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in the Fourth Month, of the village of the friendly Cheyennes and Arapahos seemed to disqualify them for making their usual preparations of food and shelter for the winter, or of seed to plant in the spring. The winter as we were informed, proved to be the severest that ever occurred in that country since its first settlement by the Whites. Many Indians too, were forced to go upon new and distant Reservations, late in the season. The consequence was that much distress and suffering was experienced, and many deaths occurred amongst them. Friends were appealed to in the early winter to lend their aid towards mitigating the sufferings and perils of these Indians, and Friends of the Six Yearly Meetings responded to the appeal by sending to the different settlements of the Indians, ten boxes one of which weighed over 550 pounds, of seeds, blankets, clothing, cloth, needles, threads etc. and \$253.50 in money and drafts, with which to procure seed corn and potatoes to plant in the spring, and any surplus to be expended in clothing and blankets for the Indians. Accounts subsequently received, represented great gratitude among the Indian Chiefs, as they became informed of what had been done, by the well-timed kindness and liberality of the Friends.

Since the attention of the Committee was first particularly directed to the subject of the Western Indians, these people have never been in a more unsettled and critical condition than they are at this time, nor in which it is more difficult to see what course to adopt, for their protection and improvement, or how to approach them with a hope of being serviceable to them.

Local benefits might possibly be conferred upon them to a limited extent, but unless the general question is met by some system which provides permanent protection and improvement to the whole race, local benefits must be of comparatively little value, liable at any time to disruption and scattering, like that which attended the settlements near by our Yearly Meeting years ago at Wanpaghkammitta in Ohio and the one in Minnesota at the outbreak in 1862 where the whole settlement was scattered, the labor of many years to all appearances lost, and some of the elements of the settlement transported to the upper Missouri, where men, women, and children died in numbers from hardships and starvation.

Doing so conduct which we cannot justify on the part of some of the Indians, within a short time past, the current of public sentiment, in many places, setting strongly against all the western tribes. The cry of extermination is loudly and extensively raised. This is most unjust and inhuman. On making inquiry upon the subject at the Indian Department at Washington, the Committee were

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assured by the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, that the cause of the present Indian difficulties West of the Mississippi, originated entirely from the failure on the part of the General Government, to make timely appropriations to carry out existing treaties and engagements made with these Indians, to supply them with food. The Indian Department, earnestly, though unavailingly, urged upon Congress, the importance, and pressing necessity of making the needed appropriations, predicting the disastrous consequences, which would ensue and which sorrowfully have ensued from this not being done.

The Indian the Commissioner said, is governed very much by his stomach; if that is full, he is quiet and peaceable; when it is empty, and he can satisfy it in no other way; he will steal. The white people have driven off all the buffalo, which the Indians reverently think the Great Spirit made for them to live upon, and all the larger game, and the Government fails to supply them with food, as it had promised to do, and no alternative is left them but to steal or to starve. When a train comes along they ask for provisions to satisfy their hunger. If these are granted them, they are contented; if refused, they attempt to take them by force. This generally brings on a fight, and all its attending calamities. The same cravings of hunger, induce them to drive off cattle and other stock. It would have been cheaper for the National Government, the Commissioner said to have boarded all the Indians at a first class hotel in the City of New York, than to have incurred the expenses arising from the neglect to furnish them with the necessary food on the plains, which could have been done at comparatively so small a cost.

The outrages of which we have recently heard, the Commissioner said, have been committed by comparatively a small number of Indians. About two hundred Cheyennes, twenty Sioux, and four Arapahoes. He thinks some of the orders which have been issued in regard to them, are harsh and cruel. While he would favor the punishment of the guilty parties, he regards it no more just, to punish a whole tribe, for the acts which have been committed by these few, than it would be to punish all the inhabitants of Washington or Baltimore, for the depredations of a band of rioters in either city.

Although no opening for active usefulness towards the Indians of that country, appears at present to exist, yet the duty certainly rests upon us and we feel its weight, to be vigilant in observing the course of events. And when an opening presents, no matter where or in which we can see a probability of beneficial labor, to be prepared