

before we attempted to communicate any particular advice in regard to their present condition, or future decisions. In pursuance of this conclusion, two members of the committee left Philadelphia on the 30th of the 10th, and arrived at Tunessassah on the 8th of the following month.

During the time they remained among the Indians, they took the opportunity of visiting as many of their habitations, and conversing with such of the most intelligent people, as they conveniently could. They found some of the farms in the neighbourhood of Old Town in pretty good condition, but others exhibited evidence of neglect. This is no doubt owing in part to those habits of indolence which always prevail among people who are but partially civilized, and in part, to the increasing efforts which are used to procure their removal.

The land moreover is not held in severalty, and those who occupy and improve any particular part, do not thereby acquire a permanent right to the soil; they hold by possession only, and are liable to be dispossessed in case the chiefs should form a treaty of cession. Hence they have less encouragement to make permanent improvements, than they would have if their titles were such as are usual with us. It was observable that the Indians were kept in a very unsettled condition by the attempts which were made to prevail on their chiefs, by the offers of bribes, to agree to a sale of the reservation, and the fact of bribes being offered for this purpose was confirmed from several quarters. All with whom the Friends conversed on the subject, were exceedingly anxious to remain where they were; several of them showing by tears as well as words, the keenness of their sensibility to the dangers and sufferings that await them, in case they should be deprived of their present possessions.

In a council held at Cold Spring a few days after their arrival, the chiefs gave our friends a detail of the proceedings which took place some time before, at Buffalo. They met there in consequence of the exertions of Schermerhorn, to procure their removal from the state. The delegation which he had taken to the west were not sent by the nation, they disapproving of the measure; and it was agreed at the council to pay no attention to the report of those who went, in case they should be in favour of a removal; that they would not sell the land, but would adhere to their old treaty, by virtue of which, they were to retain their present possessions and remain at peace with the people of the United States, as long as the sun rose and the waters flowed.

The chiefs had just come to this conclusion when an agent returned there from Washington, professing to have a message to them from the president and secretary of war.

The purport of this was to communicate to them certain offers which they deemed liberal, made to them by the government, on condition of their agreeing to remove to the west. After deliberating on these proposals the chiefs agreed to reject them; and the following remonstrance, addressed to the president of the United States, was agreed upon, and signed by seventy chiefs and attested by six respectable white men.

*"To the President of the United States.*

"We, the undersigned sachems, chiefs, and chief warriors of the Six Nations, assembled in council at the council-house at Buffalo Creek Reservation, in the State of New York, present the following communication for the purpose of saying to our father the president—that J. F. Scher-