Concentration on territorial reserves, and Civilization. As now situated, the Indian tribes are in the way of our trailing and enterprising population and unprotected they will soon be inevitably submerged and buried beneath its confluent surges. Possessing originally the whole continent they roamed at will among its mountains, valleys and broad plains free and untrammelled, the proprietors and lords of them all. But rapidly our race has relieved them of their vast domain and the remnants of the Ancient Red Nations, encircled by the pressing millions of our people, maintain a precarious foothold on their last hunting-grounds: These millions will soon crush them out from the face of the earth, unless the humanity and Christian philanthropy of our Enlightened Statesmen, shall interfere and rescue them. *

Delegations of the Committee have, on different occasions during the past year, visited the Indian Department, Members of the Committee on Indian Affairs of both Houses of Congress, and a number of the influential Members of these bodies, in an endeavor to promote the interests of these greatly wronged and suffering people.

The efforts of the Committee have been directed, principally besides laboring for the restoration of peace and a kind and just treatment of the Indians by Government, to prevent the return of the Indian Bureau to the War Department, of which it was formerly a branch, and to induce the Government to settle the Indians on Reservations, of ample dimensions, to be secured to them forever, when they will be protected, and all their just rights be respected and held inviolate by the National Government.

We fear that the re-transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department would be injurious to the Indians and their interests. Still a difficulty of no small magnitude exists in the present position of the Indian Bureau, sometimes occasioning a serious conflict of jurisdiction and action between the Civil and Military Authorities greatly to the disparagement of the interests of the Indians and involving, as it would appear, the loss of many lives. On mature and deliberate

* Senate Ex. Doc. No. 13. 40th. Congress, 1st. Session, page 5.

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reflection upon the subject, the Committee are of the opinion, that the Indians and their interests should be entirely under the direction and control of one general head, as the Secretary of the Interior, upon whom the responsibility of the correct handling and just management of all the affairs connected with them, should immediately rest.

In relation to the subject of collecting the Indians upon reservations, it may be again remarked, that they cannot remain as they are. As recently stated by one of their number 'they are fast dwindling away, falling like the leaves of the forest to rise no more.*' Something must be done. It is argued with much reason that so large a tract of country as they at present occupy should not be retained by the Indians as hunting grounds upon which a precarious subsistence is derived and thus stand in the way of the progress of civilization, if they can be instructed to obtain a supply, as liberal and more certain of animal food and other articles of subsistence on a territory of greatly diminished extent, and at the same time be in a condition much more favorable to secure their civilization and enlightenment. This it is believed can be done by the National Government, the natural and enlightened guardians of the Red Race, assigning to them a number of fertile tracts of well watered country, as permanent reservations to be solemnly secured to them forever and of ample dimensions for the liberal accommodation of the whole number of Indians in all the Western Territories, giving them a good supply of cattle and other stock, farming implements and mechanic tools, and placing among them suitable, peaceable, enlightened, and conscientious persons to instruct them in agriculture, manufactures, the mechanic arts, and household duties, as well as in all the necessary school learning, and protect them from the intrusion of all other persons. Thus in a little time, instead of the precarious dependence, as at present upon the buffalo the deer and the bear, in the forest for their subsistence, they would have the ox, the sheep, and the swine in their fields at home, whence they can be at any time procured. This is the present condition of the Indians in West and New York, as has been represented in this report, who but comparatively a few years ago, gave no more hopeful promise of improve

* Ennekahbowh, in a letter appended to this report,