

and promised to communicate to the General Council, which would take place soon after. The committee during their visit had frequent opportunities of observing the destructive effects of spirituous liquors amongst these people, and were confirmed in the opinion that unless the traders who supply them with this article, can be restrained, they will not easily be prevailed on to turn their attention to agriculture, or make much effort towards establishing themselves in permanent houses.

1802

The committee related that they have had several conferences with the Little Turtle and some other principal Chiefs, of the Miami confederacy of Indians, on the subject of the introduction of agriculture, and some of the useful arts, into their country, and were assured by these Chiefs that it was the real wish of their people to engage in the cultivation of their lands, as they were sensible that the game was becoming scarce, and they must soon take hold of the tools which they saw in the hands of the white people.

The committee had also conferred with them upon the subject of the introduction of spirit-

uous liquors into their country, in the course of which the Indians gave a pathetic representation of the melancholy effects which it produced amongst their people; and earnestly entreated that Friends would aid them in endeavouring to remove it out of their country.

Upon a weighty consideration of the subject the committee being fully persuaded, that this article had heretofore been the principal obstacle in the way of Friends succeeding in their efforts, concluded to address a memorial to Congress upon the subject, which was favourably received, and a law passed, prohibiting the traders from carrying any spirituous liquors amongst the Indians.

1803

The committee related, that information had been received from the Agent stationed amongst the Indians near Fort Wayne, that since the traders were restrained from furnishing spirituous liquors to them, they had become more industrious, and manifested an increasing disposition to turn their attention to raising of stock and farming. The committee had accordingly forwarded to them a number of farming utensils.