

their lands upon any terms whatever. One of them, on behalf of the rest, expressed their thankfulness to Friends for their kindness and assistance, and desired that Friends would continue their attention, even if they should be driven to the west. But he added, that these attempts to remove them were the greatest bars to improvement; that the Indians had no encouragement to make improvements, from which they might be compelled to remove, and leave them for others to enjoy; that they seemed to have no security for their possessions, nor would they have, if removed to the west. That neither President nor Congress could give them any better security for the lands beyond the Mississippi than they had for their present homes. If the white men wanted the land, then another President and Congress would take that from the Indians, as the present ones were doing now.

From the conversation which our friends had with some of the principal Indians on that reservation, it appeared evident that the opposition to emigration had increased since the autumn of the preceding year; and some of them who were then in favour of the treaty had become hostile to it.

A General Council was afterwards convened at Buffalo, on the 5th of seventh month, which, however, the Tonawanta and Oneida chiefs were prevented from attending. This council our friends were invited to attend: there the explanations given at the former council were repeated, and the chiefs appeared all to unite in the sentiments which were expressed in the former.

From Buffalo, Friends proceeded to Tunisassah, where a family of Friends continues to reside, and spent several days on that reservation and its vicinity. They had the satisfaction to believe that the Indians there have not retrograded in regard to industry and sobriety. Many of the chiefs and other influential natives manifest a disposition to discourage the sale and use of ardent spirits. Most of them have small clearings which they cultivate, and the appearance of their crops generally indicated industry and attention. Hence there appeared a reasonable prospect that they would be sufficiently supplied for the ensuing year. But they labour under numerous and complicated difficulties. There are among them some who are too infirm to provide for their own support, and widows with large families, where children are too young to contribute much towards their subsistence. Besides, the flood and frost of 1836 and 1837 have reduced numbers of them to a condition from which they cannot suddenly recover. The loss of their horses and oxen has operated very unfavourably upon their agricultural operations, and promoted the practice of letting out their land to white men to be cultivated. This practice encourages habits of idleness among the Indians, and increases a population on their land, which it is very desirable to keep away. On many parts of the reservation there are white people located, whose principles and morals can scarcely fail to deteriorate the simple natives. The navigable river, which passes through the middle of this reservation, furnishes em-