

1879 appointed an Agent for the Pawnees.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Baltimore 3rd month 18th, 1879, the Secretary was instructed to write the Secretary of the Interior, and the following letter was approved by the Committee and promptly forwarded:

Dandys Spring, 3rd month 21st, 1879.

Hon. Carl Schwarz.

Secy. of the Interior.

At a meeting of a Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, to which had been assigned by the President of the U.S. the case of the Pawnee Indians in the Indian Territory, held on the 18th inst, the Secretary was instructed to write to the Secretary of the Interior, that under existing circumstances, we respectfully relinquish all charge, or responsibility, for the conducting of the Agency; and decline to make any further nominations for Agents or employees for the same, for reasons which have been fully made known to the department.

Respectfully,

J. Rush Roberts

Secy.

So this a reply was received from Commissioner Stuart accepting our resignation, and releasing us from further charge. Having by authority of the Convention of Delegates of the Seven Yearly Meetings relinquished our care of the Pawnees, and having reported our action to that body at its meeting in Philadelphia on the 5th month last, the following minute was made and approved by the Convention:

"In consequence of Friends of Baltimore, having been released from the care of the Pawnees, and Winnebago and Omaha Agencies consolidated, and the Mandan tribe of Indians added to the Santee Sioux Agency, the following Friends were appointed to consider whether it was not proper to make a change in the division of the Agencies now under our charge among the different Yearly Meetings."

Under this minute, a committee was appointed of representatives of all the Yearly Meetings, which, on the following day, 5th month 14th 1879, reported a

1879

division of the Agencies, which was accepted and adopted by the Convention, assigning to Baltimore, jointly with Genesee, Ohio and Illinois Yearly Meetings, the care of the Santee, Sioux and Mandan Indian Agency.

On the 13th of 6th month, 1879, your Secretary wrote to Sarah Lightner, asking that school reports be forwarded, and inquiring if our assistance was needed in the way of furnishing clothing or money for the purchase of clothing for school children. Demand has been made for First day school books and clothing and money, amounting to \$6.00, which was forwarded to him. The Santee Agency has been visited during the past summer and fall by two members of the Board of Indian Commissioners, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and recently, by the Secretary of the Interior, and so far as we can learn, (but not through the Agent), all have expressed their satisfaction at the progress being made in civilization by this tribe.

An effort was made at the last regular session of Congress, to have a bill passed, to remove the Santees from their present homes, to the reservation lately occupied by the Poncas, in Dakota Territory. The Executive Committee, however, have not been unmindful of the disastrous consequences that would ensue from the enactment of such a law, and we find that the officials of the Interior Department are opposed to any such change, and should the subject be revived at the next session of Congress, we hope to be able to bring influences to bear, that will defeat it, or any such unjust measure.

In a report by Sarah Lightner, agent of the Santee and Mandan Indians, dated 8th month 18th 1879, we find the following: "In making my report last year I expressed my views upon the land subject; and hoped that ere I would be required to make this report, I would hear that a bill giving the Santees the privilege of taking homesteads on this reservation had been passed; but I am sorry to say in this report that the land titles have not been granted. I know that efforts have been made in this direction, but the work has not been accomplished and I hope will be renewed with double energy. Desiring men are now making a strong effort to drive the Santees from their present homes, in order to get their land. This I feel would be a disgrace to the Nation, and should never be allowed. They should have