



*A brief Account of the Proceedings of the Committee Appointed by  
the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Baltimore*

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*Extract from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting  
held in Baltimore, 10th Mo. 1805.*

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A Report from our Committee on Indian concerns was produced, which being read and considered, much satisfaction with their proceedings was expressed: inasmuch as it very evidently appears that considerable benefits to our Red Brethren have already resulted, since the care of the Yearly Meeting towards them. The Committee were encouraged to continue such exertions, in the prosecution of this important concern, as may be in their power to extend: they were also left at liberty to have printed, for the more general information of Friends, as many copies of their report, connected with a narrative of their previous proceedings, as they apprehend may be usefully distributed amongst our members.

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A Report from our Committee on the Indian

A BRIEF ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,  
APPOINTED BY THE  
YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS  
HELD IN BALTIMORE,  
*For Promoting the Improvement and Civilization  
of the Indian Natives.*

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A weighty concern having been opened in the year 1795 in our Yearly Meeting, respecting the difficulties and distresses to which the Indian natives of this land were subject, it obtained the serious attention of Friends; and many observations were made, relative to the kindness of their ancestors to ours in the early settlement of this country; exciting a deep consideration and enquiry, whether, under the influence of that exalted benevolence and good

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BALTIMORE PRINTED:  
LONDON; REPRINTED,  
AND SOLD,  
BY PHILLIPS AND FARDON,  
GEORGE YARD, LOMBARD STREET.  
1806.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

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SINCE putting to press a London Edition of  
“ A brief Account of the Proceedings of the  
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received. In presenting it to the English reader,  
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The Yearly Meeting held at Baltimore, in  
Maryland, is quite distinct from that held at  
Philadelphia; yet it represents a considerable  
part of the body of Friends in the western part  
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The Indian nations to which the Maryland com-  
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ADVERTISEMENT. Since putting to press a London Edition of "A brief Account of the Proceedings of the Committee appointed in the Year 1795, by the Yearly Meeting of Friends of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, &c. for promoting the Improvement and gradual Civilization of the Indian Natives," an account of the proceedings of a committee appointed by another Yearly Meeting in North America, has been received. In presenting it to the English reader, a few remarks may be useful. The Yearly Meeting held at Baltimore, in Maryland, is quite distinct from that held at Philadelphia; yet it represents a considerable part of the body of Friends in the western part of Pennsylvania. The objects of concern of the two Yearly Meetings are equally distinct. The Indian nations to which the Maryland committee has directed its attention, lie generally farther west, than those under the notice of the Pennsylvanians. They are situated in that vast district which is comprehended between the rivers Ohio and Mississippi, and bounded to the north by the lakes Superior, Huron, and Erie. Lake Michigan penetrates this district, and may be said to be wholly within it. It has



been called the North-Western Territory; and was not long ago the scene of an Indian war; but peace was established by a treaty at Greeneville in 1795; when a part of the territory was ceded to the United States, together with some posts, or trading stations, within the Indian part. Of these Fort-Wayne is one. It is in the unceded parts that the experiments have been made, which are recorded in the following pages.

Both the Yearly Meetings seem to have lost no time in beginning their work of brotherly kindness to the Indians. The war had been an obstruction; but we find the date of the peace, and of the appointment of their committees, to be in the same year, 1795.

In the letter which forms the Appendix to the Pennsylvanian account, an Indian chief, named Little Turtle, is spoken of in terms of great approbation. It may therefore be particularly acceptable to see a speech of his in this narrative.

In the advertisement prefixed to the Pennsylvanian account, an apology is made for the apparent absence of religious instruction as a part of the plan. The concluding paragraph of this account confirms the apology; but supersedes the necessity of repeating it.

Probably, a slight geographical description, may render the narrative more interesting to some readers; and though maps are not always

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to be depended on, especially with respect to a country so uncivilized, the following sketch, taken from maps, may convey no bad notion of the locality of the committee's labours.

*Muskingum* river runs from N. to S. and falls into the Ohio in about 81.40 West longitude.

*Tuskarawas* (supposing it to be the *Tuscaroras* of the maps), is a small stream in the limits of Pennsylvania, which falls into the Junietta, a branch of the Susquehannah.

*Sandusky* is an Indian settlement, on a river of the same name that has a N. E. course, and empties itself into a small arm of lake Erie, near its western end, about 82.50 W. lon.

*Miami* is the name of three rivers in this country. That which concerns the account is *Miami of the lakes*, which running nearly from S. to N. a course of apparently 150 miles, falls into lake Erie, about 50 miles W. of Sandusky. On this river, where, as the term is, it forks, is Fort-Wayne.

The *Wabash* seems a long and crooked river. One of its sources is S. of Fort-Wayne; the stream from which is doubtless the Wabash, near which the agricultural examples have been set, as related in the account. The Ohio receives the waters of the Wabash, not far from the 88th degree of W. longitude.



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The *Eel-River* appears to be one of the streams which run into the Wabash. It seems to rise in the neighbourhood of Fort-Wayne.

The *Miami* nation, is no doubt connected with the river, or rivers of that name. The place of the *Wyandots* is given in the account. The *Shawanees* and *Delawares* are marked in one map as occupying the neighbourhood of the Ohio. The *Weas* are mentioned in the account as connected with Eel-River.

Fort-Wayne in a strait line seems not less than 350 miles from Baltimore; but probably a great deal more by any practicable road.

