

ON CIVILIZATION OF INDIANS.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

FROM

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DECEMBER 9, 1828.—Read, and laid upon the table.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

8th December, 1828.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a supplemental report from the officer in charge of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, on Indian civilization, and explanatory of the state of the annual appropriation by the Congress for the promotion of that object.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. B. PORTER.

To the Hon. the SPEAKER
of the House of Representatives U. S.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

Office Indian Affairs, Nov. 28, 1828.

SIR: I confined myself, in my annual report of the 1st inst. (to which I design this as a supplement,) in reference to so much of it as regarded the civilization of Indians, to a bare reference to the abstract which accompanied that report. I did so because so few returns had come in, as to leave me without the means to do more; and these could not be waited for, since the report was required to be sent in "on or before the first instant." Since the date of that report, returns have been received from the superintendents of schools, which show an increase of fifty-eight pupils over the returns of last year.*

While upon this branch of the subject, I cannot, in justice to the talented and meritorious superintendent of the Dwight station, in Arkansas, withhold an extract of his letter of the 1st ultimo from the public. It accompanies this supplement, and is marked A. It speaks for itself. I have another object in sending in this letter, besides that of exhibiting the progress of education. It is that which relates to the state of feeling among the Cherokees in Arkansas, in regard to their removal under the recent treaty; and to the hopes which are cherished, and the prospects which open to them under the system of education, after they shall have arrived in their own country. No one can look upon the present condition of these Indians, or that of any others who are seeking to improve themselves, without seeing, at once, how greatly multiplied will be

* Number, last year, 1291; this year, 1349.

their facilities, and unembarrassed their progress in improvement, after they shall have freed themselves from the harassing effects of a near connexion with State or Territorial limits, and from a confinement within the jurisdictional lines of either. Experience confirms, that, in the one case, they must perish; and the surest ground of hope may be assumed, that, with proper care and culture, they will live and flourish in the other. In this new relation, the Cherokees of Arkansa now stand. They deserve to prosper, as the pioneers in this essential work of division and separation from the whites; and it is gratifying to see that their own good sense is operating to quiet those restless spirits, who may be expected to work in opposition, for a time at least, to any work, no matter how good it may be, that is proposed for their welfare. It is hoped, since the country secured to the Cherokees of Arkansas is so fine, so fertile, and so extensive, that they may be followed by their brothers who yet remain east of the Mississippi. It would be to question their intelligence to suppose they will prefer a contest with individual and State opposition, and to linger out an oppressed existence, under an action so severe as is that which threatens them, to a peaceful acceptance of the terms which they could command as the condition of removal, and of a country so fertile, and healthful, and unembarrassed, as is that west of Arkansas, and which is now emphatically their own, and will be forever. To such, however, as may prefer to remain, suitable provisions, in lands and otherwise, I respectfully suggest, ought to be made; and to them the privileges and immunities of citizens of the Republic ought to be extended.

By my commission, among other responsibilities, "*the administration of the fund for the civilization of the Indians is also committed to my charge, under the regulations of the Department.*"

The accompanying abstract B exhibits the state of this fund, commencing with January 1, 1827, to the present time, inclusive; and shows that \$12,335, 06 will be applicable to the purpose of civilization for the year 1829; an excess over the annual appropriation of \$10,000, of \$2,335 06.

I will now explain why a less sum in 1827 and 1828 was made applicable to the object contemplated by the act of Congress, than the sum appropriated. It was some time after the act passed, making the annual appropriation of \$10,000 for the civilization of Indians, before a system was matured, and persons ready to act under it, and carry the same into effect: meanwhile, the fund accumulated. The allotments were made in the first years upon the basis of the increase, and embraced under the regulations the cost, in part, of erecting buildings, &c. It became necessary, in 1827, to reduce the previous allotments, since, if these had been continued, there would have been an excess of drafts upon the fund in 1827, of upwards of \$3,000. To provide against this, the basis was reduced, from what it had stood at before, to 7,150 dollars. This having been continued for two years, will, after meeting all the demands upon the fund, leave for the year 1829, a surplus of \$2,335 06, as stated.

It is proposed to increase the allowance to the schools for 1829, by bringing it up from 7,150 dollars, to the 10,000 dollars, and under a suitable apportionment among the establishments, and their keeping it, leaving the \$2,335 06 as a fund to aid, if it shall turn out to be necessary, in promoting the object of the Congress, in the support of additional schools, or, when necessity may require it, in meeting the wants of those now in operation.

