

1888. To the Board of Commissioners of Indian Affairs:

The work done by the Society of Friends during the past year in aid of Indian education and advancement has not been great, but we feel that it has been effective in proportion to our opportunities.

We have had a continued oversight of the Indians at the combined Santee, Flandreaux and Ponca Agency in Nebraska, and have co-operated with the Agent in charge thereof in an effort to make these Indians independent and self-sustaining. We have directed our efforts to a thoroughly practical education not only of the Indian children, but of the men and women as well. We have worked upon the theory that when you shall have made an Indian understand and feel the importance and the necessity of making his own living, and acknowledge the duty of providing for his family, he will have made a long stride towards independence and self support. Implements of agriculture are always at his command, and competent instructors always within reach. Get him once enthused with the idea of becoming the head of an independent domestic establishment, and let him once see the dignity of such a position and the desire will come to bring it about.

This is not to be hoped for in its fullness, of course, among the older Indians, but with the rising generation it is more than probable.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting sent a delegation of Friends to visit the Indians at the Santee and Ponca Agency in Nebraska, and in their report allusion was made to the need of an instructor among the Indian women to teach them how to keep house. The houses of the Indians were found to be sadly deficient in the essential elements of home. They noticed that the women, generally, had no idea of the refinements of the home circle, or how to get up those simple household adornments that help so much to make the home attractive. To meet that want we are about to employ a 'matron,' whose duty it will be to go amongst the Indian women at their homes and teach them the art of housekeeping. From this effort we expect good results to flow.

The situation of affairs at this Agency is highly encouraging. Charles Hill, the Agent, is giving good satisfaction, both to the Government and to those who are in a measure his co-workers, and the morale of his corps of teachers and assistants is first rate. Those Indians seem to be making rapid strides towards an independence of government or

1888 denominational oversight, and it seems as though the time is not far distant, when the members of this tribe, with the exception of the old and infirm, can be safely left to their own resources.

We continue to send literature to the schools of this Agency for distribution amongst the children, and the Agent reports that the papers are well appreciated. The demand always exceeds the supply.

Thus, in our small measure, are we endeavoring to help along the work, feeling that whilst we cannot do much, the little good that our hands find to do must not be neglected.

With a cordial feeling of brotherly interest, we are your friends,
Levi H. Brown,

Secretary of the Convention of the Seven Yearly Meetings.

Joseph J. Fanning,

Clerk of Com. on Indian Affairs of Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Edward H. Magill,

Of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Phoebe C. Wright,

Of New York Yearly Meeting.

Edward Stabler, Jr.

Of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Baltimore, Ind., First Month, 13, 1888.

Members of the Committee have made a number of visits to Washington during the past year to see the President, Secretary of the Interior, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and members of Congress, on subjects connected with Indian work, and have endeavored to influence legislation in a direction that we thought favorable to the best interests of the Indians. We have always been received by the officials at Washington with great cordiality, and our views in regard to the treatment of the Indian question have been listened to with respect and generally acknowledged as correct.

We have a copy of the Annual Report of Charles Hill, Agent at the Santee Agency in Nebraska, which is encouraging, and from which we make brief extracts.

At Santee Agency the Indians cultivated lands as follows:

Wheat,	1162 acres	Oats,	792 acres.
Corn,	1502 "	Barley,	3 "
Flax,	196 "	Sorghum,	1 "
Potatoes, etc	229 "	& Ploughed	210 "