

1867 ment or of their present Condition than do now the tribes west of the Mississippi. Here is great ground of encouragement and hope for a brighter future in store for our Red Brethren of the West. If only our Government will calmly weigh the result of the experiment of kind treatment and fostering care of the Indians in Western New York. There are enough thousands of these Indians to make the experiment of real value, and the more so because they have been and are divided into separate bands of Mountain Nationalities - encompassed about with destructive influences, in addition to the inherent tendency in small communities to become extinct from the intermarriage of blood relations, and to lose heart from the numerical weakness of their respective communities.

If the New York Indians could live, and pass the crisis and begin to thrive and to increase in population steadily and permanently as shown by the reports of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, by the census returns and by the message of the Governor of New York there can be no ground for despairing of like results any where where kind treatment and honest regard for their rights can be extended to the Indian Race for a sufficient length of time to give them faith in the permanence of such a policy.*

According to the Census of 1850 the whole number of Indians both sexes and of all ages within the limits of the Territory of the United States was 400,764†

The Census of 1860 gives the Indian population in the States and Territories. Not enumerated in the census and retaining their tribal character 294,431‡

The number of Indians in the States and Territories numbered in the census 36,662||

Making a total number of Indians in our Country in 1860 311,093 which shows a decrease of the Indian population

|| See page 135

† Census of 1860 page 136

‡ Census of 1850 page xciv

* Letter from Asher Wright the benevolent Missionary who has devoted some thirty years of his life to the interests and welfare of these Indians, to the secretary of the Committee.

1867 for the intervening ten years of 69,671 a more than one fifth of the whole population existing in all the States and Territories of the United States in 1860*

A change of our Indian policy on the part of the Government is therefore demanded by every consideration of humanity, justice and Christianity to save this noble race from total extinction. And all experienced observation and reflection point to the plan that is working so well with the New York Indians of collecting them on reservations and surrounding them with the fostering care and protection of the Government, as the true solution of this part of the difficult Indian problem.

The startling events among the Indians west of the Mississippi and the great number of lives lost both of Indians and Whites during the past year, have awakened the attention of most reflecting minds to the Indian question and the Committee have therefore been induced to present in this report the two prominent points. After peace shall be secured, and a disposition again prevail on the part of the Government to do the Indians justice, to which we think the efforts of Friends and of those who have the true interests of the Indians at heart should be directed, in order that the Meeting may express its judgment thereon.

The Committee have received a number of letters of affecting interest from the Indians west of the Mississippi, and the principal contents of one of them from Emegablow, of Minnesota an Indian and a Missionary among his people we think it right to append to the present report, as being calculated by its touching eloquence and stirring appeals to our race, to keep alive a feeling in favor of the poor Indian - the red man of the forest - in the hearts of our precious young people:

Washington D.C. Feb 24th. 1867

Dear Sir

I was very sorry to have so short a talk with you in the Indian department. There are many things that I wanted to say, and make known to you. It always interests us (Indians) whenever we meet with the friends of the red man: especially with the people of him who first shook hands with the Indians on this Continent - Wm Penn the great and good noble

* The Territory recently acquired from Russia contains a number of Indians, but how many has not been ascertained -