

1881 The report was satisfactory to the Meeting, and the Committee released.

9 The Standing Committee on the Indian Concern made the following report, which was read, and was satisfactory to the Meeting, and in accordance with their ^{request} the Committee was released, viz:

To the Yearly Meeting:

The Standing Committee on the Indian Concern report: We have continued our efforts in the past year to fulfill the object of our appointment and have received more encouragement to press forward in the good work of aiding in the protection and civilization of this interesting people.

Our main labor on behalf of the Indians for the past year, has been, in connection with the Friends of the Yearly Meetings of Genesee, Ohio, and Illinois, to extend our care to the Santee Sioux.

At a meeting of Delegates from the several Yearly Meetings held in Philadelphia, in Fifth Month last, a Committee was appointed to visit Washington and endeavor to ascertain our status with the Government, in regard to Indian Affairs. Two of the Committee met in Washington and had lengthy interviews with the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and were gratified and encouraged with the frank ingenuous manner with which they were treated. They were most emphatically assured that the grievances complained of under the preceding administration would not be repeated, but when vacancies occurred in Agencies under our care, Friends would be promptly notified, and those recommended by us, appointed, if they were satisfactory to the Department; and if not, Friends would be at once requested to name others in their stead.

Mathew Kent, Agent of the Great Nemaha Agency, having resigned, Friends of Philadelphia, after the visit of the Committee to Washington, felt free to recommend a Friend, Augustus Brosius, as his successor. He was promptly approved by the Department, confirmed and entered upon his duties as Agent in ^{the} Seventh Month last.

Samuel Lightner, Agent of the consolidated Santee and Mandan Agency, appears to be getting along very well. All the reports that we get speak very

highly of him and of the progress made by the Indians under his care. In his last annual report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, he says, after describing the situation of the Reservation: "They are located like white people, a stranger passing through the country would not know he was traveling through an Indian Reservation, unless told of the fact, for I am sure the majority of their places compare favorably with those of their white neighbors."

With regard to their land titles, he writes:

"At present they have but little assurance that they can remain here, and I know it has been a drawback to them in the way of self-support, for they have repeatedly informed me that they do not wish to open up a farm for a white man to take from them, when he may feel like doing so. They want a lasting title to their homes, and I think it wicked for us as a nation, to withhold any longer such a sacred right; and I believe the majority of the Santees, today, are in advance of many of those who are recognized as citizens, and would make better neighbors and more loyal citizens."

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"The Santees and Mandans are a part of the great Sioux Nation, who, at one time, were acknowledged to be one of the finest bodies of Indians on this continent. It was their boast for many years, that their hands had not been stained with the blood of the white man. They had possession of the country extending from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, and by ~~these~~ treaties, made from time to time, their land has been taken from them, and at this time many of them have not a foot of land left which they can hold sacred and inviolable."

"The Indian is a man and must be recognized as such, has a heart that can be reached, and if we deal justly with him the Indian question can be solved, and he become a good citizen. I believe in having laws to protect them in the right and punish them when wrong. We know that the majority of the Indians, by far, will work. In this, as well as in many other things, we see the effects of civilization. The young men, who have been taught from youth, understand how to handle all farm implements, while the older ones take hold awkwardly and labor with difficulty. We must commence civilization among the young and train the mind to put in operation those faculties which will enable them to perform the work of husbandry with ease and satisfaction. The war path will thus be abandoned, and the white and red man be at peace."