Humanity may venture to rejoice at these attempts. Though, as was observed in the former account, not on a grand scale, they are attended with considerable expence; and a labour, not easily appreciated by the inhabitants of highly cultivated and civilized countries. But, to adopt a metaphor from the work, they are attempts to cultivate the large, and inexhaustible field of Christian benevolence: for no less is every extension of brotherly kindness to our fellow-men, which springs from Christian principles.



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THE Editor regrets that, in the letter from the American General, printed at the close of the Account from Pennsylvania, a few lines were suffered to remain, which convey a censure on some former American missionaries. It may not have been perfectly easy for a person in a very different walk of life to feel exactly the difficulties of their situation. Whoever duly weighs the state of the Indians, may account for their want of success without thinking them much to blame. At any rate the Editor is disposed to call it an oversight, that in a work intended to show the successful diligence of one set of men, there should have slipped in a needless censure of another.

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will to men, which our holy profession inculcates, there was not something for *us*, as a Society, to do for *them*; towards promoting their religious instruction, and knowledge of agriculture, and useful mechanic arts.

A solemnity prevailing, the sentiments of many were expressed, evidencing a near sympathy with them. The meeting therefore united in recommending to our Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, to open subscriptions amongst our members for their relief; and appointed a committee, to pay such attention to the interesting concern, as they might be enabled to render.

The committee, after having fully considered the subject of their appointment, concluded, as the most effectual way of obtaining correct information of the situation and disposition of the Indians, to appoint a deputation from amongst themselves, to visit the *Shawanees*, *Delawares*, *Wyandots*, or such other nations, north-west of the river Ohio, as they might find practicable. The friends who were nominated to this service, having first obtained the approbation of Government, proceeded in the summer of 1796, as far as the forks of the Muskingum river, at which place, they had been informed that a considerable number of Indians were collected; but

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upon their arrival there, they found that all the chiefs, and most of the hunters, had dispersed. And, it not appearing practicable to convene them in a suitable manner for a conference at that time, they returned without accomplishing the object of their visit. They however saw divers hunters and others, who appeared to be well disposed to receive the instruction and assistance, with which Friends proposed to furnish them.

The committee being still deficient in the information necessary to enable them to proceed with safety, in so important an undertaking, one of their number offered, in the fall of this year, to undertake a visit to the Indians, for the purpose of obtaining a more satisfactory knowledge respecting them; and his proposal being approved, he was encouraged to proceed as soon as might be practicable. Accordingly, in the spring of 1797, he, with two others of the committee, who became concerned to unite with him, made them a visit; in the course of which, having passed by a number of their hunting camps, and several of their towns, they had large opportunity of discovering their situation. Often exposed to the inclemency of the seasons, with a very precarious, and often a very scanty supply of food and clothing, they

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suffered all the miseries of extreme poverty; in a country, which, from its great fertility, would, with but little cultivation, abundantly supply them with all the necessaries of life.

These friends had an opportunity with some of the chiefs and hunters of the *Wyandot*, and *Delaware* nations, in which they informed them of the concern of Friends relative to them; and endeavoured to impress on their minds, the advantages they would derive, from permitting a knowledge of agriculture, and some of the most useful mechanic arts, to be introduced amongst their people. The Indians appeared to give close attention to the communication, and promised to lay the matter before their grand council, and inform us of their conclusion upon the subject.

No way opened during the year 1798, to proceed in carrying the concern of the Yearly Meeting into effect; except that the committee furnished a few implements of husbandry, and other assistance, to some Indian families, which were situated upon the branches of the *Tuskarawas* river.

In the Second Month, 1799, the committee received a speech, and a belt of Wampum, from *Tarhie*, the principal chief of the *Wyandot* nation,



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delivered at Detroit, in the Ninth Month preceding ; of which the following is an extract :

“ Brethren Quakers,

“ You remember that we once met at a certain place. When we had there met, a great many good things were said, and much friendship was professed between us.

“ Brothers,

“ You told us at that time, that you not only took us by the *band*, but that you held us fast by the *arm* : that you then formed a chain of friendship. You said, that it was not a chain of iron ; but that it was a chain of precious metal, a chain of silver, that would never get rusty ; and that this chain, would bind us in brotherly affection for ever.

“ Brethren, listen :

“ We have often heard that you were a good and a faithful people, ever ready to do justice, and good to all men, without distinction of colour ; therefore we love you the more sincerely, because of the goodness of your hearts, which has been talked of amongst our nations, long since.

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You have informed us, that you intend to

visit us ; yes, that, even in our tents and cabins, you will take us by the hand. You, brethren, cannot admit a doubt that we should be very happy to see you.

“ Brethren, listen :

“ It is but proper to inform you at this time, that when you do come forward to see us, you will, no doubt, pass by my place of residence at Sandusky. I will then take you, not only by the hand, but by the arm, and will conduct you safely to the *grand council-fire* of our great *Sasteretsey* ; where all good things are transacted, and where nothing bad is permitted to appear. When in the grand council of our *Sasteretsey*, we will then sit down together, in peace and friendship, as brethren are accustomed to do, after a long absence ; and remind each other, and talk of those things that were done between our *Good Grand-Fathers*, when they first met upon our lands, upon this great island.

