

**FURTHER INFORMATION RESPECTING
THE ABORIGINES, CONTAINING REPORTS
OF THE COMMITTEE
ON INDIAN AFFAIRS AT PHILADELPHIA,
ABORIGINES COMMITTEE OF THE
MEETING FOR SUFFERINGS**

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Further information respecting the aborigines, containing reports of the Committee on Indian Affairs at Philadelphia, Aborigines committee of the Meeting for Sufferings by Various

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VARIOUS

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3

FURTHER INFORMATION
RESPECTING
THE ABORIGINES;

CONTAINING
REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN
AFFAIRS AT PHILADELPHIA,
EXTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE YEARLY MEETING
OF PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK,
NEW ENGLAND, MARYLAND VIRGINIA, AND OHIO.

TOGETHER WITH SOME PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO
THE NATIVES OF NEW ZEALAND, NEW HOLLAND, AND VAN
DIEMAN'S LAND.

PUBLISHED BY DIRECTION OF THE
ABORIGINES' COMMITTEE

OF
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1842.

[Tracts relative to the Aborigines, No. 8.]

1

FURTHER INFORMATION
RESPECTING
THE ABORIGINES.

THE Aborigines' Committee of the Meeting for Sufferings continue to have their attention directed to the important concerns committed to their care. Since the publication of the pamphlet last issued by the society on this subject, important information has been received through various channels respecting the Aborigines in the British Colonies, and other parts of the globe; and as it is believed that much of this possesses a character that will also prove interesting to Friends generally, and that it may tend to keep their minds alive to the importance of this subject, and contribute to promote their interest and more extensive co-operation in it, the Committee are induced to publish the following pages.

The communications which the Committee have from time to time received, in reference to the Aboriginal inhabitants of those distant parts where they have happened to come in contact with the white settlers

and traders, and the details which those communications furnish of the aggravated sufferings and oppressions inflicted on the uncivilized portions of the great human family, by the cupidity and avarice of merely nominal Christians, are indeed affecting, and the Committee would express a strong desire that the members of our religious society may be concerned carefully to guard against being, either directly or indirectly, implicated in these things; and that, both in their individual and their collective capacity, they may be fully alive to the enormity of this evil, and avail themselves of such opportunities as may arise for pleading on behalf of the just rights of these deeply-injured people, or for promoting an amelioration of their condition.

Friends who receive information, bearing on the situation and condition of the native population in our colonies and elsewhere, would, we believe, be promoting the objects entrusted to this Committee, by transmitting such intelligence to it.

A new edition of 3000 copies of the Address to Emigrants to newly-settled colonies, is now in the press. The distribution of this address to individuals who may be about to emigrate is very desirable. Copies may be had on application to EDWARD MARSH, 84, Houndsditch.

NORTH AMERICA.

The interesting tribes of the native Indian population, inhabiting the vast territory of the North American continent, still continue to claim the sympathy and regard of Friends, both in that country and in this.

By the following extracts from Epistles received at our last Yearly Meeting, from some of the Yearly Meetings of Friends in America, and the Reports of the Committee on Indian affairs at Philadelphia, we are gratified to observe that their attention towards the amelioration of the condition of the Indian races continues undiminished.

Extract from the Epistle of the Yearly Meeting of New York, 1841.

The concern of this meeting relative to the Indian tribes, located west of the Mississippi, has feelingly occupied its attention, and hopes are entertained that some way will open to render them essential service; but as yet, however, our efforts have been confined to preparatory measures. The Committee charged with this very interesting subject, were encouraged to continue their exertions to promote the benevolent object in view.

Extract from the Epistle of the Yearly Meeting of New England, 1841.

We still continue to extend a care towards the Aborigines of our country, and especially to the Penobscot tribe of Indians; and feel that this interesting and injured portion of the human family have strong claims upon our benevolent and Christian feelings.

Extract from the Epistle of the Yearly Meeting of Maryland, 1841.

Our establishment among the Shawnee tribe of Indians, now west of the Mississippi, continues to afford their children an opportunity for acquiring such an education as is best adapted to their wants.

About thirty-six youths of both sexes have been in the school during the present year. The males are also instructed in agriculture, and the females in housewifery. A religious meeting is kept up, which the children attend, and frequently a few of the Indians of the settlement. Care is taken to read the Holy Scriptures in the school. Our Superintendent is of the opinion that if our buildings were enlarged, and means adequate, the number of scholars would be very soon increased to one hundred.

Extract from the Epistle of the Yearly Meeting of Virginia, 1841.

Our Meeting for Sufferings continues its care and assistance to such of the descendants of African and Indian races as are illegally held in bondage. By information received from an attorney, whom they have long retained in their service, it appears that measures are now in contemplation, if not

in actual progress, by which it is apprehended that the liberty of a very numerous class who have been restored to their rights, through the instrumentality of that meeting, will again be brought into jeopardy; the Committee to whom their case for a number of years past has been specially confided, were instructed to employ able counsel for their defence, and encouraged to bestow all the care which their case may require.

Extract from the Epistle of the Yearly Meeting of Ohio, 1841.

The account lately received from our establishment west of the Mississippi is encouraging. The school there of upwards of thirty Indian children, is progressing satisfactorily. The boys being instructed in husbandry, as well as letters; and the girls employed in domestic services, whilst gaining literary knowledge. A portion of Scripture is daily read, a meeting held, and we hope the Christian instruction of young and old will continue to engage the close attention of our friends, who are placed among them as superintendents and teachers.

