

*"To the President of the United States, and to the Senate House of Representatives in Congress assembled.*

"The memorial of 'The Committee for the gradual Civilization and Improvement of the Indian Natives,' appointed by the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers, in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and parts adjacent, respectfully sheweth:

"That in the year 1795, the said Yearly Meeting, actuated by feelings of kindness and sympathy towards the remnant of the Six Nations residing in the western part of the state of New York, appointed a committee of its members, to devise a plan for meliorating their condition, by instructing them in literature, agriculture, and some of the mechanic arts.

"After maturing the outlines of such a plan, and previous to engaging in its prosecution, they communicated their views to George Washington, then president of the United States, who gave them his cordial approbation, and encouraged the prosecution of the benevolent design.

"Having thus obtained the full sanction of the executive, the committee entered on its duties; purchased land in the vicinity of two of the reservations, and erected dwelling-houses, barns, school-houses, saw and grist-mills, work-shops, &c. Members of the Society were also employed to reside on the farms, for the purpose of instructing the natives in agriculture, milling, blacksmithing, and other branches of labour, and in school-

house would allow, it being about eleven miles, and having to go in the morning and return at night, prevented my attending so often as I wished, but I was there enough to discover the whole intrigue, to get rid of the Indians. We were honoured with a burst of wrath from one of the commissioners for addressing the Indians, after the council ended for the day. Our object was to put them on their guard against the traps laid for them. They did not do this when we were present, or they would have heard from us. The Friend who was with me is a man of great resolution, and not afraid to speak his mind to any man.

"At the commencement of the council the government commissioners read something they called a law of the general government, imposing a fine of two thousand dollars, on any one who should use any kind of influence to induce the Indians to stay where they are. I do not know if you are aware of the reason why there is so much anxiety to remove the Indians, for the plea of charity towards them is mere nonsense and hypocrisy. The Indians are invariably in possession of some of the best lands in the respective states where they are settled, and always along the course of the best rivers. This is the reason why they feel so very charitable towards them, and this also explains their pretended fear of their becoming extinct. They see them advancing in improvement, and consequently more attached to their possessions, and from attention to education better able to defend them. They think they must strike soon as every year diminishes their chance. There is no danger of their becoming extinct, except by the progress of civilization they should become intermixed with the white people, and so lose their distinct character. The commissioners made great use of this argument with our Indians; they attempted to work a great deal on the pride of national character. They are desirous of retaining it, but they want their lands with it also.