

and ascertain their number. They are all people of the chase, or live by fishing and gathering wild rice from the lakes, as but very few derive any portion of their subsistence from agricultural pursuits.

1837/1838

No. 22.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF GEORGE BOYD.

The several reports from the teachers, employed among the five distinct tribes of Indians intrusted to this agency, are herewith enclosed in duplicates, as, also, the several annual reports required under the revised regulations. As these teachers, and others employed in the service of the department, shall be further informed of the demands and requirements of each, by the Government, the reports in question will be more ample, and consequently more to the satisfaction of the Government and the public generally. Before they can, however, meet the views and expectations of the department and of the nation, it will be necessary to apprise the Indians themselves, as well as their traders, (for without the co-operation of their traders nothing effectual can be accomplished,) that the Government are anxious to possess, at Washington, all and every thing that may interest the white man, as regards their dress, their habits, their manners and customs, and their language. The Indians, as well as their traders, will be duly informed of the views and wishes of the Indian Department, at their next annual payment of annuities, in respect to these matters, and I have no doubt that the next year will enable their agent here, whoever he may be, to throw into the cabinet, at Washington, a due proportion of whatever of Indian relics as may be interesting to the antiquarian and the philanthropist, belonging to the American family.

In an extended report, such as your letter of the 11th of July calls for, it becomes the duty of the agent to advert to all and every thing connected with the interest and well-being of the Indians committed to his charge, and respectfully to submit to your higher authority his own opinions as to the course hereafter to be pursued by the United States as regards these people.

The Senate of the United States, by your excellency's communication to me of the 9th ultimo, has rejected Mr. Schermerhorn's treaty of 1836. A majority of the Stockbridges and Munsees are anxious to sell the township in question, and cannot subsist without the sale of it, and are desirous to move west of the Mississippi, and south of Missouri. The remaining township is as much and more than will ever be cultivated by those opposing the sale. My opinion is that a treaty should be effected with these people without delay, and I am not without hopes that power to that effect will have been given to your excellency before the receipt of this letter, by the War Department. There are two parties in this small band of Indians; one (as they allege) governed and directed by their minister, Mr. Marsh, aided by three or four headmen, and the other by chiefs, anxious for the ratification of the treaty and to remove west of the Mississippi. The same account may be given of the Oneidas and the Brothertons. These last people have stated that a great portion of their annuity from the State of New York is ex-

pended in paying salaries to agents, who render them but little service. There should be no *State agents allowed as regards our Indians*. They should be paid State as well as United States dues to them by the regular and accredited agents of the United States, and for which they would receive no extra emolument. It gives, moreover, to the State agents a power over these Indians, which may not, at all times, be exerted, either for the benefit of the Indians or the Government. The Brothertons are an agricultural people, and, by a long intermixture with the whites, have no longer a language of their own. The same may be almost said of numbers of the Oneida and Stockbridge Indians. They are the best and most practical farmers in the country, and, as such, I should be sorry to see them removed from the Territory. On the other hand, all those who are anxious to join their brethren in the far west should be seconded and aided in every possible way by the Government, to effect this object. By such an arrangement we shall have a population at peace among themselves and with the whites, becoming, every hour, more prosperous and happy, and, consequently, more ready and willing to defend their homes and firesides, and ours, against any foreign or domestic enemy.

In June, 1832, in the midst of the Sac war, this agency was committed to my care; and, in my orders, so far as regarded these Indians, I can say, with truth, that they were obeyed to the letter, by the several bands of the New York Indians; and that I trusted to them mainly, in the event of an invasion by the hostile bands of Sacs, Foxes, and Winnebagoes, for the protection of this settlement. It is due to them to make this public declaration in their favor, and which will, I am sure, not be lost or disregarded by the able and efficient head of the Territory of Wisconsin.

I will remark, in addition, that the Menomonies are not an agricultural people. The men think it beneath their dignity to work, and, consequently, the little produce raised by them is produced through the labor of their women and children. They are allied more or less by intermarriage, with the Chippewas, Ottawas, Winnebagoes, and Pottawatomies, and especially with the two last named tribes of Indians.

The several bands of New York Indians are all cultivators of the soil. They are the best farmers we have, and are daily becoming more prosperous and happy. They are in bonds of friendship and alliance, it is believed, with the Sacs and Foxes, and the Delawares, called by them their grandfathers, and situated to the far west.

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No. 23.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF JOSHUA PILCHER.

The tribes originally assigned to the agent for the Upper Missouri, were the several bands of Sioux of that river, the Puncas and Cheyennes; since which time, all the Indians formerly embraced within the Mandan sub-agency have been assigned to him. They consist of the Mandans, Minitares, Crows, Assineboins, Crees, Blackfeet, &c., and extend over the country west of the Mahas of the Missouri river, to the Rocky mountains; and from Arkansas river to the mouth of the Yellowstone.