

1888 To the Yearly Meeting now sitting:

The Committee appointed two years ago, to provide homes for Friends attending Yearly Meeting, not having had any funds placed at its disposal during the past year, and not finding any way in which it could make itself useful or carry out the object of its appointment without funds, and for the further reason that the necessity for such a Committee, under the appointment of the Yearly Meeting, seems to have passed away, has now to ask that it may be released from further service.

By direction of the Committee, Joseph J. Janney.  
Baltimore, 10th Mo. 30th, 1888

The request of the Committee was agreed to, and they are accordingly released from further service in this capacity.

24 The Standing Committee in charge the interest of the Indian Tribes formerly under the care of this Yearly Meeting, produced the following report, which, upon being read, met with the full approval of the Meeting, and the Committee is encouraged to embrace any such opportunity for service in this interesting field of labor.

To Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends:

The Committee on Indian Affairs has, during the past year, given attention to the subject under their care and has endeavored to close in with opportunities for usefulness as have been presented.

We find, however, that the field of philanthropic labor in this cause by the Society of Friends is narrowing year by year. There are several reasons for this. One is that other religious denominations have gone into the work so largely and have had such abundant means, that they have in a measure crowded out those who have not been able to bring such facilities to bear. Another reason is that those Indians in whom we have been especially interested and for whom we have been working more particularly, are themselves very nearly self-supporting, and so almost beyond the need of outside help.

There is no ground for discouragement in this outlook except in the fact that the Society of Friends is perhaps not contributing its full quota of usefulness in a cause wherein it has been a pioneer. But the work is going on and great good is being done the Indians by the different religious denominations engaged in it.

1888 We think that the Indian question has reached that point where it is safe to assume, that there is now no danger of the Indian degenerating, but, on the contrary, under such influences as at present surround him, he must advance.

As was intimated in our last report, an effort was made by this Committee to unite with other Yearly Meetings in the appointment of a matron for the Santee Sioux, to instruct the women of that tribe in the art of housekeeping.

Up to Fifth Month last we had every reason to believe that the effort would be successful. All the Yearly Meetings but one had agreed to co-operate with us, and we had assurance that that one would join in the enterprise. From the many applicants who came forward to fill the position one was selected whom we feel assured was well qualified and who would have discharged the duties faithfully, and she was ready to go forward at once. At the last moment, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting declined to co-operate in the measure, and the subject was necessarily dropped.

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on  
Indian  
Affairs

An effort was subsequently made to carry it through with the co-operation of such Meetings as would consent to join in the measure.

Illinois Yearly Meeting agreed to do so, provided not less than five Meetings united. Ohio and Indiana, after considering the matter at the recent sessions of their Meetings, both declined, and Genesee has not been heard from. This state of affairs made it seem best to the Committee to abandon the effort for the present.

We hope at the next session of Congress to obtain such legislation as will provide for the appointment of Matrons in at least five of the Agencies, and we have reason to believe it can be done.

A delegation from this Committee attended the last Annual Meeting of the Board of Indian Commissioners held in Washington City in the First Month last, and took part in the discussions of the Indian question which was had at that time. It was a very satisfactory and profitable occasion. We met there many of the leading workers in the cause of Indian civilization and advancement from all parts of the country, and were pleased to find that the unceasing labor of Friends in behalf of the Indian was acknowledged and appreciated by these co-workers.

The following report was made to that body by our delegation on behalf of our Society, viz: