No. 1.

NEW YORK SUB-AGENCY,
Buffalo, September 30, 1852.

SIR: In my report of September 30, 1845, I expressed a confident expectation that the condition of the Senecas would undergo a rapid and permanent change for the better, from the time when the treaty requiring their concentration upon the Allegany and Cattaraugus reservations should be fully carried out. This expectation, I am grieved to say, has been utterly disappointed. It was founded upon evidences of increasing industry and sobriety upon the Cattaraugus reservation, and made no allowance for disturbing causes, some of which were inevitable, while others could not have been anticipated. I had made some allowance for a gradually increasing presence of the white population; but I did not foresee the malign consequences of recently-constructed railroads, and I could not anticipate those violent political changes which have occurred among these Indians.

The influences which are hostile to Indian improvement have gathered strength.

Prostitution and intemperance have increased, and the Indian continues to find in the waste of his timber the means of gratifying these vices, and indulging that indolence to which he is prone. The pine had been swept away, but the other timber of the Allegany reservation has been rendered valuable by the New York and Erie railroad, and is rapidly disappearing. The Indians do not engage in mechanic arts; and agriculture, among them, is progressing but slowly. Education may be more freely extended to them, but I regret to say that I see no evidence of its producing its best fruits in moral improvement.

I am persuaded that fierce quarrels among the Indians themselves about their own government and laws have been a great, if not the principal cause of their sad situation. There has been a continued strife upon these reservations ever since the so-called resolution brought about the new government. How can these people advance in the peaceful arts when they are embroiled in contentions about matters which few of them can understand anything of? The quarrel has become purely personal and factious, if it ever was otherwise—and this, too, at a time when internal harmony seems essential to the resistance of danger from abroad. There is, in fact, no government. The old chiefs have been elected under the new government, and they will not execute the functions of their office fully.

I trust, sir, that you will consider these opinions as forced from me by a sense of duty. I have always abstained from all interference with the Indians in such matters, and have contented myself with endeavoring to soothe asperities which I could neither avert nor cure. Any influence for good which I may possess over the Indians would be wholly lost were I to take sides with either faction.

The government is, in my opinion, of no consequence, so long as the Indians will live quietly under it, and give their thoughts and efforts to the education of their children, and adding to the comforts of their homes.

I am not sure that a return to the old customary government by

chiefs would be best. But I cannot shut my eyes to the consequences of the continuance of the present condition of things.

The Senecas resident in the Tonawanda reservation have a small number of chiefs, and what government there is, is in their hands. This band manages its own affairs without reference to the residue of the nation. They continue to repudiate the treaty ceding their reservation to the Ogden Company, and amid the embarrassments of their situation are surely, but slowly, retrograding.

With reference to the other tribes, there has been no material change for several years past.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. OSBORNE, *Sub-Agent.*

Hon. LUKE LEA,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Census of the Six Nations of New York.

Name of the tribe, and location.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Senecas at Cattaraugus	311	325	538	1,174
Senecas at Allegany	191	211	382	784
Senecas at Tonawanda	162	180	280	622
	664	716	1200	2,580
Onondagas at Onondaga Castle	87	94	137	
Onondagas with Senecas at Allegany	19	14	49	
Onondagas with Senecas at Cattaraugus	10	6	17	
Onondagas with Senecas at Tonawanda	.....	1	3	
Onondagas with Tuscaroras at Tuscarora	4	7	13	
	120	122	219	461
Cayugas with Senecas	40	31	62	133
Tuscaroras at Tuscarora	70	66	140	276
Oneidas at Oneida Castle	46	42	86	
Oneidas with Senecas at Cattaraugus	3	1	1	
Oneidas with Onondagas at Onondaga Castle	12	10	10	
	61	53	97	211
The following list of persons, with their families, claim that they are Oneidas, living with the Onondagas, and, at the general distribution of the Oneida lands, received their due portion:				
Sally Jones 5				
Adam Doxtater 8				
Malinda Jones 6				
Jenny Thomas 3				
22	.....	.....	.....	22
Total number of Six Nations New York Indians	.....	.....	.....	3,683

No. 2.

