

1872 Tribe of Indians to remove voluntarily to the Indian Territory, which is to be secured to them permanently, and then the Government to afford them all needed assistance and protection, and every aid to promote their enlightenment and civilization, and their preparation for ultimate citizenship, as the final solution of the Indian problem, so long a subject of deep perplexity and concern to the friends of humanity and justice.

colly We are gratified to be able to add, in this connection, our belief that the Indians under our care in Nebraska, to many of whom the Government has made allotments of land in severalty, and is extending aid in furnishing means to build dwellings and improve their farms, and providing them with farming utensils and stock, will never be removed from their present reservations, unless it shall be under a change of circumstances, when it shall be evidently for their interest, and when they shall remove voluntarily, and with the advice and approbation of their friends.

In the First month last, Benjamin Halliwell, a member of our Committee, received a request from the Council of the Seneca Nation of Indians, at Cattaraugus, Western New York, to furnish the Council with some information they desired in relation to their "Kansas Claims", which he immediately went to Washington to procure, and he promptly communicated it to them, with other matter that he thought would be important to them to possess.

In a letter communicating the request of the Council from our long-tryed friend Abner Wright, the venerable missionary, who has unumittedly devoted over thirty years of his life to the interest of these Indians, officiously aided by Laura, his wife, throughout this long period of hardship and privation, he mentions the recent death of two prominent members of the Tribe, known to some of our Committee many years ago - Nathaniel T. Strong and John Ferguson.

He says also in his letter: The Thomas Asylum for Orphan Indian Children is prosperous, with nearly one hundred children under care. The Superintendent of the Asylum reports that the total number of children in the institution during the year ending 9th mo. 30th 1871, was 112, of whom 61 were boys, and 51 girls. The average of the whole year was about 80.

colly It is gratifying to find, by the interesting Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for last year, the highly prosperous condition in which these New York Indians now are, and the progress they are making in Agriculture, Education, and the various accompaniments of civilization and enlightenment. Some of the Committee who knew these Indians comparatively a few years ago, what we now witness there, gives great

encouragement for perseverance in the new fields of labor in which we are engaged in the far West.

The Commissioner's Report says: * The present number of Indians on the eight Reservations in the Agency of New York, is 4,906, showing an increase of 1,200, since 1860.

On these Reservations are 28 schools, all free, and mainly supported by the State of New York, except one Parish school on Onondaga Reservation, supported by the Episcopalians. Ninety hundred and ninety five children, (one-fifth of the entire population,) have attended these schools some portion of the time last year, the average daily attendance during the year being 533. Twenty-nine teachers, five males, and twenty-four females, have been employed. Eleven of the teachers were Indians who have succeeded well. The Agent says he deems it important to increase the number and the qualifications of the Indian teachers, and he believes that appropriations for the civilization of this People can not be better expended than in educating and training the brightest and best qualified Indian boys and girls as teachers for their schools.

AN Institute for the special training and instruction of teachers of the Indian schools of the Cattaraugus and Allegany Reservations was held for two weeks in the Eighth month of last year, on the Cattaraugus Reservation, under the direction of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The result of this Institute was very encouraging. Prominent Indians acknowledge that "they now know that the education of their children would be a great advantage to them", and they said they would exert themselves to have their school houses comfortable and their children at school every day "on time".

Heretofore one of the greatest drawbacks to the success of the schools has been the careless indifference and lack of co-operation in the Indian parents; and if this experimental Institute shall be the means of inciting an educational revival among the Indians, as it appears to have done, it will be of incalculable benefit, in addition to the solid instruction imparted to the teachers, and the better understanding they have obtained of the nature of their duties, and how best to perform them. The Indian children, rightly managed, make good scholars, and first class Indian are a possibility†

* Indian Report for 1871. Page 504
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