

possessions to the Red River of Texas, is divided into six districts, called Indian Superintendencies. The *Central Superintendency*, which is our field of labor, embraces all the area of Kansas and of the Indian Territory, consisting of about 144,000 square miles, a large portion of which is unsettled, untraversed by railways, and difficult of access, not only for these reasons but because of many streams unprovided with bridges or ferries, and frequently so swollen with rains as, for a time, completely to obstruct travelling and transportation. Some of these streams are very treacherous by reason of quicksands; and much difficulty, and some danger, result from this cause.

The most of the Indians occupying the eastern portion of the Indian Territory are, to a considerable extent, civilized, and capable of managing their own affairs; this may be said of the Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles, Choctaws, and Chickasaws. They are not specially under the care of Friends; other denominations have charge of their educational and religious institutions, and their agents report directly to the Indian Bureau. Superintendent Hoag is required, however, to preside over their General Council, and to attend to such other matters pertaining to their interests as may from time to time be committed to his care by the Department of the Interior. Much might be said of these Indians, of a highly interesting character, but we have not space for details. They number about 50,000.

The remainder of the Indians in the *Central Superintendency*, numbering about 20,000, and scattered from Northeastern Kansas to the southwestern part of the Indian Territory, are under the immediate care of ten agents, each of whom is required to make a quarterly report of the financial affairs of his agency to the Superintendent, in whose office these reports are carefully examined, and thence forwarded to the Indian Bureau

at Washington, and in this and other offices of the Interior Department they are carefully inspected and audited. Each agent also makes a written annual report of the condition of his Indians in all their varied interests; and the Superintendent also reports annually to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. In these annual reports it is the privilege and duty of the superintendent, and agents, to make any suggestions to the department which they may believe would tend to promote the welfare of the Indians, or to facilitate the benevolent designs of the Government.

We give the following synoptical statement of the condition, numbers, &c., of the Indians at the several agencies, as derived mostly from recent reports to our general agent:

The *Kickapoos*, under agent John D. Miles, number 307, and are located in Atchison and Brown Counties, Kansas. Very few of these are blanket Indians. Their habits are good as compared either with other Indians, or with their white neighbors. The men work on the farm, and the women attend to their household affairs. There are two organized churches of Christian professors in this tribe. This is an inviting field of labor to those ministers of our Society who feel drawn to preach the gospel to Indians—as George Fox exhorted Friends in his day. Two day-schools have been in progress amongst them during the past twelve months; each school has averaged 13. A First-day School has also been successfully conducted during a year past, under the charge of Lizzie Miles, assisted by Edward King, and others; it has been well attended, and the children are deeply interested in scriptural truths as presented to them, have committed to memory psalms, scriptural texts, and religious poetry. They are fond of singing, and can sing, with apparent religious feeling, a number of hymns.

care of B. J. Miles, as acting agent, in the absence of John D. Miles, who has temporary charge of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes. The *Kickapoos* are steadily improving. A boarding school was opened on their reservation near the close of last year. Forty children were at once provided for in the institution, and it is proposed very shortly to enlarge the building, so as to provide for a greater number. Wm. D. and Louisa K. Jones have occupied the positions of superintendent and matron, and Lizzie Miles that of teacher. The two former having offered their resignations, Jonathan and Drusilla Wilson have been engaged to succeed them.

The average attendance of the school has been about 26. The girls assist in culinary affairs, in washing, ironing, and milking, do most of their own chamber and dining-room work, sweep their sitting-room, &c. Some are also employed a portion of their time on needle-work, which they do with ease and alacrity. The boys assist in planting, hoeing, cutting wood, drawing water, &c. They usually work from half an hour to an hour each morning and evening, when there is suitable work for them to do. Care is taken to teach the children that labor is honorable and profitable; and it is thought that the boys do not treat the girls as their inferiors.

At all of the boarding schools it is the design to open farms for the purpose of supplying the inmates with such articles of food as can be readily produced, and the superintendents are expected to manage the farms, and to give the older boys practical instruction in agricultural labor.

Donations amounting to \$918 have been made in money, clothing, and furnishing goods, to the *Kickapoo* school, by Friends in different parts of the country.

A Scripture school has been regularly held on First-days, with an average attendance of about 28; whole

number who have attended, 48. It is opened by reading a portion of Scripture, with a devotional pause, after which about half an hour is occupied in singing a hymn, and in blackboard exercises, and by questions on Scripture, answered by the pupils in concert. Classes are then separated, and those who can read spend about half an hour on a lesson, reading and hearing explanations on the same by the teacher. Those who cannot read are collected into one class, and exercised by repeating after the teacher Scripture texts, answers to Scripture questions, &c. Those who understand our language generally manifest an interest in the exercises. Parents are encouraged to have their children at the school on the first day of the week. The latter are allowed to take out-door exercise on this day, but are admonished to keep more quiet than on other days. Efforts have been made to teach them that Jesus Christ died to redeem us, that He is the only Saviour and only Mediator between God and man, and that His Spirit must be allowed to rule and reign in our hearts to make us happy here and hereafter.

The *Shawnee* Agency has been discontinued upon the recommendation of the committee. Nearly all the Indians heretofore attached thereto have removed to the Indian Territory, and become incorporated with the Cherokees.

The *Prairie* band of the *Pottawatomies*, numbering 360, and located in Jackson County, Kansas, remain in much the same condition as at last report.

Joel H. Morris has resigned and vacated his position as agent. No appointment of a successor has yet been made by the Government, on the ground, as we understand, of the small number of these Indians, and the probability of their early removal to the Indian country.