Extract from the Epistle of the Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia, 1841.

Our Committee for the gradual civilization and improvement of the Indian natives, continue to give attention to this interesting concern; and, although many difficulties and discouragements attend its prosecution, we believe it right to pursue our efforts for the relief and assistance of these oppressed and injured people. We send you herewith a copy of the Report for this year.

INDIAN REPORT.

Report of the Committee of the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia, appointed for the gradual civilization, &c., of the Indian Natives, presented to the Meeting 4th mo. 21st, 1841, and directed to be printed for the use of the members.

TO THE YEARLY MEETING.

The Committee charged with promoting the gradual Improvement and Civilization of the Indian Natives, report:

That although they have given the usual attention to this interesting concern, there are but few subjects in their operations since the last report which require notice. The Indians have been in a very unsettled condition

during the past year, in consequence of the embarrassment and distress produced by the ratification of the treaty, and their uncertainty as to the best course to be pursued by them in their trying and perplexing circumstances. They still cling to the hope that they shall be able to ward off the calamity which threatens them, either through the favourable disposition of the new administration and senate to give their case a rehearing, or by an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States. Small as the hope afforded by these sources may appear to a disinterested observer, they are buoyed up by it, and seem as unwilling as ever to look toward relinquishing their present homes.

In a communication addressed to the Committee, dated, Tunesassah, 5 mo. 24th, 1840, signed by ten chiefs, they say :—" Although the information of the ratification of the treaty is distressing to us, yet it is a satisfaction to hear from you, and to learn that you still remember us in our troubles, and are disposed to advise and assist us. The intelligence of the confirmation of the treaty caused many of our women to shed tears of sorrow. We are sensible that we stand in need of the advice of our friends. Our minds are unaltered on the subject of emigration." Another, dated Cold Spring, 12th mo. 8th, 1840, holds this language :—" Brothers, we continue to feel relative to the treaty as we have ever felt. We cannot regard it as an act of our nation, or hold it to be binding on us. We still consider that in justice the land is at this time as much our own as ever it was. We have done nothing to forfeit our right to it; and have come to a conclusion to remain upon it as long as we can enjoy it in peace. We trust in the Great Spirit : to Him we submit our cause."

A letter from the Senecas, residing at Tonawanda, was addressed to the Committee, from which the following extracts are taken :—

" By the help of the Great Spirit we have met in open council this 23d day of the 5th month, 1840, for the purpose of deliberating on the right course for us to pursue under the late act of the government of the United States relating to our lands. Brothers, we are in trouble; we have been told that the president has ratified a treaty by which these lands are sold from our possession. We look to you and solicit your advice and your sympathy, under the accumulating difficulties that now surround us. We feel more than ever our need of the help of the great and good Spirit to guide us aright. May his council ever preserve and direct us all in true wisdom.

" It is known to you, brothers, that at different times our people have been induced to cede, by stipulated treaties, to the government of the United States, various tracts of our territory, until it is so reduced that it barely affords us a home. We had hoped by these liberal concessions to secure the quiet and unmolested possession of this small residue, but we have abundant reason to fear that we have been mistaken. The agent and surveyor of a company of land speculators, known as the Ogden Company,

have been on here to lay out our land into lots, to be sold from us to the whites. We have protested against it, and have forbidden their proceeding.

"Brothers, what we want is that you should intercede with the United States government on our behalf. We do not want to leave our lands. We are willing that the emigrating party should sell out their rights, but we are not willing that they should sell ours.

"Brothers, we want the President of the United States to know that we are for peace; that we only ask the possession of our just rights. We have kept in good faith all our agreements with the government. In our innocence of any violation, we ask its protection; in our weakness we look to it for justice and mercy. We desire to live upon our lands in peace and harmony. We love Tonawanda. It is the residue left us of the land of our forefathers. We have no wish to leave it. Here are our cultivated fields, our houses, our wives and children, and our firesides—and here we wish to lay our bones in peace.

"Brothers, in conclusion, we desire to express our sincere thanks to you for your friendly assistance in times past, and at the same time earnestly solicit your further attention and advice. Brothers, may the Great Spirit befriend you all—farewell."

Desirous of rendering such aid as might be in our power, a correspondence has been held with some members of Congress, on the subject of the treaty, and other matters connected with it; and recently, two of our number visited Washington, and were assured by the present secretary of war, under whose immediate charge the Indian affairs are placed, that it was his determination and that of the other officers of the government, to give to the treaty and the circumstances attending its procurement, a thorough examination; and to adopt such a course respecting it as justice and humanity to the Indians would dictate.

The friends who have for several years resided at Tunesassah, still continue to occupy the farm, and have charge of the saw and grist mills, and other improvements. The farm during the past year has yielded about thirty-five tons of hay, two hundred bushels of potatoes, one hundred bushels of oats, and one hundred bushels of apples. Notwithstanding the unsettlement produced by the treaty during the past season, the Indians have raised an adequate supply of provisions to keep them comfortably during the year; and they manifest an increased desire to avoid the use of ardent spirits, and to have their children educated. In their letter of the 12th month last, the chiefs say,—“We are more engaged to have our children educated than we have heretofore been. There are at this time three schools in operation on this reservation for the instruction of our youth.”

Our friend, Joseph Batty, in a letter dated 26th of 2nd mo. last, says:—“The Indians have held several temperance councils this winter. The chiefs (with the exception of two who were not present) have all signed a pledge to abstain from the use of all intoxicating liquors; and appear en-