MACKINAC AGENCY,
Office Indian Affairs, City of Detroit, Oct. 4, 1852.

SIR: I have the honor to submit, for your consideration, the following report of the state of the Indians within this agency:

As the Indians desired that I should visit their different settlements within the agency, and believing that my presence at their homes would result in their encouragement, and enable me more successfully to aid and direct them in their agricultural, educational, and other pursuits, I have devoted a portion of the past summer to that work.

I visited several settlements and mission stations among the Chippewas of Saginaw, and those of Swan creek and Black river, and I am happy to state that the reports which I had received of their prosperity were more than verified. There are three principal settlements and mission stations among them. One (Kazier mission) is on the reservation on the Flint river, a portion of which they have repurchased from the government; another (Bradley chapel) is twenty miles east of the village of Flint; and a third is five miles north of Lower Saginaw; besides several smaller settlements. At each of these points they own several hundred acres of first-rate land; their crops were in good condition, and their fences and other improvements were of a substantial character, and their houses were well built and comfortable.

The efforts to establish schools for the education of their children, and to bring them under the influence of the Christian religion, have been attended with the most marked and gratifying success. In one of these schools (at Bradley chapel) I found fifty scholars. They were well clad, and gave indisputable evidence that the labor bestowed upon their mental and moral culture had not been lost. The lands ceded by these Indians to the government, to be disposed of for their benefit, not having met with the ready sale which was then anticipated, has resulted greatly to their disadvantage; and as the amount of their annuity is small—not enough, indeed, to compensate them for the loss of time in attending the payment—if a final settlement of their affairs could be had with the government, it would meet their hearty cöoperation, and I have no doubt result greatly to their future welfare and advantage.

I also visited the Ottowas and Chippewas at Grand and Little Traverse, Middle Village, Village of the Cross, and several other points on the straits of Mackinac, and found them in a prosperous condition. They are temperate and industrious, and are embracing and following in all respects the habits and customs of the whites. By the cultivation of their lands, and their abundant fisheries, they are well provided with all the necessaries of life; and it is gratifying to state that these, as well as the other Indians of the agency, are now so far recovered from their former degraded condition and vices as to be able to estimate properly the assistance afforded them by the government, and to use it to the best advantage. And they have now intelligence and moral sentiment sufficient to enable them, in a good degree, to guard against those temptations which have heretofore proved so ruinous to them, and to protect themselves from the influence of designing and

interested persons. And with the care which will be taken of their interests by the government, and by proper vigilance on the part of its agents, they will be more and more fitted to protect and provide for themselves.

The reformed and improved condition of the Ottowas and Chippewas, in the vicinity of Sault Ste. Marie, was apparent at the recent annuity payment to them at that place, at which there were not over two or three cases of drunkenness, and at which they set aside, as they did last year, a portion of their annuities for the purchase of more land.

The Ottowas and Chippewas, and the Ottowas in the Grand River valley, are gradually improving their condition. Those at the Ottowa and Griswold Colony missions are as prosperous as at the time of my last annual report. The amount remitted by the department for the purchase of agricultural implements has been in part used for the benefit of these Indians, greatly to their encouragement.

The Pottawatomies of Huron, located in Calhoun, and the Chippewas, Ottowas, and Pottawatomies, located in Van Buren and Berrien counties, in this State, continue to give evidence of improvement, and evince a determination to show themselves worthy of the beneficial efforts made for their welfare.

The missionaries and teachers who labor among these, as well as the other Indians of this agency, have devoted themselves to the work with commendable zeal, and some of them with no small sacrifice of personal comfort and ease. They have the confidence of the Indians, and their labors have been attended with success. They are deserving of every assistance which the government and its agents can render them. And in this connexion I deem it proper to state, that at the time of the making of the several treaties with the Indians, so deep was their degradation, that they took but little interest in the education of their children, and therefore the provisions in the treaties for this object are found to be inadequate to their present wants. They now begin to see the deficiency, and deeply deplore a want which they have neither the means nor experience requisite to remedy. In any future adjustment of their affairs with the government, it would be a great benefit to them if special and ample provisions could be made for them in this respect.

In obedience to your instructions I proceeded to Sault Ste. Marie in July last; and, receiving from sub-agent Aitkin such property as he was pleased to turn over to me belonging to the United States, I relieved him from further service in that capacity. The agency building at that place I found to be in a dilapidated condition, and fast going to decay. Situated as it is one mile from the village, it will not, in my opinion, command a rent sufficient to justify an expenditure for the necessary repairs; but as the premises upon which it is situate are desirable, the whole property, I think, could be disposed of at a fair value. Now that the sub-agency there is discontinued, and its affairs transferred to this agency, I would recommend, if it should meet the views of the department, that it be disposed of at the earliest practicable period, reserving, perhaps, that portion upon which is situate the blacksmith shop.

For a more particular account of the condition and prospects of the

Ottowas and Chippewas at the Sault Ste. Marie and Ottowa Colony missions, I beg leave to refer you to the accompanying reports of the Rev. Messrs. Pitezel and Slater. I regret to be compelled to state that no other reports of a similar character have been received by me, although I have endeavored to impress upon the missionaries and teachers of my agency the importance of having their reports forwarded to me in time to accompany my annual report. As they may yet be received, it will be my pleasure to forward them to you, trusting that they may be received in time to accompany your annual communication to Congress.

With great respect, I am, dear sir, your obedient, humble servant,

WM. SPRAGUE, *Indian Agent.*

Hon. LUKE LEA,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington.

No. 3.

SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN,
September 20, 1852.

SIR: I beg leave, at the close of the present conference year, to report the condition of the Indian mission embraced in your agency, called the Sault Ste. Marie mission.

The principal Indian station is located about thirty-five miles from the Falls of the St. Marie river, on the coast of Lake Superior. The members in church fellowship are 65, of whom 18 are on probation. A Sabbath school has been kept up, numbering 31 scholars. Some time since, at a camp-meeting held at Whitefish Point, a temperance meeting was held, and 105 of the Indians signed the pledge of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks as a beverage. We hope they will have sufficient firmness to resist temptation from this source. We should rejoice to see these Indians improve more rapidly; but, at the same time, we are persuaded that they have made already great advances in Christian morality and religion, and in the same proportion have advanced toward civilization.

A day school has been kept up most of the time excepting during sugar-making. During the summer but few were in attendance, owing to the fact that the larger number of the Indians spent most of the summer at Whitefish Point, fishing. There was a good reason for their long-continued absence, arising from the prevalence of the small-pox among the Indians and half-breed population at the Sault, from which place it was carried to the saw-mill, within six miles of the Indian settlement. The school has numbered for the year 26 scholars, 9 of whom are females. Mrs. Rev. E. Steele has taught the school most of the time, with the aid of her husband. We had sufficient help and means on the spot to do more than was accomplished could the school have been better supplied with scholars. The average attendance has not been furnished me by the missionary. A list of the names of scholars you will find accompanying.

The settlement where these Indians now live is new, but they have ten or twelve comfortable log-houses, and sufficient land under cultivation to raise their own potatoes. With few exceptions, they are well fed and clad, and live comfortably compared with those who still stick to their blanket and follow the chase.

One means of their subsistence must be, from the nature of things, fishing. Lake Superior abounds with the finest fish, and none understand better than the Indians how to fish. As long as they reside about the lake, this occupation must be to them what the farm is to the farmer, or the trade to the mechanic. In the isolated situation of the missionaries who labor among them, they are necessarily called to endure many privations and much severe trial. They labor in hope of making the Indians more comfortable and happy in their physical, intellectual, and moral condition; looking, I trust, for their reward, not in the present, but in the world to come, where, we doubt not, many of the red men of the forest will, through their humble and yet honored instrumentality, wear forever the crown of a glorious immortality.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. PITEZEL,

Sup. Methodist Mission Indian Mis. District.

Hon. WILLIAM SPRAGUE,

Indian Agent, Detroit, Michigan.

No. 4.

OTTOWA COLONY, *September* 30, 1852.

SIR: I have the honor to submit to you the following report, stating the condition of the school and the prospects of the colony of Ottowa, with whom I still labor. The natives, neglecting the measures which foresight would dictate, were obliged so often to resort to the forest to obtain their meat and to browse their ponies, that the school was suspended during the winter. Miss walker taught the school the summer term. The present fall term is now in progress, and is taught by Miss Wells. The improvement of some of the children is encouraging and satisfactory; while many, on account of their inconstant attendance, make little progress. Our religious meetings have been sustained with interest, and I hope profit, to all.

One, the head of a family, of late expresses a hope of the forgiveness of her sins. I love to unfold to them the precious truths of ne Gospel, to point out to them the way of salvation; but the temporal as well as the eternal interest of this people is a subject of much anxiety to me. It is with sadness I reflect upon their past, present, and future prospects. I have seen the tribe numerous and powerful, seated around their council-fires, their countenances and deportment revealing the native dignity of their nature, when unrestrained by the laws and unconfined by the fences of the white man, and when uncontaminated, too, with the distilled poison which has tended more than anything else to degrade and debase them. I have seen them fall one after another, from the venerable chief to the tenderest sickly infant, melting away almost as

the snow before the sun in the spring-time. A feeble and distracted remnant remain, like vanquished soldiers returned from battle; their strength is wasted, and they retain little of their former character, except a disposition to rove, and other traits which have ever hindered most the introduction of the Gospel and the success of schools among them. I have, for some time past, thought it best that, under the fostering care of the United States government, they might remove to the Indian territory, where they may enjoy their own privileges as an independent people, and still receive the benefits of Christian philanthropy. I have no doubt but their removal thence would greatly promote their temporal interests, and much advance their progress in civilization.

The chief of our colony, with others, has asked of their brethren West the privilege of uniting with them in the cultivation of their land. They met in council, and replied, through their missionary, that they would receive them to all the privileges themselves enjoyed which it was their prerogative to bestow. The chief and a number of others have determined to emigrate could they procure from government the means of defraying their expenses of removal. I have made the inquiry, and think the small sum of twenty dollars per individual would be sufficient.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant.

L. SLATER, *Superintendent.*

Hon. WILLIAM SPRAGUE.

No. 5.

DETROIT, *October* 6, 1852.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor, herewith, to submit to you a tabular report of the Indian schools connected with the Catholic missions under my charge, together with lists containing the names, ages, and sexes of the scholars who have attended school any portion of the year. In all these schools spelling, reading, and writing are invariably taught, and also ciphering, geography, and grammar to those who are more advanced. At the stations of Little Traverse, Point St. Ignace, and Mackinac, the girls are also taught sewing, knitting, trimming, cask-work, and various kinds of needle-work. The proficiency of the scholars who regularly attend, is in general very satisfactory, and some have improved beyond all expectation. The great majority of these children have natural capacity enough to learn any science or trade, but the great difficulty is to train them up to steady habits and assiduity; for many of them are so irregular in attending, and find so many reasons to absent themselves from school, that it is difficult for many teachers to know the exact number of those who have attended their school in the course of the year, which renders it sometimes very unpleasant and discouraging to the teacher. However, as nothing but religion can civilize and bring them to a full sense of their duty, we entertain the most sanguine hopes that the influence of the Catholic faith will soon obtain in them that desired effect

The Indians in our stations are fast embracing religion, and we observe, with deep sensation of joy, that, so soon as they have subjected themselves to the mild yoke of Christ, their savage dispositions and wild propensities begin to disappear; they become enamored with the beauty of virtue; industry, sobriety, and morality are made chief objects of emulation among them, and their attention is gradually turned to all the necessary parts of domestic economy; justice and uprightness in their dealings, and charity towards each other, become also their great characteristics: so that we have great reason to believe that the period is fast approaching when it will be said with admiration, particularly of the stations of Little Traverse, Middletown, La Croix, Sheboygan, and Anse Keewenaw, Behold! these Indians are really civilized; they possess the virtues and fine qualities of civilized people, without being tainted with their vices and immoralities.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration, your very obedient servant,

PETER B. LEFEVRE, *Bp., &c.*

WM. SPRAGUE, Esq.,
Acting Sup't Indian Affairs, Michigan.

No. 6.

OLD WING MISSION,
Grand Traverse, October 6, 1852.

DEAR SIR: I send you the following as my annual report:

Last fall the crops were very light, and many of the Indians went up the lake to spend the winter hunting for a subsistence, and the winter continued so late last spring, that many who remained north suffered for provisions, and many horses died; and the Indians, I am told, were forced to eat their flesh to keep from starvation. In our immediate neighborhood, there was no particular suffering. Owing to the newness of the fields, the crops were better than in some other settlements.

As soon as winter set in, I opened the school and continued it until the commencement of sugaring. The scholars improve well while in school, but it is very important for the children, and in fact for the old and young, that they continue more steadily at home. I think, however, they are improving. During the past year our meetings have been well attended—often with deep interest. It is in the renovating influence of the Gospel, as well as in the intellectual advancement, that we look for the power which will raise the red man to the condition of the enlightened white man, and fit him to mingle in the circles of refined society. As a nation, I think we owe this to him; as an individual, I mean to do all that I can to accomplish the object; and everything that refines the manners, rectifies the moral feelings, enlightens the mind, fixes the being to his residence, gives him an interest in property, makes him industrious, and raises his affections up to God, the giver of every blessing, tends to accomplish this noble end. We think we see a decided advancement in all these respects.

We have to lament that there are men who have, during the past season, come from Grand Haven here with a small vessel to sell whiskey to the Indian, and some have been taken in the snare. Oh, that men could find some honest employment by which to get a living, and not so recklessly, for petty gain, sow misery and ruin around them! Not having visited our friends for seven years, I thought it my duty to take my family out last summer to spend a short time for that purpose, and to have a short release from the anxious cares of the mission. I made my journey on the coast in a small boat, for several reasons—one was to visit the Indians along the coast, to induce them to come here and settle. I obtained a pledge from two chiefs, and others, that they would come next spring. I preached a few times to them, and hope I left some good impressions and an influence to check that wandering, drunken habit which so many of them have been addicted to. On account of head-winds we did not get home in time to attend payment, and both Mrs. Smith and myself have had the fever and ague since our return, but we are improving now.

Here let me add one word, viz: it is most sincerely to be hoped that the payment may be moved from so corrupting a place as Mackinac to some point that the agent can control. The crops here are very good this fall.

I am, most sincerely, your humble servant,

GEO. N. SMITH.

Hon. WILLIAM SPRAGUE.

No. 7.

SAGINAW, *October* 6, 1852.

DEAR SIR: I herewith transmit to you a brief statement of the state of the Indian missions among the Chippewas of Saginaw. There have been two white missionaries employed the last year on the mission, four native teachers and interpreters, and one white teacher.

Five schools at different bands have been taught for the benefit of the Indian youth, at which there have been about one hundred and eighty children taught the rudiments of the English language, many of whom have made good progress in learning. The usual course of instruction pursued in common-schools among the whites has been had here.

There are about four hundred adults who make a profession of the Christian religion, many of whom exhibit in their lives the virtues of the Christian. These Indian bands have almost all abandoned their Heathen customs, and, if not heartily, have nominally adopted the white man's religion. To effect an entire and rapid advance in civilization, they only need a home—land enough to make each family a farm that they can feel secure to call their own. And I hope and pray that such may be the case soon.

Your most obedient,

G. BRADLY,

Superintendent Indian Mission.

Hon. WILLIAM SPRAGUE.

No. 8.

FALLS OF WOLF RIVER, WISCONSIN,
Menomonee Territory, November 2, 1852.

SIR: In conformity with my report, dated at Powwa-ha-conna, the 16th ultimo, the Menomonees commenced their emigration on the 19th ultimo, and I have now the honor to report that they have been removed by Messrs. Thompson and Ewing, in pursuance of their contract, to this place.

Lake Powwa-ha-conna, the place where the Indians embarked, is notable as being the location of a Catholic mission and school. The mission is under the charge of the Rev. B. F. Bonduel, who, besides his duties as pastor, has a school in which Indian boys are taught. The girls are taught by Mrs. Dousman and her daughter, Miss Jane Dousman, both of whom have resided here several years. I have been exceedingly interested in these ladies. Amiable, intelligent, and accomplished, they are fitted for the very highest circles of society—in which they have evidently moved; but, with the meekness and humility of the true Christian, they prefer, to the cold and heartless ceremonies of fashionable life, the more pleasant and philanthropic duty of training up the rude children of the forest to intelligence and christianity. They illustrate, in their lives, some of the highest excellencies of female character, but especially that true spirit of genuine Christian benevolence which has made woman, everywhere, and in all ages, the nearest link which binds humanity to the angelic world. Mr. Bonduel is a native of France, and is highly educated. He sprang from a wealthy family, and inherited a fortune, which, at the time he came to the United States, amounted to thirty or forty thousand dollars. Devoted, however, to the priesthood, for which he was educated, he chose rather to employ the energies of his fine intellect in the work of ameliorating the condition of savage life, than the less adventurous field of religious duty at home. He entered, therefore, very early in life, into the field of missionary labor among the Indian tribes, and has now been engaged in this laborious work for nearly thirty years. He has resided among several tribes, but for some years has been exclusively among the Menomonees, to whom he is attached alike by a sense of religious duty and the strong chords of sympathy. Under his care and teaching a considerable portion—nearly one-third—of the tribe have become christianized, and a number of the younger members are rapidly advancing in education. Some of them read and write very well. It is highly interesting to see him in his humble chapel, with his little Christian flock around him, chaunting the hymns of the Catholic church in their native tongue. As he recites the solemn prayer which ages of Christian usage have consecrated, they look upon him with eyes filled with Christian sympathy and beaming forth with the most intense anxiety, and, with the most proper observance of time, they break forth in their responses with a voice as deep, rich, and mellow as the flute. Although an observer like myself may not understand a single word, yet he could not fail to see that the whole ceremony of worship is marked not only by Christian simplicity but by Christian purity of thought and intention.

In obedience to your instructions I have diligently superintended the removal, and am happy to certify that it has been effected in a peaceful, comfortable, and satisfactory manner. They have been abundantly supplied with transportation, and good and wholesome provisions. No complaint has been made to me, and no instance of discontent has been noticed by me. On the contrary, the Indians expressed their entire satisfaction in regard to their removal, and have this day, in council, presented their thanks to the contractors for their kindness in providing to make their journey smooth and comfortable. They are now encamped on their new home, and appear to be highly satisfied with the territory selected for them.

In the course of the removal, it was found most convenient for those living on the Oconto and Menomonee rivers to remove by the way of the Oconto river and Shawano lake, which empties into Wolf river eight miles below the falls at this place. The portage was only three miles. Mr. John Jacobs was selected by the contractors to supply and lead this band; and I detailed my son, Harvey L. Murray, to superintend the removal and devote himself to their comfort, and see that they lacked nothing which the contract provided for them. His report is herewith enclosed. I cannot omit saying that the selection of Mr. Jacobs to lead this band was most fortunate and judicious. He is a capable, discreet, and energetic man, high in the confidence of the Menomonees, and deservedly respected by all.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. MURRAY,
Superintendent, &c.

Hon. L. LEA,
Com. Ind. Aff's, Washington City.

No. 9.

FALLS OF WOLF RIVER, WISCONSIN,
Menomonee Territory, November 2, 1852.

SIR: In obedience to your instructions I repaired, on the 16th, to the Oconto river, to superintend the removal of that portion of the Menomonees residing on the Oconto, and have faithfully attended to the duty assigned me of seeing the Indians well provided for by the contractors, and comfortably removed to this place.

The removal has been effected in a manner entirely satisfactory to the Indians, and very creditable to the contractors, who had deputed Mr. John Jacobs to procure supplies and lead the band. Mr. Jacobs is well educated and highly esteemed. His provision for the band, and care over them, merit the highest praise, and command their warmest thanks and approbation.

The band, consisting of seven hundred, are all here, and comfortably encamped.

Respectfully, yours,

H. L. MURRAY.

E. MURRAY,
Superintendent, &c.