In regard to this provision of the Congress, it may be needless to state, that, aided so liberally as it has been by individuals, and associated bodies of citizens—the latter representing nearly every denomination of Christians in the nation—the results have been such as to demonstrate the entire practicability of civilizing the Indians, and elevating their character. Many have been saved by this benevolent system, and now stand redeemed from the darkness of the aboriginal state, rejoicing in the blessings of their improved and civilized condition. But the wisest and best among those who have gone forth to the help of these people, see, that, whilst benefits are experienced by them upon the one hand, serious evils are let in upon the other. Foremost in the train of these evils is that which attends the enlightened Indian on his return from those nurseries of humanity. Before he went there, the wilderness was his home, and he felt it was comfortable. Storm, and tempest, and hunger, were his companions. They were familiar, and in some sort necessary to his happiness. Even the last gave exertion to his efforts, and, in the chase, life to his hopes. But, returned from school, and from the domestic circle, and from the comforts he had there enjoyed, in his apparel, his regular meals, and sleep; in the security from want, and from the elements—but chief, in the well ordered society of the mission-house, and the parental kindness of those guardians whom he had found there, to all which he has now become attached, as well as to the habits which he had adopted—he feels a solitary! All around him is desolation! He sees no longer a beauty in the storm, and its muttering has ceased to be music to him. The wigwam to which he has returned presents none of the cleanliness of the mission-house: he sees no order there; the food is unsavory; and the winds feel cold to him. He looks round for the family circle, but it is not there; and at evening hour he hears not the summons, “*Let us worship God.*” He thinks how happy he *has* been; and feels how miserable he *now* is! Where is the remedy? He determines to build him a cottage, and to take for his model the mission-house. But the thought crosses his mind, he has no means! He becomes desponding; and the only relief is to turn Indian again; and too often, by his improved intelligence, he becomes the oppressor of his less cultivated brothers.

The remedy for this evil, and which is the fruitful source of many others, is, I respectfully suggest, to provide a *home* for every educated Indian child, and under such circumstances as would continue to it the relish for the enjoyments of its more cultivated state. I recommend this, and that these homes be provided for the southern and western Indians in the country west of the Mississippi, and within the limits that may be chosen by them for their country. Three of the four southern tribes have now a fine, and fertile, and extensive region, west of Arkansas, and north of Missouri; and one great inducement to general emigration in the older Indians, would be to follow, and be with their enlightened offspring. In addition to this prompting of nature, those educated youths could, and no doubt would, make exertions to draw their parents and friends after them. A double benefit would thus result, under such a system, from the education of Indian children. They would, in the first place, be intellectually and morally blessed in the wide difference that exists between the savage and civilized and Christian state; and be the great instruments of withdrawing their families and friends from the increasing excitements, and that certain destruction, which, it is to be

feared, (should they linger much longer in the States,) awaits them; and to where they may be at least comparatively happy, and live out their days in some peace.

Should this view of the subject be considered favorable, especially to the last object, viz. the gradual withdrawal of Indians from the States, the fund should be increased, and as many children taken to the schools as could be induced to enter; always upon the condition, that, after they had passed through the course of education suited to them, they should accept of the proposed provision in the west, and go there. Means should be adopted, also, to enlarge the system of education among the emigrants. Their readiness to embrace it may be inferred from the statement of the Rev. Mr. Washburn, (and which applies to various others,) in the extract heretofore referred to.

The experiment which has been made in regard to the cultivation of Indians, intellectually and morally, justifies the conclusion that it is entirely practicable. Of this, there remains not a vestige of doubt; at least in the minds of those who have familiarized themselves with the subject. It now remains to make this great work subservient to all the benevolent ends which it appears to be calculated to ensure; and among these is the bearing which it may be made to have on emigration.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. L. McKENNEY.

The Hon. P. B. PORTER,
Secretary of War.

(A.)

DWIGHT, October 1st, 1828.

Hon. P. B. PORTER,
Secretary of War Department, Washington:

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit the eighth report of the school for Indian children, established at this place. We have had the pleasure, during the year, of prosecuting our interesting and important labors, for the improvement of this long neglected people, with increasing hope of their ultimate success. Every department of the mission has prospered. The school at this place has consisted on an average of fifty-five pupils; though more than sixty different scholars have been on the list, in the course of the year. The improvement has, as usual, been good in every branch of both the male and female divisions of the school. About one-third of the boys are good readers, good writers, competent grammarians, very accurate in a minute and general knowledge of geography, and have proceeded understandingly through a good system of common arithmetic. One, in addition to the above acquirements, has obtained a good practical and theoretic knowledge of geometry, trigonometry, and surveying. Another is very successfully prosecuting the study of this science. The two last have also paid considerable attention to the projection and drawing of maps. All the other classes have made very gratifying progress, considering their age and the time they have been in school. About one third of the females have advanced as far in those branches, which it has been thought would be useful, as the first third in the boys' school; and have attended to other branches which are more ap-

propriate to their sex. The other classes in the female school are about upon a par with the same classes in the boys' school. I send you herewith a map, wholly executed by one of the boys; a few cases of trigonometry, solved with the diagrams drawn (with a pen) by another boy; and two specimens of needle work, wrought by two of the girls.* The labors of the boys in various branches of husbandry, and of the girls in needle-work, knitting, carding, and spinning, have not only evinced a gratifying improvement in all these arts, and tended to the establishment of habits of useful industry, but have been a source of considerable profit to the mission. Last December it was proposed to value, at a very low rate, all the new garments which might be made by the girls, and to appropriate the sum to the increase of their Sunday school library.^a The amount of such labors, at the end of three months, is \$28 25. These labors were wholly performed in the mornings and evenings, before and after school, and were not half the labors performed by the girls in the time.

