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nearly so; but with reasonable exertion on their part, they may procure a comfortable subsistence for their families."

This anticipation was not fully realized, and it being apprehended that some families would suffer for want of an adequate supply of food, unless some aid was rendered them, the Friend residing on the reservation was authorized to expend three hundred dollars in the purchase of corn, for distribution among such of the natives as were in want. A letter received from him, dated 3rd mo. 28th last, says, "I purchased two hundred and ninety-six bushels of corn, and have handed out to the natives about one hundred bushels, and nearly the same amount of potatoes, which have been thankfully received by them. I think there has not been much more suffering among them during the past winter, for want of provisions, than is ordinary. A large number of them have been engaged in cutting and hauling logs to the bank of the river, which furnished them with the means to procure a subsistence for themselves; and the few who had plenty of their own raising, assisted those who were unable to provide for themselves. But the present would probably have been a time of suffering with a considerable number, had there not been a supply at hand. Provisions have been unusually scarce and dear since the sleighing failed; corn-meal has been sold at Cold Spring at four and a half cents per pound."

"The school at Old Town will close the present week, having been continued one quarter and a half. The teacher attended strictly to the school. I think fifteen or sixteen was the largest number of scholars that I saw in attendance at any one time. The scholars made considerable progress in learning; two studied arithmetic; four were learning to write, and six read in the Testament."

In the 9th mo. last, the following communication from three of the chiefs on the Allegheny was received, viz.

"Brothers, the Quakers of Philadelphia. We the chiefs of the Allegheny reservation, believe you to be our best friends, and want you to know how much trouble we have about our land. Schermerhorn came to Buffalo not long since, and left money with our agent to hire Indians to sign their names in favour of selling their land. The agent sent out-runners to the several reservations in the state for that purpose, and procured sixty signers. Samuel Gordon came to Allegheny and offered Blacksnake one thousand dollars for his name, which he refused, as he preferred keeping the land for his children. There are but two chiefs and two others, on the Allegheny in favour of selling. Our agent also selected nine chiefs to send as delegates to the west, to see the land where they intend Indians to move to, which made us very uneasy, and we met together in council at Cold Spring, and got a petition drawn and signed by ninety-two Indians in favour of keeping our land, to send to Washington; and the Indians on the other reservations are doing the same. Our agent is holding back our annuity until the chiefs' return from the west, which will be nearly three months hence.

"We are determined not to sell our land, but to stay on it. We have good crops of corn and potatoes growing, and hope we will be strengthened to go forward and improve. We would be glad to have an answer and know your opinion on the subject of selling our land."

Knowing the anxiety of some of the white people to procure the removal of the Indians from all their lands in New York, and fearing that the efforts so strenuously made to obtain a cession of their present reservations, might result in some procedure seriously injurious to the Indians, we concluded that a visit by a part of our number would be advisable,