

1880 the want of your declining such responsibility, are you consenting that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting may withdraw from its present oversight of said Agency? To which reply was made that if the other Yearly Meetings unite with Philadelphia in giving up the Ator Agency, we shall make no objection.

By reference to report of last year, it will be seen that Spaiak Lightner, Agent of the Santee Sioux Indians, was invited to ask for such aid from our Meeting as might be required for the use of the schools, or for the sick that are not supplied by Government. In a correspondence had with Agent Lightner, on the subject of education of the white children of employes on the reservation, aid was asked to enable him to employ a teacher for them, and responded to, by the Executive Committee, instructing the Treasurer to forward him \$100.⁰⁰ or so much thereof, as may be needed. The following embraces a large part of a letter received from Agent Lightner by the Secretary, in relation to the progress and advancement of the Santee and Ft. Treadwell Indians, under our care jointly with Genesee, Ohio and Alliance Yearly Meetings.

Santee Agency 10th month 12, 1880.

The Santees came here in 6th month 1866, numbering 1350 souls. At present they number 764, and there at Ft. Treadwell 304. Upon their arrival here they lived in a disconnected village, and had tents and log huts for their homes. While living in this way they depended almost entirely upon the Government for support. After a time they were induced by the Agent and the Missionaries to abandon their village life, and each head of a family select land whereon he could establish a permanent home for himself and family, and eventually become self supporting. Upon this principle they started, and the progress of civilization has been gradual, but sure since then. The houses have been improved, and many of them at present have quite comfortable dwellings.

They all wear citizens clothing, and dress nicely, have abandoned their tribal relations, and instead of the old chiefs, who held their office for life, the tribe now annually elect by ballot, Councillors. In this way get a more active and energetic class of men to stand at the head of the tribe.

They can plow, sow

1880 their seed, cut, gather and thresh their grain without the aid of the white man, but it is not done as well as the general class of white men would do such work.

The Santees have under cultivation 1,444 acres of land, broke 900 acres of new land this year. Total for next year 2,344 acres, which shows that they are now making a start.

They raised this year 7000 bushels of wheat, 2000 of oats, and 3,000 of corn, and made 1,000 tons of hay for their stock. During the summer I had a brick yard started, and with the aid of the Indians we have burnt about 120,000 bricks. I am also about to start a harness shop, in which I expect to employ Indians as apprentices. I have Indians employed in the mill, blacksmith and carpenter shops. In this way I find employment for quite a number, some of whom make very good mechanics. I have no trouble in getting apprentices, always having more applicants than I can accommodate.

I think, we, as a nation, must recognize the Indian as a citizen, and hold him amenable to the laws governing the white man, and when we do this, they will advance in civilization more rapidly.

We must not forget that Christianity, education and labor, go hand in hand in the promotion of civilization. I have two Indians as clerks in my office. The missions have some employed as preachers and teachers. I have been gradually withdrawing the issue of rations, and it is my expectation to discontinue them to a greater part of the tribe in a short time; for I think all able bodied Indians will be able to support themselves. We must continue the care of the Aged and Infirm, and for this purpose, I think a building should be erected, as an almshouse, and aid extended, as in the States among whites.

I must repeat my feelings upon the land subject. When the Indian is willing to abandon his tribal relations, and adopt the habits and customs of civilized life, he should be recognized as a citizen of the United States. The Santees have adopted the customs of the white man, and are trying to be good honest Indians. For the last six or eight years they