

Appointed on the interesting Concern for promoting the welfare of the Indian Natives, have deliberately considered this important subject, which has for a series of years deeply exercised the minds of many Friends, and been latterly revived in the Yearly Meeting with increasing weight. Our Minds have been measurably drawn into sympathy with those distressed inhabitants of the Wilderness, and on comparing their situation with our own, and calling to grateful remembrance the kindness of their Predecessors to ours in the early settlement of this Country: Considering our professed principles of peace and good will to men: we are induced to believe with much unanimity, that there are loud calls for our benevolence, and charitable exertions, to promote among them the principles of the Christian Religion, as well as to turn their attention to School-learning Agriculture and useful mechanic employments, especially as there appears in some of the tribes a willingness to unite in endeavors of this kind. And conceiving that this subject is of sufficient Magnitude to claim the attention of our Religious Society in different parts of this Continent, we think it may be useful to embrace

the substance of this concern in the Epistles to the Respective Yearly Meetings."

Whether this was so embraced in the Epistles of that year, and whether ~~Baltimore~~^{other} Yearly Meetings waited to be thus led into the work I am not informed, but we find that ^{early} in 1796 ^{Baltimore Yearly Meeting} ~~it~~ had an Indian Committee in active operation, for its report for that year states that a deputation from the Committee and ^{under} its direction, had made a journey as far as to the Muskingum River, ^{Ohio} with the view of Meeting some Chiefs and others, "who they were informed were occupied there" - but on reaching the place, ^{they} found the Indians had left and ^{had} returned ~~to~~ to their respective homes - When we consider that this attempted visit, involved a long journey on horseback, ^{across} ~~across~~ the Alleghany Mountains, and through unsettled forests, we can understand something of the force of the concern which had prompted the effort: When we learn further that before another year had passed, three of their number had crossed the Ohio River and penetrated the Indian Country as far westward as the Sandusky River and had returned by way of the head waters of the Muskingum having visited many of the Indian hunting camps and several