“ Brethren,

“ May the Great Spirit, the master of light and life, so dispose the hearts and minds of all our nations and people, that the calamities of war may never more be felt, or known by any



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of them; that our roads and paths may never more be stained with the blood of our young warriors; and that our helpless women and children may live in peace and happiness."

After a consideration of the foregoing communication, from the *Wyandot* Nation of Indians, the committee concluded to appoint a few friends to make them a visit, agreeably to their request. These were directed to cultivate a friendly correspondence with them, and afford them such assistance as they might be enabled to render. They accordingly proceeded in the visit, with an intention of being at their General Council; and after passing through several of their towns, arrived on the Third of the Sixth Month at Upper Sandusky, the principal village of the *Wyandots*, where they were received in a friendly manner, by Tarhie (the Crane), and others of that nation.

Upon conferring with these Indians, it was found, that a mistake had been made in the translation of the speech, which they had sent to friends, respecting the time of opening their great Council, to which Friends had been invited: who were now informed, that it began annually at the full moon, in the Sixth Month. Finding

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it would be difficult to procure food for themselves and horses there, until that time, the committee concluded it was best, under their present circumstances, to propose to Tarhie, a conference with him and the other chiefs, who were then at, and in the neighbourhood of, Sandusky: which was accordingly agreed to; and at the time appointed, they met him and several other chiefs, together with a number of their hunters, at his own house; when they had a full opportunity with them on the subject of their visit.

Their communication appeared to be received with great satisfaction by the Indians; who in their answer, delivered on some strings of Wampum, expressed the gratitude they felt, for the care and friendship which their beloved brethren, the Quakers, had always manifested for the Indians; and promised, as soon as the grand Council met, that they would communicate fully to it, the concern which our Society felt for their improvement, and inform us by a written speech of their conclusion thereon.

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the Indians, at that time supplied with it, in almost every village, by Canadian traders residing amongst them : and they were confirmed in the opinion, that unless these traders could be restrained from furnishing them with this destructive article, in exchange for their skins and furs, they would not easily be persuaded to turn their minds towards agriculture and the useful arts.

Notwithstanding which discouragement, the great affection they have for our Society, manifested on all occasions whilst the committee were amongst them, induced a hope, that Friends would endeavour to keep under the weight of the concern ; and be prepared to proceed in the benevolent work, whenever way might open for further service amongst them.

There was not any communication between the committee and the Indians during the year 1800. In the spring of 1801, they addressed a letter to them, which was forwarded to Sandusky ; but the person to whose care it was directed, and who was requested to communicate it to their council in the Sixth Month, not being at home, it was returned to the committee.

In the Sixth Month, 1802, the Little Turtle, Five Medals, and several other principal chiefs,

## Transcription

the Indians, at that time supplied with it, in fact almost every village, by Canadian traders residing amongst them: and they were confirmed in the opinion, that unless these traders could be restrained from furnishing them with this destructive article, in fact exchange for their skins and furs, they would not easily be persuaded to turn their minds towards agriculture and the useful arts. Notwithstanding which discouragement, the great affection they have for our Society, manifested on all occasions whilst the committee were amongst them, induced a hope, that our Friends would endeavour to keep under the weight of the concern; and be prepared to proceed in the benevolent work, whenever way might open for further service amongst them. There was not any communication between the committee and the Indians during the year 1800. In the spring of 1801, they addressed a letter to them, which was forwarded to Sandusky ; but the person to whose care it was directed, and who was requested to communicate it to their council in the Sixth Month, not being at home, it was returned to the committee. In the Sixth Month, 1802, the Little Turtle, Five Medals, and several other principal chiefs,

of the *Miami* and *Pottowattomi* nations of Indians, passed through Baltimore, on their way to visit the President of the United States; at which time the committee took the opportunity of holding a conference with them; in which the concern of Friends was fully opened; when they informed them, of the great discouragement Friends had met with, in carrying their views into effect, from the intemperate and destructive use of spirituous liquors amongst the Indians: which was found to be the greatest obstacle in the way of their profiting by the aid which Friends had been desirous of giving them.

This opened the way for a free communication, on the subject of the introduction of ardent spirits into their country; in which its baneful and pernicious effects were strongly pointed out. The Little Turtle, in reply, made a very pathetic and impressive speech upon this subject, from which the following is extracted.

“ Brothers and Friends,

“ When our forefathers first met on this island, your Red Brethren were very numerous. But since the introduction amongst us, of what you call spirituous liquors, and what we think may justly be called *Poison*, our numbers are greatly diminished. It has destroyed a great part of your Red Brethren.



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“ My Brothers and Friends,

“ We plainly perceive, that you see the very evil which destroys your Red Brethren. It is not an evil of our own making. We have not placed it amongst ourselves. It is an evil placed amongst us by the white people. We look to them to remove it out of our country. We tell them, Brethren, fetch us useful things; bring goods that will clothe us, our women, and our children; and not this evil liquor, that destroys our reason, that destroys our health, that destroys our lives. But all we can say on this subject, is of no service, nor gives relief to your Red Brethren.

“ My Brothers and Friends,

“ I rejoice to find, that you agree in opinion with us, and express an anxiety to be, if possible, of service to us, in removing this great evil out of our country: an evil which has had so-much room in it, and has destroyed so many of our lives, that it causes our young men to say, ‘ We had better be at war with the white people. This liquor, which they introduce into our country, is more to be feared than the gun and the tomahawk. There are more of us dead since the treaty of Greeneville, than we lost by the six years war before. It is all owing to the introduction of this liquor amongst us.’

