

servations is shown by the following extract from a letter addressed to a friend in this country, by Francis Hesh-ton-a-quet, an Indian chief residing near the Lake St. Clair, who was not long since ensnared into a visit to this country, where himself and his companions were subjected to much suffering: three of the party died, but the chief and his two surviving companions were enabled to return, by the assistance of our Government, in conjunction with a subscription raised in their favour, to which many Friends contributed.

The latter part of the letter is particularly interesting, as bearing on the state of those Indians who are removed by the government of the United States to the west of the Mississippi.

Lake St. Clair, Oct. 10, 1837.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

* * WE were very happy in the reception of your words, and it cheered our drooping spirits when we remembered that our father thought of us still. We still keep hold of your words, and request that you will still continue to show us favour and kindness. We request that you will never be weary in doing us good. My father, while I was absent from home, my people did not follow wisdom; but since my return we are endeavouring to conform ourselves to its dictates. And now our main dependence is upon yourself; there is not another to whom we look with the same confidence of receiving assistance. Would you not be rejoiced to see your children observing the dictates of wisdom? I listen not to those who say everything; but their words pass through my ears without remaining, like a ball passing through anything; but your words enter my ears and remain there for my consideration. I now feel that I am brought out of darkness and have light all around. We are very happy in the reception of your words, and wish to listen to what you say, and remain in our place; but what would become of us should we listen to your young men, for they make us afraid? We fear they will remove us from our reservations: you told us to hold fast our land, and we wish to do so. You have the key of the door, and we wish you to tell us what we must do. Sometimes, you know, when children are small, it requires much patience and perseverance; although they hear you, they cannot always perform what is required, and we wish you to deal with us as children. We feel much troubled since learning that the land at River Credid, St. Clair, and other places, is to be taken from us; we were told that we have no title to the land. We must be very miserable if removed from our pleasant places of abode. There are no other places so suitable for us as these we at present occupy, where we have such facilities for raising cattle, planting, &c.

We feel hurt at the removal of our council-fire, which it was covenanted should remain at Malden, where we were always to receive the bounty of our great father, (the King of England.) Sometimes we receive our presents in one place, and sometimes in another; the council-fire is now at the Marrisoolen Island; we would be much rejoiced could the fire be always in some central place, for us who live in the vicinity of St. Clair. * * *

I send you this letter now I am just returned from a visit to the regions beyond the Mississippi, where the Indians are sent to that go from the settled parts of the country. I explored the region between the settled