

No. 1.

OFFICE NEW YORK INDIAN AGENCY,
Randolph, October 1, 1855.

DEAR SIR: I respectfully submit my annual report of the condition of the New York Indians. The Senecas, who constitute the largest portion, are located on three reservations, viz: Cattaraugus, in the county of Erie; Alleghany, in the county of Cattaraugus; and Tonawanda, in the county of Genesee.

The Senecas were formerly governed by chiefs, who had the entire control of all national matters and managed their business interests, mainly without consulting the people, until the year 1848, at which time the Senecas of the Cattaraugus and Alleghany reservations united in forming a constitutional government, under which they annually, in the month of May, elected their officers, consisting of president, clerk, treasurer, councillors, &c.

This change in their form of government created political differences and parties which were previously unknown to them. It has also brought their national business wholly before their people, so all have an opportunity of learning and understanding their different interests. The fruits of this change, in my opinion, are very perceptible in the manners, customs, and habits of the whole people. It has created a strong anxiety in nearly all to have their children receive an education; also habits of industry and a desire to excel in all of the various branches of agricultural and mechanical pursuits. At Cattaraugus, during the present year, they have sustained seven schools, six common schools and one high school, with an attendance at the six common schools of 214 Indian pupils, and an average attendance during the whole time the several schools were taught of 117 pupils.

The high school has had an attendance of about 50 Indian youths, with an average of 25 pupils during the whole year. These schools are sustained by appropriations from the State, and from the American Board of Missions, and from the Seneca council.

At Alleghany, during the past year, five schools have been sustained, with an attendance of 158 Indian youths, and an average attendance during the whole time the schools were taught of 109 pupils. This number includes a female boarding school at the Alleghany mission. The schools on this reservation, I am informed, are at present sustained wholly by the American Board of Missions and appropriations from the Seneca council. The above does not include one school which is wholly supported by the Society of Friends.

At Tonawanda they have sustained two schools, with an average attendance of 120 pupils. These schools have an appropriation of \$200, the present year, from the State.

The Tonawanda Senecas are still governed by chiefs. At Cattaraugus the Senecas have three churches, at Alleghany two, and at Tonawanda one.

The legislature of this State, at its last session, incorporated the

Thomas asylum for orphan and destitute Indian children, to be located on the Cattaraugus reservation, and granting the requisite privileges for that purpose. Also making an appropriation of two thousand dollars towards the erection of suitable buildings, with an additional five hundred dollars a year, for two years, for the purpose of helping to sustain said asylum.

The buildings for the Thomas asylum are already commenced and in rapid progress of erection, and it is confidently believed will be completed by the month of January next.

The Oneidas, at Oneida Castle, are in all respects prospering. They sustain good schools, and the present year received an appropriation from the State of five hundred dollars for school purposes.

The Onondagas, at Onondaga Castle, sustain but one school, which is sustained by the Methodist mission; also, one church.

The Tuscaroras are thrifty and comfortable farmers; sustain good schools and one church, and are industrious and enterprising.

With much respect, I remain your obedient servant,

MARCUS H. JOHNSON,
Indian Agent.

HON. GEO. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington.

No. 2.

OFFICE MICHIGAN INDIAN AGENCY,
Detroit, October 10, 1855.

SIR: The official transactions of this agency during the present year possess more than usual interest and importance. I have just completed the first annuity payment to the Chippewas of Lake Superior, under the treaty of September 30, 1854, and have taken the initiatory steps to carry out several of the more important stipulations of that treaty intended for their benefit. This is the first time for several years that all of these Indians have participated in the distribution of the annuities provided by former existing treaties; and I am now, for the first time, able to communicate to you any reliable information relative to their numbers, location, condition, and prospects for improvement.

My Lake Superior pay-roll for the present year embraces 1,552 families and 4,940 individuals. They may properly be divided into

1. The Interior Indians.
2. The Lake Indians.
3. The Mixed Bloods.

The first class reside in the interior, several days' travel from the lake shore, and are those for whom the reservations about Lac Court Oreille and Lac de Flambeau are set apart by the treaty of 1854.