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“ Brothers,

“ When our young men have been out hunting, and are returning home loaded with skins and furs ; on their way, if it happens that they come where some of this whiskey is deposited, the white man who sells it, tells them to take a little drink. Some of them will say No, I do not want it. They go on till they come to another house, where they find more of the same kind of drink. It is there offered again ; they refuse ; and again the third time ; but finally, the fourth or fifth time, one accepts of it, and takes a drink ; and getting one, he wants another ; and then a third, and fourth, till his senses have left him. After his reason comes back again to him ; when he gets up, and finds where he is, he asks for his peltry. The answer is, ‘ You have drunk them.’ ‘ Where is my gun ?’

‘ It is gone.’ ‘ Where is my blanket ?’ ‘ It is gone.’ ‘ Where is my shirt ?’ ‘ You have sold it for whiskey !!’ Now, Brothers, figure to yourselves what condition this man must be in. He has a family at home ; a wife and children, who stand in need of the profits of his hunting. What must be *their* wants, when he himself is even without a shirt !”

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These chiefs appeared to be much rejoiced at the assistance, Friends proposed to render them; and, in reply to that part of our communication, observed, "That it was their anxious wish, to engage in the culture of their lands; for although the game was not so scarce, but that they could get enough to eat; yet they were sensible it was daily diminishing, and that the time was not far distant, when they should be compelled to take hold of such tools, as they saw in the hands of the white people."

The committee, on a weighty consideration of the subject, being from their former experience united in judgment, that no great progress could be made in the civilization of the Indians, while they were so abundantly supplied with distilled spirits, concluded to address Congress on the subject. Their memorial was favourably received, and a law passed, which in some measure provided a remedy for the evil.

As it now appeared to the committee, that the principal obstruction to the introduction of agriculture amongst the Indians was removed, they felt themselves encouraged to proceed in their undertaking; and accordingly provided a considerable number of implements of husbandry; such as ploughs, hoes, axes, &c. which were for-



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warded to Fort-Wayne, where they were immediately distributed, as a present from the society of Friends, and thankfully received by the Indians.

A letter was received in the summer of 1803, from the agent for Indian affairs at Fort-Wayne, in which he says :—

“ Since there have been no spirituous liquors in the Indian country, they appear very industrious, and are fond of raising stock.” He also expressed, as his opinion, “ that the suppression of spirituous liquors in that country, is the most beneficial thing which has ever been done for them by the United States ; that there had not been one Indian killed in that neighbourhood for a year ; and that in no preceding year, since the treaty of Greeneville, had there been less than ten, and in some years, as many as thirty, killed.” The agent further added, “ that the Indians appeared to be very desirous of procuring for themselves the necessaries of life, *in our way* ; but say they do not know how to begin. Some of their old men say, ‘ The white people want for nothing. We wish them to shew us how to provide the many good things we see amongst them. If it is their wish to instruct us in their way of living, as they tell us it is, we wish

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them to make haste and do it, for we are old, and must die soon; but we wish to see our women and children in that path, that will lead them to happiness, before we die."

At the same time a letter was received from the Little Turtle and Five Medals, in which they expressed a wish, that some of the committee would visit their country; which being considered, the committee appointed a deputation for that purpose; who were authorized to take one or more suitable persons with them, to reside amongst the Indians, for the purpose of teaching them agriculture, and other useful knowledge; as far as such an establishment should appear practicable.

In the Second Month, 1804, two of the deputation proceeded to Fort-Wayne, accompanied by Philip Dennis; who had offered his services to go with them, to remain with the Indians during the summer; for the purpose of instructing them in husbandry; taking with him two horses to be employed in ploughing, &c.

They arrived at Fort-Wayne the last day of the Third Month, and soon after convened several of the principal chiefs; in a council with

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whom, a future day was fixed upon for the committee to meet them, together with as many of their old men, their young men, *and their women and children*, as could be assembled. The attendance of the latter was particularly requested by our deputation; and these chiefs having previously requested, that whatever matter Friends might have to communicate to the Indians should be written, in order that they might lay it before the Grand Council, in the Sixth Month following (to the attendance of which they very pressingly invited the committee), on the day appointed, the committee being met by a considerable number of the natives, the following written address was read and interpreted to them.

“ Brothers and Friends,

“ When we were together, eight days ago, with the Little Turtle and the Five Medals, the letter was read to them which has just been read. That letter, you observe, says, that we were appointed by the people called Quakers of Baltimore, to visit you, and to take you by the hand on their behalf, desiring that you would receive any communications from us, as coming immediately from them.



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“ Brothers,

“ After that letter was read, our hearts were filled with so much love for our Red Brethren, that, on looking over and considering the business upon which we had come, we felt a desire to see as many of you together as could be convened : and this day was then agreed upon, for us to meet you.

“ Brothers,

“ We believed, that the things we had to say, were of great importance to our Red Brethren ; and therefore it was, that we requested to see you together ; that you all might have an opportunity of hearing what we have to say.

“ Brothers,

“ Our hearts are filled with thankfulness to the Great Spirit, that he has brought us safely to the country of our Red Brethren, and protected us through our journey. We also rejoice that he has given us this opportunity of seeing you, and of taking you by the hand.

