

1825

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

The Committee on Indian concerns report, that since the last Yearly Meeting, they have had an opportunity of some conference with a deputation of the Shawanoe Tribe, attended by their chief, Captain Lewis, and several chiefs of the Cherokees from Oklahoma, who were returning home, after having visited the seat of the United States Government, for the purpose of making arrangements for the Shawanoes to leave their present residence near Wauhatchumetta, and remove to the West.

The Committee were informed by Captain Lewis that he had definitively determined to remove with his tribe beyond the Mississippi, and that the Indians now residing east of that river were very generally preparing to do so, and the committee having received information from the United States agents, that the Government was disposed to promote the general removal of these people, and were taking measures to encourage it, there seemed but little probability of many of them continuing in their present habitation much longer. Under these considerations the committee felt themselves engaged to address to

those chiefs, the following communication, and received from them the annexed reply.

"Brothers, we have heard of the disposition, which seems to be increasing amongst our Red Brethren to remove from the several scattered villages now occupied by them, and to become united together at one place, beyond the Great River Mississippi.

"Brothers, This conclusion which we understand is about to be adopted by our brother at Wauhatchumetta and Lewis Town, renders the present interview the more deeply interesting to us, as it will in all probability be the last time we shall ever have an opportunity of taking you by the hand, during our continuance in this state of existence.

It is true, although by your removal to the distant country which may be selected for the future occupation of the Red people, you will be very remote from us, and perhaps far beyond our reach as to place it out of our power, to continue those efforts which we have for so many years been making to assist you, yet you cannot go to any place, however distant, where you will not carry with you our most earnest desires for your welfare, and our undiminished solicitude, that the Great Spirit, who is the common Father of