

that from the sincerity of their hearts our people do not wish to accept, and it would be heart-rending for us and our people to be induced to do so, contrary to our views and feelings. Father, we have been repeatedly assured by all the presidents, and even by your predecessor, that the right of choice should be left entirely free; that we may go or stay as we choose.

"We believe our new father will follow the steps of the wise and good presidents who have gone before. We suppose that the people have elected a good and philanthropic man for their chief magistrate. We therefore hope sincerely, that you will suffer no improper means to be used for seducing our people to acquiesce in the proposition made by our agent. Father, permit us now, in closing this letter, to commend your health and soundness of spirit to the care of the Great Spirit of heaven.

"Done in general council of the Six Nations, on Buffalo Creek Reservation, this 2nd day of October, 1837."

In closing the report of their visit the sub-committee express themselves in the following terms, viz. "From what we have seen and heard during this visit, we are decidedly of the sentiment that the preservation of these people from total extinction depends on their retaining possession of the land they now have. The offers which are said to be made to them in the west, however flattering in appearance, present to our minds a very dreary prospect. They are probably less fitted for removal to the wilds of the west than they were when Friends commenced their labours amongst them. They have acquired too many of the wants and too few of the habits of civilized life to be removed, without the most disastrous consequences, to an uncultivated wilderness. It appears to us, that our duty is a plain one; that we ought to exercise such influence as we possess to induce them to hold fast their present possessions; to improve themselves and their land as rapidly as possible, and to become not only a civilized but a Christian community. If they should be induced to accede to the flattering offers, which are so industriously presented to their view, a few more fleeting years will probably join their name and memory with those which are no longer known, except on the historian's page."

In a communication subsequently addressed by this committee to the Indians, we endeavoured to impress them with the importance of making greater efforts to improve their lands, and to acquire school-learning for their children; holding up to their view as intimately connected with their future welfare and prosperity, the division and tenure of their lands in severalty; and a total abstinence from the use of ardent spirits.

Notwithstanding the voice of the nation had been so repeatedly and decidedly expressed, adverse to the cession and sale of the reservations, yet in the early part of the present year another commissioner came among them, empowered by the Government to negotiate a treaty for those objects. A council was called at Buffalo, and through the artifices and bribery of persons interested in obtaining a sale of their lands, a pretended treaty was unjustly forced upon them; and though agreed to by only a small minority of the chiefs, while the remonstrance against it was signed by a much larger number, the commissioner persisted in considering it as a valid contract. In the 2nd month, the committee received the following communication from the Indians relative to this affecting subject, signed by fifteen chiefs and others:—

has
who
desc