“ Brothers,

“ It is now a little more than two years since your brothers of Baltimore had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the Five Medals, the Little Turtle, Tuthinipee, and some other chiefs.

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They were glad of that opportunity of having a talk with them, and of enquiring after the situation of their Red Brethren.

“ Brothers,

“ We had for some time entertained apprehensions, that the many changes, which were taking place in circumstances, must greatly change the situation of our Red Brethren ; and that the time was fast approaching, in which it would be necessary for them to alter their mode of living.

“ Brothers,

“ After our talk with the chiefs whom we have just mentioned, we were fully convinced that the time was come, in which our Red Brethren ought to begin to cultivate their lands. That they ought to raise corn, and other grain, also horses, cows, sheep, hogs, and other animals. We then proposed to afford them some assistance. They appeared to be glad of the proposal, and informed us that many of their people were disposed to turn their attention to the cultivation of the earth. They also expressed a desire to be assisted by their brothers of Baltimore.



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“ Brothers,

“ Having been encouraged by the opportunity which we then had, we sent to the care of the agent for Indian affairs, some ploughs, harness for horses, axes, hoes, and other implements of husbandry, which were made for the use of our Red Brethren ; and desired that they might be distributed amongst them, as tokens of our friendship.

“ Brothers,

“ We received last fall, through the hands of the agent for Indian affairs, a talk from the Little Turtle, the Five Medals, and others, informing us that they had received the implements of husbandry ; and requesting that their brothers of Baltimore would send some of their people into the country of their Red Brethren ; for the purpose of seeing their situation, and shewing them how to make use of the tools : saying, they did not know how to begin.

“ Brothers,

“ It is for these purposes, that we have now come ; and we again repeat, that we rejoice we have this opportunity of seeing you, and of taking you by the hand.

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“ Brothers,

“ In coming into the country of our Red Brethren, we have come with our *eyes open*. And although we are affected with sorrow, in believing, that many of the red people suffer much, for the want of food, and for the want of clothing; yet our hearts have been made glad, in seeing, that it has pleased the Great Spirit, to give you a rich and valuable country. Because we know, that it is *out of the earth*, that food and clothing come. We are sure, brothers, that, with but little labour and attention, you may raise much more corn, and other grain, than will be necessary for yourselves, your women, and children; and may also, with great ease, raise many more horses, cows, sheep, hogs, and other valuable animals, than will be necessary for your own use. We are also confident, that if you will pursue our method, in the cultivation of your land, you will live in much greater ease and plenty, and with much less fatigue and toil, than attend hunting for a subsistence.

“ Brothers,

“ We are fully convinced, that if you will adopt our mode of cultivating the earth, and of raising useful animals, you will find it to be a mode of living not only far more plentiful and



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much less fatiguing; but also much more *certain*, and which will expose your bodies less, to the inclemencies of the weather, than *hunting*. It will lead you, brothers, to have fixed homes. You will build comfortable dwelling-houses for yourselves, your women, and children, where you may be sheltered from the rain, from the frost, and from the snow; and where you may enjoy in plenty the rewards of your labours.

“ Brothers,

“ In laying these things before you, we have no other motive, than a desire of heart for the improvement, the benefit, and the welfare of our Red Brethren; and therefore it is, that we speak with freedom; and we hope that what we have to say, will *go in at one ear, and not come out at the other*; but that it will be remembered by our Red Brethren. For we know, brothers, that we shall not be ashamed of what we say, when in time to come, you compare the things we are saying to you, with your experience in practising them.

“ Brothers,

“ We will here mention, that the time was, when the forefathers of your brothers, the white people, lived beyond the great water, in the same manner that our Red Brethren now live.

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The winters can yet be counted, when they went almost naked, when they procured their living by fishing, and by the bow and arrow in hunting; and when they lived in houses no better than yours. They were encouraged by some, who came from towards the sun-rising, and lived amongst them, to change their mode of living. They did change; they cultivated the earth; and we are sure the change was a happy one.

“ Brothers and Friends,

“ We are not ashamed to acknowledge, that the time was, when our forefathers rejoiced at finding a wild plum-tree, or at killing a little game, and that they wandered up and down, living on the uncertain supplies of fishing and hunting. But, brothers, for your encouragement, we now mention, that by turning their attention to the cultivation of the earth, instead of the plum-tree, they soon had orchards, of many kinds of good fruit; instead of the wild game, they soon had large numbers of cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, and of other valuable animals; and in many places, instead of their forests, they had large fields of corn and of other grain, as also of many other valuable productions of the earth.



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“ Brothers,

“ We hope your *eyes will be open*, to see clearly the things which are best for you ; and that you will desire to pursue them. We believe, brothers, that it is in the heart of your father, the President of the United States, to assist his Red children, in the cultivation of the earth ; and to render them services, which will be greatly for their benefit and welfare. We hope that your exertions to change your present mode of living, will be so *plain* to him, that he will *see them*. This will encourage him to continue to aid you, in your endeavours.

“ Brothers,

“ We have spoken plainly ; we desire to speak plain. We will now tell you, that we have not come merely to *talk* with you. We have come prepared to render you a little assistance. Our beloved brother, Philip Dennis, who is now present, has come along with us. His desire is to cultivate for you, a field of corn ; also to shew you how to raise some of the other productions of the earth. He knows how to use the plough, the hoe, the axe, and other implements of husbandry.

“ Brothers,

“ We will here ask you, Are you still desi-

## Transcription

Brothers,

We hope your eyes will be open, to see clearly the things which are best for you; and that you will desire to pursue them. We believe, brothers, that it is in the heart of your father, the President of the United States, to assist the Red children, in the cultivation of the earth; and to render them services, which will be greatly for their benefit and welfare. We hope that your exertions to change your present mode of living, will be so plain to him, that he will see them. This will encourage him to continue to aid you, in your endeavours. Brothers, We have spoken plainly; we desire to speak plain. We will now tell you, that we have not come merely to talk with you. We have come prepared to render you a little assistance. Our beloved brother, Philip Dennis, who is now present, has come along with us. His desire to cultivate for you, a field of corn; also to show you how to raise some of the other productions of the earth. He knows how to use the plough, the hoe, the axe, and other implements of husbandry. Brothers, We will here ask you, Are you still desi-



rous to be instructed by us, in the cultivation of your lands? If you say, you are; our brother, whom we have just mentioned, will continue with you, during the summer. We shall leave it to you, to shew him the spot where to begin to work.

“ Brothers,

“ He has left a farm; he has left a wife, and five small children, who are very dear to him; he has come from a sincere desire to be useful to our Red Brethren. His motives are pure; he will ask no reward from you, for his services; his greatest reward will be, in the satisfaction he will feel, in finding you inclined to take hold of the same tools which he takes hold of; to receive from him instruction in the cultivation of your lands, and to pursue the example he will set you.

“ Brothers,

“ We hope, you will make the situation of our brother as comfortable as circumstances will admit. We hope, also, that many of your young men will be willing to be taught by him, to use the plough, the hoe, and other implements of husbandry. For we are sure, brothers, that as you take hold of such tools, as are in the hands of the white people, you will find

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them to be to you, like having additional hands, You will also find, that by using them, they will enable you to do many things, which, without them, cannot be performed.

“ Brothers,

“ There is one thing more, which we wish to add. The white people, in order to get their land cultivated, find it necessary, that their young men should be employed in it, and not their women. Women are less than men. They are not as strong as men. They are not as able to endure fatigue and toil as men. It is the business of our women, to be employed in our houses, to keep them clean, to sew, knit, spin, and weave; to dress food for themselves and families; to make clothes for the men and the rest of their families, to keep the clothing of their families clean, and to take care of their children.

“ Brothers,

“ We desire not to mention too many things to you; but we must add a little further. We are fully convinced, that if you will turn your attention to the cultivation of the earth, to raising the different kinds of grain, to erecting mills for grinding grain, to building comfortable dwelling-houses for your families, to raising

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useful animals; amongst others, sheep, for the advantage of the wool, in making clothing; and to raising flax and hemp, for your linen; and if your young women learn to spin, and weave; that your lives will be much easier, and happier, than at present; and that your numbers will increase, and not continue to diminish. As we before observed, brothers, your land is good. It is far better than the land, the white people near the great water cultivate. We are persuaded, that your land will produce double the quantity of any kind of grain, or of flax, or hemp, with the same labour necessary near the great water.

“ Brothers and Friends,

“ We shall now end what we have to say, with informing you, that all the corn, and other productions of the earth, which Philip Dennis, may raise, we wish our Red Brethren to accept of, as a token of our friendship. And it is our desire that the chiefs of the *Pottowattomi* and *Miami* nations, who are now present, added to our brothers, the Five Medals, Tuthinipee, and Philip Dennis, make such a distribution thereof, as they may think proper.”

The Indians observed great decorum, and gave close attention during the delivery of this

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address. They respectfully manifested their approbation of the sentiments it contained, by reiterated exclamations of applause, and the most evident demonstrations of satisfaction. In reply, the Little Turtle delivered a speech on behalf of the council, from which the following is extracted.

“ Brothers and Friends,

“ We rejoice, that the Great Spirit has appointed that we should meet this day; for we believe, this meeting will be of the utmost consequence to your Red Brethren.

“ Brothers,

“ The things you have said to us, require our greatest attention: it is really necessary, that we should deliberate upon them. In order to do so, we must beg you to leave the paper, upon which they are written, that we may communicate them to our chiefs, when they assemble in Grand Council.

“ Brothers,

“ You have been very particular in pointing out to us, the duties of our women; and you have told us, that in adopting your mode of living, our numbers would increase, and not

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continue to diminish. In all this, I certainly agree with you, and I hope my brother chiefs will also agree with you.

“ Brothers,

“ Assure your people who sent you here, tell your old chiefs, that we are obliged to them, for their friendly offers to assist us, in changing our present mode of living. Tell them, it is a great work, that cannot be done immediately; but that we are that way disposed, and hope it will take place gradually.”

The committee remained several weeks amongst the Indians, during which time, they visited a number of their towns and villages, at all of which they were received in the most friendly and hospitable manner.

In the course of their journey, they passed by a settlement of the *Wyandots*, at Brown's Town, or the Rock. They found that the Indians at this place, had, since the visit made by Friends to their nation, in the year 1799, advanced considerably in agriculture: many of them having built comfortable houses, and acquired a considerable number of cattle, hogs, and other domestic animals. And they were informed from good authority, that the *Wyandots*, residing at Sandusky, as well as the *Shawanees*,

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on the Auglaize river, had also since that visit, turned their attention very much towards the cultivation of their lands. They had therefore the satisfaction to remark, that the communications from the committee to these nations; and the exertions which had been made, to turn their minds to agriculture; although we had not been in a situation to extend much assistance to them, had not been altogether unavailing.