The Cherokee youth who was reported, two years ago, as pursuing a course of medical studies, has continued those pursuits. His improvement has been commendable. He has just left us for the purpose of attending a course of medical lectures in the college at Cincinnati, Ohio. He gives increasingly fair promise of becoming a reputable and useful practitioner of medicine.

On the whole, we think no persons can fully know the improvements made by these pupils, in both divisions of the school, without discovering sufficient ground to hope, that, at no distant day, these natives of our forest, so long neglected, and so deeply degraded, are destined to come up to a full equality with their white brethren.

Some time in the Summer of 1827, the people settled upon the Mulberry river made a pressing application to us for the establishment of a school in their neighborhood. They proposed to erect, at their own expense, the necessary buildings, to board all the pupils, and to furnish bread and meat for the teacher's family. This application was made on the ground that the school here was full, and that their children could not otherwise enjoy the advantages of education. Such an application evinced so high an appreciation of the blessings of education, and so much of a disposition to help themselves, that we could not be deaf to it, notwithstanding the additional expense which would fall upon our already straitened resources. The mission voted to comply with the request. In accordance with this vote, Dr. Weed, who had for nearly three years been a member of this mission, removed to the Union Mission, among the Osages; and Doctor Palmer, who is also a licensed preacher of the Gospel, and who had been a member of that mission from its commencement, removed to the Mulberry settlement, to take charge of the new school. He arrived some time in February last, and found the buildings nearly completed. Early in March, the school was commenced, and soon contained between thirty and forty pupils. Doctor Palmer has continued to instruct the school, preach the gospel in that neighborhood, and attend to medical practice there and in other parts of the nation. The average number of scholars has been thirty. All these have made satisfactory improvement in every branch embraced in the system of instruction. His labors, as an evan-

* Now in the office of Indian Affairs. T. L. McK.

gelist, have been of an interesting character. He has preached to full and attentive congregations. The truths of the Gospel have produced visible effect, in restraining vice, and leading to the practice of general morality. It is also hoped that these labors have made impressions which may result in the salvation of some of this heathen people.

The persevering attachment manifested by the people to the school, their readiness to contribute towards the support of the teacher's family, the cheerfulness with which they have continued to board their scholars, their punctuality in keeping their children in the school, and their serious regard to moral and religious instruction, give the most satisfying proof that they place a high value upon the privileges they enjoy, and inspire the hope that this school will confer important and lasting benefit upon them, and that it will have an important influence in causing this portion of the Cherokees to become a civilized and enlightened people. The additional expense to the mission, arising from the establishment of this school, has been not far from \$600, including the expenses of removing Doctors Palmer and Weed, the outfit of Dr. Palmer's family, and books and stationery for the school.

Application was also made to us, last year, for the establishment of another local school, in a neighborhood called Crossland's settlement. The people proposed to do the same, towards the support of the school, as in Mulberry district. To this proposition the mission acceded; and Mr. Samuel Newton, who had been attached to the Harmony mission among the Osages, then living with his family in Missouri, removed to Dwight in March last, with a view of taking charge of the school in Crossland's neighborhood. At that time, it was expected the school would go into operation in July. The convention which was entered into by a delegation of Cherokee chiefs at Washington, last May, has, however, frustrated the design for the present. We hope, when the natives shall become settled in their new country, that this school also will be established. The mission have expended nearly 600 dollars on account of this school.

During the year, the mission has continued and extended efforts to promulgate the pure principles of Christianity. Stated preaching has been kept up in a greater number of places and at more frequent periods. The congregations have always been attentive, and the number who attend has been gratifying. The effect of these labors has been to increase the desire for these instructions, to imbue the minds of the hearers with Christian knowledge, to reform the moral conduct, and we hope to make impressions which will eventuate in the eternal welfare of immortal souls.

