

the rain have had time to accomplish the results for which God's providence has appointed them.

But let us consider the past of our work, short as it has been, in reference to the great desire of the President to secure peace with the Indian. A little more than a year ago there was a grand Indian Confederation, from the Sioux of the Upper Missouri to the Kiowas and Comanches of the Red River of Texas, which threatened a most serious border war. Military men unhesitatingly declared their convictions, that war last summer was inevitable, and some of the post commanders called urgently for reinforcements. With the settlers upon the border there was much excitement, and the constant dread of those horrors heretofore so often enacted. At this juncture, a striking circumstance, bearing upon the general result, occurred. A member of our Committee,* seeing the threatening storm upon our Western frontier, and anxious to prevent its fury and destruction, suggested to Vincent Colyer, the Secretary of the President's Indian Commission, that Red Cloud, the most influential chief of the Sioux Indians, be invited to Washington, in friendly conference with the President, upon the subjects which were rendering the Indians dissatisfied. Secretary Colyer at once recommended the suggestion to the favorable notice of President Grant. Near the same time, a telegram was received by the War Department from General Smith, in command in the Upper Missouri region, saying that Red Cloud had just expressed to him a desire to visit his Great Father at Washington, in conference upon various matters with which he felt aggrieved. These concurrent propositions, apparently so diverse and disconnected in their origin, were immediately and favorably entertained by the President, and an order was issued to General Smith, to invite Red Cloud and other chiefs to Washington.

* B. Tatham.

We all know the effect of that visit upon Red Cloud, and through him, upon that most powerful and warlike of the Indian tribes, of which he is the most distinguished representative. In the meantime, our agents amongst those wild and restless tribes in the Southwest, the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches, were earnestly striving to co-operate with the Government in bringing about a better state of feeling amongst their Indians, and to break up, by force of persuasion and skilful management, those warlike combinations, so full of terror to the border people. It is well known that we had no Indian war last summer, notwithstanding the confident predictions of military men, and the equally confident expectations of settlers. We cannot deem it wrong to attribute this result to the wise and pacific policy pursued; and in the prosecution of that policy, Friends certainly had an important share. Herein was a great pecuniary saving to the Government, for it costs \$5000 a day to support a regiment upon the frontier, or \$450,000 for a three months' campaign—and it would have required twenty regiments in such a war, over so great a territory—costing, \$9,000,000. Herein was the saving of the lives of many soldiers, and of some Indian warriors; a saving of hundreds, perhaps thousands of lives of women and children, both white and Indian; a saving to the great Pacific Railroad, and to all those interests of the entire country which are promoted by this truly wonderful inter-oceanic connection; a saving to the honor and reputation of our country; a saving in the demonstration to the Government, that peace purchased by honesty and fair dealing is cheaper than war; a saving in the education of the popular mind to the practicability of peace, and ultimately to a demand upon the Government for such a policy as will maintain it.

3

have abundant reason for thankfulness to God, that He has been pleased to set his seal of approval upon it, and in many ways to bless our feeble efforts for the amelioration and Christian civilization of the portion of the aborigines of our country committed to our care. While a large portion still fail to appreciate and enjoy even the outward benefits of civilized life, and few possess the joys of the Christian's faith, mountains of difficulty have been overcome, and paths have been smoothed for successful work in the near future; some souls we believe have been saved, to the glory of God, and the joy of the angels in Heaven. The threatenings of serious war on the frontier have again and again been averted. The just policy inaugurated by President Grant, of peaceful and humane treatment of the untutored red-man, from whom the white citizen has wrested his lands, and the only means of livelihood which accords with his tastes and prejudices, stands justified after three years' trial, and approved by the best sentiment of our country. Let Friends continue to give their united and cordial support to the Government in its efforts to promote peace, to do justice, and to remove from the fame of the nation a dark and long-standing stain.

Abundant evidence has been granted that the Lord has called us as a people to a share in this, His work. Let us then be faithful, earnest, persevering. Desirable results in any great work can only be attained by persistent efforts. The objects to be accomplished must be kept in view, and we must press on to their attainment by a well-sustained course of action.

The guiding footprints of our Master are unfolding to us the way which He has opened for the salvation of those who have not yet heard His name, and so far as we have followed those footsteps His blessing has marked our labors. No more than this could we ask. Let us therefore with grateful hearts afresh offer unto Him our

time, our talents, and our substance, as He may be pleased to call for and accept in this direction. "The husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it till he receive the early and the latter rain." Let us be patient also in our service till the time of the harvest, when the whitening fields shall gladden the hearts of the Christian reapers, for we know that our labor shall not be in vain in the Lord.

Signed on behalf, and by direction of "The Associated Executive Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs," the 26th day of Eighth month, 1872.

JOHN B. GARRETT,
Clerk.