They also visited the place fixed upon for the settlement of Philip Dennis, on the Wabash river, about forty miles south-west of Fort-Wayne; and found its situation to be very advantageous for farming; the soil appearing to be equal in fertility, to any land in the western country. To this place there are also two good mill-seats adjacent; one on the Wabash, which may be improved without injuring its navigation, and the other on a stream which falls into that river, about half a mile below

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George Ellicott and Gerard T. Hopkins, (who it appeared had been appointed to visit the Indians on behalf of the Society of Friends,) was produced, read, and interpreted to all the different nations present." In reply to which, divers of their chiefs expressed great satisfaction; and amongst others Toethteboxie, on behalf of the *Delawares*, said, "For many years before I came into the world, the white people have been offering to do for us, what is now mentioned; and it appears, that our *eyes were never opened*, until this time. We will now take hold of it, and receive it. I am an old man, and want to see it before I die. If I once see it, I shall die in peace, to think I have left my women and children in comfort."

On the return of the friend\*, who went out with the committee, and remained in the Indian country, during most of the year 1804, he reported that he spent the time agreeably with them; and was favoured to enjoy a good portion of health whilst there. He raised about 400 bushels of corn, besides a quantity of turnips, potatoes, cucumbers, water-melons, pumpkins, beans, parsnips, and other garden-vegetables; which he directed to be divided amongst the

[\* P. Dennis, probably.]

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Indians on their return from their hunting camps ; and left with the family of Indians, with whom he resided, upon the farm he had cultivated, 23 hogs and pigs, seven of which were in good order to kill, and he expected would weigh 1500 lb. These he engaged the agent to attend to the killing and salting of. They were small when brought to the farm in the spring, and had no other food than what they gathered in the woods.

With some assistance, which he obtained from Fort-Wayne, he cleared and enclosed under a substantial fence twenty acres of ground, and built a house, thirty-two feet long and seventeen feet wide, a story and a half high, with floors and partition.

He further reported that the Indians, who remained with him, were very industrious, and attended to his directions. The young women wished to work in preparing the ground and attending the corn. From this he dissuaded them; and as some spinning-wheels had just arrived at Fort-Wayne, which had been sent by Government, he encouraged them to go there, and learn to spin and knit, of a white woman who happened to be at that place. This they did, and soon learned both to spin and knit ; *and he*

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*left them knitting yarn of their own spinning, when he came away.*

He also reported, that a considerable number of *Eel-River* and *Weas* Indians were about to settle near the place he cultivated; and that previously to his departure, he was with several of their principal chiefs; who requested him to tell Friends, that they, and the Indians generally, were much obliged to them for the assistance they had given them; and hoped we would continue our friendship towards them, and that nothing might happen to discourage us.

All the Indians he was amongst, were very friendly; as was also the agent and other officers of the Government.

As it appeared that the Indians were very desirous of Friends continuing their care towards them; and sending a person to take the place of Philip Dennis. After weightily considering the subject, it was concluded to endeavour to procure a suitable friend for that purpose; but none offering to engage in the service, and the committee taking into consideration the low state of their funds, and the advanced season of

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the year; together with the dissatisfied and unsettled situation of the Indians at that time, on account of a sale of land made by some of the tribes to the United States\*; thought it might, for the present season, be best to write to the agent, and request him, to procure for us, the most suitable character in his power; who, under his direction, should plough the land which Philip Dennis cultivated the last season, and plant it with corn: in the performance of which it was hoped he would be assisted by the Indians. We also observed, that after their corn was planted, we were willing to believe *they* would be able to manage it themselves. Should a second ploughing however be necessary, we directed this also to be done. This person was also desired to prepare for them a garden of the most useful vegetables, which *they* might afterwards easily manage.

The committee have since received his answer to this letter, in which he says, he will lose no time in complying with their request, and that he will at all times be ready to put the benevolent concern of Friends, towards the Indians, in execution. He also says, that at this time, a spirit of industry exists among the Indians generally; and that, as several of the tribes, had requested of Government, to have a part

\* The uneasiness, which this circumstance occasioned amongst the Indians, has since been entirely removed.

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of their annuities expended in the employment of men, to split rails, and make fences for them, the *Delawares* had twenty-three thousand rails put up into fences, the last winter; and that forty thousand more would be made into fences for the *Miami* and *Eel-River* Indians, by the first of the Sixth Month. He adds, that ten families of the *Miami* have settled adjoining the place cultivated by Philip Dennis; and that four men were employed in making rails to fence in forty acres for them; also, that three persons more were at work for the *Eel-River* Indians, half a mile below Dennis's station; that they had twenty-five acres cleared and ready for the plough, and he expected would have fifty or sixty acres fenced in by the first of the Sixth Month. He further adds, that he expects at least twenty-five families of Indians will remove to reside at that place the present season, and he is confident the settlement will increase very fast. The Indian who worked during the last season with Philip Dennis was about building himself a comfortable house, had cleared two acres more of ground, and was ploughing the field previously cleared by Philip Dennis. The hogs which were left there with him, had increased to one hundred in number.

