

For the YOUNG FRIENDS' REVIEW.

## REMINISCENCES.

While visiting friends and relatives in Huntington County, Ind., and indulging in personal reminiscences of the first year of my residence in that county, with one of the oldest Friends of that locality, who moved there a few years prior to that time, and whose father was the first Friend to move out to "The Wabash" as it was then called. He gave me some interesting facts concerning the Indians formerly living in this part of the State, the Miami tribe, who came annually to a certain place in the "woods," about three miles distant from his present home, to receive their portion of money from the United States Government. There were about 1,300 of them, the appropriation being \$100,000 annually for thirty years, amounting in all to \$3,000,000. Each member of a family, man, woman or child, received the same amount. It required about six weeks for this disbursement, and by the time all was finished much of it was in the hands of traders, who came from long distances, often, in order to turn an honest (?) penny with the poor Indians, by selling to them dry goods and groceries frequently at double, or more, the price asked at other places and of the whites. No whiskey was allowed to be sold on the grounds, and the guards did their utmost to enforce the law in respect to it, but in spite of their efforts much was smuggled in. Sometimes it would be sold for fifty cents a pint, perhaps half of it being water. One man brought a large quantity in his boat on the canal, near by, and the Indians went there and got drunk. Not daring to send them away in this condition, and they clamoring for more, he sobered them off gradually by supplying it to them in diminishing strength, until at the last it was very little more than water.

One man under the guise of a Friend, came to the "Payment Grounds" trying to pass off counterfeit money,

and on endeavoring to cheat a half drunken Indian with it, he remarked to him that he was a "Penn man." The Indian looked at him and said, "You *bad* Penn man." He was soon detected and left in haste.

In or about 1804 Baltimore Meeting purchased 1,000 acres of timbered land, a few miles from the county seat, cleared some of it, planted a large orchard, and settled quite a number of Indians there, but during the war of 1812 every tree in the orchard but one was cut down by the French and hostile Indians. This sole tree remained standing until a few years ago.

I came to this county, Huntington, from Philadelphia in the fall of 1844, and shortly after visited this "Payment Ground," and have a distinct recollection of the forbidding aspect of the place, and the degraded appearance of the Indians. Previous rains had caused mud to be plentiful, and it being late in the season, everything and every person looked dreary. The payments were discontinued in 1847. I have frequently passed by the place where the "Old Chief" lived for many years and where he died, his grand-daughter now living there. His name was Richardville, pronounced Rooshavil, being more French than Indian, his son-in-law La Fontaine, being a full-blood Indian. It is a beautiful place by nature, having for a back-ground high hills covered with magnificent forest trees, the farm being one of the best in the county. Many, very many, changes have taken place in the years since I came here first. The pioneers are all gone, and to day I saw the graves of most of them. Many of their descendants are still here, many have made homes elsewhere, and many lie in the "silent home of the dead," with their fathers and mothers. All the original settlers were Friends, and, when six or eight families had secured homes for themselves, all near together, they felt the necessity of a Meeting; holding the first one 5th mo. 4th, 1845, in