

learning; and to afford them such advice and assistance as their peculiar situation or local difficulties might render necessary.

"These establishments were maintained for many years with little interruption, and one of them still exists near the Allegheny reservation, wholly at the expense and under the management of the religious Society of Friends.

"In the intercourse with the general government, to which this work of charity has given rise, the committee has had the satisfaction to receive the countenance and approval of the presidents who successively filled that high office, as well as to believe that its exertions have tended to increase the happiness of our Indian brethren, and to strengthen their friendly relation with the whites.

"At the period when the committee commenced its labours, scarcely a trace of civilization was discernible among the Aborigines. From the erratic and uncertain pursuits of the chase, they gleaned a scanty and hard-earned subsistence; often pinched with hunger, and miserably clad, while a rude and comfortless cabin formed their only and inadequate shelter from the violence of the elements, and the vicissitudes of the seasons.

"Without yielding to the discouragements which naturally grew out of this state of things, the committee has persevered in its efforts to the present period, cheered by the favourable change which has been silently and gradually wrought, until the aspect of domestic affairs among the nation, presents a striking contrast to their once forlorn and comfortless situation.

"Many of them are living on well-inclosed farms, stocked with horses, cattle, hogs, &c., from the cultivation of which they derive their support; and have erected and occupy substantial houses, respectably furnished, and kept in decent order.

"As the comforts of his home increased, his attachment to it increased also; the propensity for wandering, and the love of the chase, gradually gave way to new and more powerful affections, and the red man learned to cling closer and closer to the enjoyments of his fire-side. To cherish this feeling has been a primary object with your memorialists, as well as to excite emulation in the course of improvement, both physical and moral; and they have witnessed with peculiar pleasure, a steady increase, for some years past, in the population of those under their care: a fact, they believe, almost without a parallel in the modern history of the Aborigines of our country.

"Impressed with the belief that the methods adopted by your memorialists, were calculated to promote the happiness and welfare of this interesting people, and desirous to further the success of the enterprise, President Monroe addressed a letter to the Indians on the Allegheny reservation, (a copy of which is herewith submitted,) recommending them to divide their lands and hold them in severalty, in order that a more active spring might be given to agricultural improvements, and the permanency of their tenure secured.

"Long and undisputed possession of their lands, guaranteed to them by treaties, duly ratified, and with repeated assurances that they should not be removed from them, without the consent of the nation, inspired them with confidence that the United States would adhere inviolably to the faith thus solemnly and repeatedly pledged; and they have gone on making their improvements in the hope of being permitted to enjoy them without molestation, and to transmit them to their posterity.

"In the midst of the security created by their reliance on the fidelity of the government, and in violation of the assurances of protection again and