From the facts above detailed, it will appear that the efforts which have been made for the improvement of this portion of our American aborigines, have not been without important results; and that, among these results, it is not the least important that the natives are led to place a high value upon education, to desire its general diffusion among them, and to exert themselves for the maintenance of schools. These results, connected with the belief that this part of the Cherokees were settled where the cupidity of our own people would not be likely to disturb them, presented to our minds the cheering prospect that they would soon exhibit to the view of the philanthropist a most interesting spectacle—that of a people reclaimed from ignorance, barbarity, and vice, and elevated to intelligence, refinement, and virtue, and surrounded with the comforts and elegancies of the useful and liberal arts. We soon expected to see their country, which was lately a

wilderness, covered with fruitful fields, surrounding comfortable and convenient habitations and store-houses, and here and there decorated with edifices for literary and scientific improvement, and temples for the worship of the great and beneficent Father of all the kindreds of the earth. Such, sir, were our expectations, when we received intelligence, that, by a new convention, entered into by a delegation of the Chiefs and the late Secretary of War, these poor people must again relinquish their homes, their improvements, and, for a time, their privileges, and seek a new residence in the wilderness. We were disappointed, and our feelings greatly agitated, when we first received this information; but, when we became fully acquainted with the provisions of the new compact, it not only diminished our fears and regrets, but led us to feel, that, ultimately, it would be better for the Cherokees than even a permanent possession here. Their removal, as stipulated by the compact, beyond the limits of any of the States and Territories of the Union, and the solemn guaranty of the Government, that the lines of a State or Territory shall never be drawn around them, nor white settlements be formed to the west of them, are circumstances of immense importance to them. The pecuniary considerations of the convention are liberal, and if all could be appropriated wisely, would tend very greatly to their improvement. The character of the new country assigned to them, with which we have made ourselves pretty well acquainted, is, in many respects, very advantageous. The removal and permanent location of the western territorial line causes all the navigable waters west of that line to be wholly in an Indian country. This circumstance furnishes an important facility to the Government and their agents, for restraining, if not wholly preventing, the unlawful commerce in ardent spirits. This evil, which has been so destructive to the Indians, we hope now will be almost wholly done away.

The influence of the new convention must unavoidably interfere, for a time, with the efforts we are making for the improvement of the Indians. Their removal necessarily suspends their agricultural improvements, and throws them into an unsettled and confused state, and turns away their minds, in a great measure, from attention to the Gospel. The schools, also, must for a season be suspended, though we are instructed, by our patrons, to keep up the boarding-school here, until preparations can be made for a new school in the country, to which the Indians are to remove. We hope, and think we have good reason to believe, that all these evils will be temporary; and that, when the people shall be settled in their new homes, they will still be desirous for schools, civilization, and general improvement.

I believe it is the general opinion of the Cherokees, and of all the most enlightened and deliberate, that the ultimate influence of the convention will be favorable to the interests of the nation. This is the case with many who are dissatisfied with the delegation who negotiated it. This dissatisfaction, I think, also, is greatly subsiding. When the line shall be run, and the new country ready for their removal to it, I think almost all will remove in orderly and peaceable manner. It is true that a few have placed themselves in opposition to the new treaty, and have, as I am informed, remonstrated against it; but these are the most unenlightened part of the nation, and have very little influence. Doubtless all these will yet yield to better counsels; and, before the time that they are allowed the jurisdiction of this country is expired, will be induced to remove with their more discreet and intelligent brethren.

We have always stood aloof from all interference with the politics of the nation, only in so far as efforts to inculcate correct principles has indirectly led them to a correct and enlightened policy. In the present case, as far as prudence would permit, we have labored to convince them of the advantages of the compact, and to induce them to avail themselves of these advantages, by a peaceable relinquishment of the lands here, and an orderly and systematic removal to those assigned to them. These efforts have not been without effect.

The number of scholars in a course of education, connected with this institution and the Mulberry school, is eighty-five. This is the number by which our proportion of the annual allowance from Government should be ascertained.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,
Your obedient servant,
CEPHAS WASHBURN.

(B.)

Statement of the Civilization Fund.

Balance remaining, January 1st, 1827,	-	-	-	\$ 1,772 06
Annual appropriation,	-	-	-	10,000 00
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Amount applicable to 1827,	-	-	-	11,772 06
Amount drawn,	-	-	-	10,425 00
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Balance remaining, January 1st, 1828,	-	-	-	1,347 06
Annual appropriation,	-	-	-	10,000 00
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Amount applicable to 1828,	-	-	-	11,347 06
Amount drawn to this time,	-	-	-	7,150 00
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Balance,	-	-	-	4,297 06
Amount of allowances remaining to be paid for this year,	-	-	-	
(1828,) deducted,	-	-	-	1,962 00
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Balance that will remain on hand after paying all the demands of the year,	-	-	-	2,335 06
Annual appropriation, added,	-	-	-	10,000 00
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Will give this sum, applicable to the year 1829,	-	-	-	12,335 06
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THOS. L. MCKENNEY.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

Office Indian Affairs, November 20th, 1828.