

1872 *Talk the Yearly Meeting:*

The Standing Committee on the Indian Concern, of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, report:

That they have endeavored through the past year to give unremitting attention and care to the Pawnee Indians whose interests are more immediately entrusted to this Yearly Meeting, and, in conjunction with committees of other Yearly Meetings, with which we co-operate in this interesting concern, to do all in our power to protect and promote the interests of all the tribes in the Northern superintendency, and to advance those Indians in civilization and enlightenment.

In the Sixth Month last, a sub-committee, consisting of two men and two women Friends, visited on behalf of the general committee of this Yearly Meeting, the Pawnee Reservation, in accordance with the understanding with the President, previous to our entering upon this important and responsible engagement, for the purpose of making a careful examination of the affairs at the Agency, and report whether in their judgment they were conducted in a way as favorable to the interests of the Indians and of the United States Government as was worthy of the Society of Friends, as they were capable of being administered.

They were accompanied to the Reservation from the City of Omaha by Superintendent White.

The Committee report:

That there have been erected on the Reservation since last year, a commodious farm house, school-house that will accommodate fifty scholars, and two houses for the accommodation of two Indian families each. There are about fifteen acres of land attached to the Industrial School, worked as a garden by the Indian boys, under the direction of Stacy M. Atchack. The rest of the farming is being done by Henry Smith. He has some sixty acres in oats, and has planted about one hundred and twenty-five acres of corn and a quantity of potatoes. No wheat was sown this year. The Agency was unfortunate in its farming operations last year, having had but little corn, and the wheat and oats were not considered of sufficient value to thresh, but they had a good crop of potatoes. The crops cultivated by the Indians, were about as good as usual. The Indians are farming more this year than hitherto. There were 53 children attending the Industrial School, and 38 at the day school. The children attending the day school have made rapid progress under the care of Phoebe J. Howell, many of them being able to read and write, and some of them to cipher, all of which has been attained within the past nine months. These pupils are all clothed by the Indian Aid Associations of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and although there is a pretty ample supply of goods on hand, there are not sufficient

winter garments to commence with this fall.

Phoebe J. Howell is untiring in her exertions in teaching and otherwise aiding, on behalf of the Pawnee children, and it is very desirable that she and they should be made as comfortable as possible in their interesting positions.

The delegation that visited the Reservation appear to have performed their duty faithfully and their report from which the preceding information is taken, was very satisfactory to the Committee.

About the 1st of Sixth Month last, Cosmelia Jarney, daughter of Osa M. Jarney, who, during her father's acting as Agent for the Santa Sioux, spent over ten years with that Tribe, and acquired valuable knowledge of the Indian character, entered upon her duties as Principal of the Industrial School at the Pawnee Agency. A letter recently received from reliable authority at the Agency, says: "Cosmelia is earnestly at work to better the condition of those under her immediate care, and endeavoring as far as she can to aid those in the villages. She feels, as we have also felt, that the best way to keep the children out of mischief is to have their time employed. It is so pleasant to have such harmony between the schools as there now is."

The present Agent having sent to the President his resignation of the office, to take effect at the close of the present year, the affairs of the Pawnee Agency after that time will, by appointment of the President, upon the united recommendation of the Indian Committee of this Yearly Meeting, be entrusted to William Burgess, of Millville, Columbia County, Pennsylvania, as Agent.

From the testimony of those who have long known him, as well as from a brief personal acquaintance, the Committee believe they have been favored to procure the services of an intelligent business man, well adapted to the responsible, difficult and intricate position which he has consented to occupy and which it is his fixed purpose to endeavor to fill to the satisfaction of all concerned.

We are informed through a letter from Superintendent White, dated the 21st of this month, that during the past year no case of assault or personal violence committed by an Indian of the Northern Superintendency had been reported to his office. He says: "If we can obtain for the Indians equal protection of person and property with the citizen, under the National and State laws, we will add much to their status in the community. At present they are subjected to much brutal treatment, and their property taken from them almost with impunity."

In relation to the Pawnees, who are under the especial care of this Yearly Meeting, he informs us that the Manual Labor Boarding School has not, this year, been conducted to his entire