The agent further says, that there would be

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one hundred acres of land under good fence, at the Little Turtle's Town (eighteen miles north of Dennis's station), by the first of the Sixth Month; where they had also obtained a large number of hogs, and some cows; and he doubts not, but that the Indians will soon see, that it is easier to *raise* food, than to procure it by hunting; and adds, Friends may see, from the great progress they have made in civilization, since Philip Dennis was with them, that they only want good and suitable men to reside amongst them, and teach them how to work.

Notwithstanding there are several other nations, who appear desirous of the assistance and care of Friends; yet from the limited state of our funds, we have heretofore been under the necessity of confining our aid, principally, to the *Miami, Eel-River, and Weas* Indians.

It will be perceived, that during several years of the first labours of the committee, but little progress was made. This may be attributed, in a great measure, to the pernicious effects of ardent spirits amongst them. As soon as the introduction of this great evil into their country was restrained, there was an immediate improvement discoverable; and an almost universal disposition seemed to pervade them, to aban-

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don their former habits of living, and turn to the cultivation of their lands. Their progress in civilization has, since then, been much more rapid, than the most sanguine could have expected; and on comparing the condition of these Indian tribes, at the time the last deputation from our committee visited them, with their present situation, we are of opinion, that there is great cause of encouragement for Friends to persevere in the benevolent work they have undertaken; and strong ground to hope, that our labours will, in the end, be crowned with the desired success.

When we reflect on the gradual, but continued decrease of these people, from the time the Europeans first visited this continent, until the present; and the many whole tribes, of which not any trace now remains, except their *names*; there is every reason to believe, that should the Indians continue to pursue their former mode of life, a few centuries more, many other whole nations of them will become entirely extinct.

Impressed with this melancholy consideration, it must be a prospect truly gladdening to the enlightened Christian mind, to survey the hastening of that day, when this part of the human fa-

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don their former habits of living, and y<sup>t</sup>f turn to the cultivation of their lands. Their progress in civilization y<sup>t</sup>f has, since then, been much more rapid, than the most sanguine could have y<sup>t</sup>f expected; and on comparing the condition of these Indian tribes, at they<sup>t</sup>f time the last deputation from our committee visited them, with they<sup>t</sup>f present situation, we are of opinion, that there is great cause of y<sup>t</sup>f encouragement for Friends to persevere in the benevolent work they have y<sup>t</sup>f undertaken; and strong ground to hope, that our labours will, in they<sup>t</sup>f end, be crowned with the desired success. y<sup>t</sup>f When we reflect on the gradual, but continued decrease of these people, y<sup>t</sup>f from the time the Europeans first visited this continent, until they<sup>t</sup>f present; and the many whole tribes, of which not any trace now remains, y<sup>t</sup>f except their names; there is every reason to believe, that should they<sup>t</sup>f Indians continue to pursue their former mode of life, a few centuries y<sup>t</sup>f more, many other whole nations of them will become entirely extinct. y<sup>t</sup>f Impressed with this melancholy consideration, it must be a prospect truly y<sup>t</sup>f gladdening to the enlightened Christian mind, to survey they<sup>t</sup>f hastening of that day, when this part of the human fa-

mily, weaned from savage habits, and allured by the superior advantages of civil life, shall exchange the tomahawk and scalping knife for the *plough* and the *hoe*; and instead of ranging the forests in seeming affinity to the wild beasts of the desert, shall peacefully and rationally enjoy the productions of the *fruitful field*!—Nor is this all. Added to the cultivation of the earth, the first step in the view of the committee, towards many other important *temporal* advantages, to be derived to this people from civil life; may not the promotion of this concern, which has thus far evidently prospered, *prepare for*, and prove *the means* under the DIVINE BLESSING, through which, may finally spread and prevail amongst these, our fellow-men, that LIGHT and KNOWLEDGE, which so eminently distinguish the true CHRISTIAN?

Baltimore, Eleventh Mo. 1805.

## Transcription

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## P O S T S C R I P T.

SINCE this narrative was prepared for publication, a letter has been received from the agent at Fort-Wayne, dated the 5th of the Tenth Month, 1805, in which he says,

“ Agreeably to the directions of the committee, I have employed a man to assist the Indians in cultivating the field on the Wabash, which was cleared and cultivated by Philip Dennis last year. The Indians with this man’s assistance have raised, it is supposed, at least six hundred bushels of good corn from this one field, exclusive of what they have raised from ground of their own clearing.

“ Many of the oldest of the *Eel-River* and *Weas* Indians have removed and settled at that place, where they will be followed by the younger branches of their tribes in the ensuing spring.”

He adds, “ Believing as I do, that the Society of Friends are desirous of a meliorating the situation of their Red Brethren in this country, I will

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take the liberty to observe, that the present is a very favourable time, to put in execution their benevolent views, towards the distressed natives of this land; and that much good may be done on the Wabash, by sending one or two suitable men to reside amongst the Indians, and teach them how to raise stock, and cultivate the earth. Witness what Philip Dennis effected amongst them the last year. At a station where he had every thing to begin, there are now at least four hundred hogs and twenty cows; and the Indians at no village in this country live so comfortably, as those at that place. If this spirit of industry is kept alive for a few years, it will certainly have a powerful influence upon the minds of the Indians at many of the neighbouring villages. The Indians have lately concluded a treaty with the United States, which has settled all their jarring interests."

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