

The Oneidas reside on the west side of the Fox river, about 9 miles from this sub-agency; they number about 720 souls; they are all farmers: they have adopted the manners and customs of the white man.

They have two churches, besides school-houses, mills, &c., &c. They live in good comfortable frame and block houses, well adapted to this northern climate. Their farms are under good cultivation. They have raised this year fine crops of wheat, oats, corn, &c., &c., and will have a large surplus for sale. They furnish nearly all the steamboat wood, besides other fuel that is wanted by the citizens of Green Bay. In fine, they have all the comforts of life about them, and their land is equal to any in northern Wisconsin. Their settlement and improvements are not surpassed by any in this section of the Territory.

I have visited the Rev. Mr. Davis's school among the Oneidas, and found it orderly and well attended. The scholars have made respectable improvement in reading, writing, and grammar. The Rev. Mr. Coleman was absent attending upon the yearly conference, and is not expected to return for several weeks; consequently there is a vacation in his school. The above two Rev. gentlemen reside among the Oneidas, upon their reservation. Duck creek is the principal stream that passes through their settlement.

About 100 of the Oneidas are desirous of emigrating South of the Missouri. This party, with few exceptions, is composed of emigrants from New York who have sold all their interest in their land in that State, and have emigrated to Green Bay within the last three or four years.

The chiefs of the old settlers here inform me that before they would consent to this party occupying their lands in this Territory, they caused them to enter into a written stipulation, which is on file in the Comptroller's office of the State of New York, that they should not have any right or claim to the lands in this Territory, nor should they in any way meddle or interfere in the national concerns.

If some provision could be made to remove those who wish to emigrate, it would have a happy effect with the old settlers, as the principal part of the (so called) Missouri party are more or less addicted to drunkenness.

D. JONES, *Indian Agent.*

HON. T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

No. 11.

INDIAN SUB-AGENCY,
Green Bay, September 24, 1845.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR: Having entered on the duties of this sub-agency on the 18th instant, my annual report will necessarily be brief.

The Indians dependant on this agency are the *Oneidas* and the *Menomones*, the Stockbridges and Brothertowns having by acts of Congress been *naturalized*, and their relations changed from *wards* of the government to citizens of the United States. A part of the first mentioned tribe (the Stockbridges) object to such change, and persist in styling themselves *Indians*. They, will however, it is to be presumed, finally yield to

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forth the reasons for the *opposition* this object has met with hitherto, from white persons having influence over them; and to which influence may be referred the determination of the Menomonic, at the treaty of September 3, 1836, to relinquish all their right "under former treaties," to appropriations for education.

The capacity of the Indian youth of this tribe, as has been fully proved, is equal to that of any other for acquiring the knowledge of letters. Several full blood Menomonic children received respectable English education at the late Green Bay mission school of the Protestant Episcopal church.

I suggest here, respectfully, that there is an ample fund at the disposal of the President, which, it is believed, might be applied to this object, in connexion with that of agriculture. (Vide the last clause of the ratification article of the Cedar Point treaty of the 3d September, 1836.)

Before dismissing the subject of schools for the benefit of the Indian tribes, I beg leave respectfully to suggest, that this branch of our intercourse with them appears to me to be embarrassed with some very radical defects. No uniform system of teaching is adopted. The supervision by the government ensures but little responsibility in the teachers, requiring the rendition of no certain specific duty before drawing payment; the consequence of which is that *frauds* are not infrequently practised; money drawn for which little or no service has been *bona fide* rendered; and the Indians languish on, perishing for lack of knowledge. Specific services should be insisted on from teachers; and, above all, the English language (and not the Indian) should be required to be taught.

In what I have thus risked in relation to schools, I am by no means unaware of the fact that, to raise the Indian character, education must have a much wider scope than barely learning "to read, write, cipher," &c.; that, unless they are brought to a practical knowledge of all that distinguishes the savage from the civilized man, mere school education will be of little avail. It is nevertheless an indispensable prerequisite; and when combined, as it always should be, with instruction in agriculture and the mechanic arts, cannot fail of its effects, as well on savage as civilized youth, as before remarked.

A few of the Menomonic are *practical* farmers, living the whole year in the same place, on their own land, and deriving nearly their whole subsistence from the soil. This speaks a language, not to be misinterpreted, in proof of the theory that the Menomonic *can be civilized*. Their efforts are attracting the attention of others of the tribe.

The aid already opportunely extended by the government has been well received, and of great benefit. This encouragement should be continued. A school should be opened among them, and every inducement held out for their advancement. As a germ of future and permanent civilization of this tribe, I have great hope of their infant establishment; in fine, there is good reason to believe that the greater portion of the Menomonic, by judicious and persevering efforts on the part of the government, may be redeemed from their present state of degradation and vice, and placed within the pale of civilized and christianized men.

I have not, as yet, had time to make an examination of the blacksmith shops, &c., but will lose no time in doing so, after the annuity payments are through with; when I shall communicate such additional matter re-

lating to the general condition of this agency as may be deemed important.

I am, most excellent sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
ALBERT G. ELLIS,
Sub agent.

To his Excellency HENRY DODGE,
*Superintendent of Indian Affairs
in the Territory of Wisconsin.*

No. 12.

MICHIGAN SUPERINTENDENCY,
Detroit, October 20, 1815.

SIR: In compliance with the regulations of the department, I respectfully submit the following report of the condition and affairs of the superintendency.

Since entering upon the duties of this office (2d May last) I have visited the several sub-agencies in this State, with those of La Pointe and Green Bay, within the Territory of Wisconsin, and have seen a large proportion of the Indians attached to and under charge of the same.

La Pointe sub-agency, Wisconsin, has under its care about 5,000 Indians of the Chippewa nation, who are scattered over a large extent of country bordering upon Lake Superior, and interior upon the head waters of the Mississippi. The agency is situated upon one of the groups of the Apostle islands in Lake Superior, and is visited annually by the Indians, who there receive the annuity, goods, and provisions, furnished them by the government under treaty stipulations. It is desirable that some plan should be adopted whereby the distribution of the amount you furnished in goods may be more equitably and satisfactorily made. For instance, an article furnished which may be very useful to those Indians resident along the lake coast, and who are much employed in fishing, would be useless and unwelcome to those situated interior, and who are engaged in hunting or agriculture. This was the case with the items of lines and twines, which, I am informed, were disposed of by the Indians not so situated as to have use for those articles, at a very great sacrifice. A few only of these have turned their attention decidedly and actively to objects connected with their improvement and civilization; those few, however, give to my mind the strongest evidence of the feasibility of this great object, whenever the necessary means and efforts are properly applied for its accomplishment. A portion of the country occupied by them is poorly adapted to purposes of agriculture. Some are located favorably for hunting, while those upon the coast are dependent mostly on the fisheries for support.

The great value of this region of country consists in its fisheries and minerals. Since the treaty of 1812, public attention has been directed to the examination of the country lying around the southern shore of the lake, and very valuable discoveries have been made.

A large amount of capital is already engaged in working the mines, with every promise of success, and the spirit of enterprise and speculation