

REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

NOVEMBER 26, 1852.

16

EX. P-20 (P. 3 OF 7)

#406

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Census of the Six Nations of New York.

Names of tribes, and location.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Senecas at Cattaraugus.....	205	324	559	1,173
Senecas at Allegany.....	121	201	373	757
Senecas at Tonawanda.....	176	195	220	591
	657	799	1,352	2,851
Senecas at Cattaraugus by adoption, but not entitled to smallest Susan Kidojesty's family.....	1	5	8	
Onondagas at Onondaga Castle.....	80	108	114	
Onondagas with Senecas at Cattaraugus.....	9	6	17	
Onondagas with Senecas at Allegany.....	19	14	54	
Onondagas with Senecas at Tonawanda.....	2	1	3	
Onondagas with Senecas at Tonawanda.....	2	5	20	
	119	124	205	473
Choyas with Senecas.....	30	31	73	134
Tuscaroras at Tonawanda.....	6	63	150	219
Oneidas at Onondaga Castle.....	43	41	89	
Oneidas with Senecas at Cattaraugus.....	4	1	1	
Oneidas with Senecas at Onondaga Castle.....	14	21	29	
Oneidas with Senecas at Tonawanda.....		1		
	69	70	119	258
Add Susan Kidojesty's family, who are not entitled to goods annuity.....				3,733
				12
Total number of Six Nations of New York Indians.....				3,745

No. 4.

OFFICE MICHIGAN INDIAN AGENCY,
Detroit, September 29, 1863.

Sir: The Indians still remaining within the limits of this agency are Onondagas, Chippewas, and a few Potawatombes. They are scattered over a great extent of territory, and number in all about seven thousand persons, exclusive of the Chippewas of Lake Superior. They are divided into more than sixty independent communities or bands, and may be found either permanently or temporarily located in nearly every county in the State, except those comprising the two southern tiers. Their annuity payment for the present year will necessarily be made at not less than ten different points, and some idea of the extent of country over which they are distributed may be inferred from the fact that, in attending to payments, we are compelled to travel a mile for miles, or the lower peninsula of Michigan not less than two thousand miles.

sand miles. A of condition. inunities, exist- parently only d with the white- preserve many from hunger. sent a picture- ing man or qu-

Other bands live together in good farms, wh simulating their becoming, repre- guaranteed to abandoning the. Indeed, many- garded as civil-

This great- tion mis-der- ment of the de- and of coun-ly.

The fact- and are sent- as the main- will never be- Michigan have.

If, then, the the Mi-ssip- signifying that within the limit tent from the- together in the- would be be- much greater- pewas of St- to make the in- cient. The- government- as they have- of it them- the- surge- and- great advan- States govern- provisions of- are establish- and it was still.

The name- of the govern- ted States, by

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men.	Children.	Total.
324	852	1,176
301	372	673
130	200	330
220	1,201	2,521
3	8	
08	141	
0	17	
14	61	
1	3	
5	20	
124	208	472
31	73	113
03	151	202
41	89	
1	1	
21	20	
1		
70	119	215
		3,733
		12
		3,745

AGENCY, under 23, 1853.

If this agency
are scattered
from seven to
superior. They
cities or bands
located in nearly
two southern
necessarily be
of the extent
from the
than two thou-

and miles. Among them may be found bands in almost every grade of condition. A few still present the anomaly of savage, primitive communities, existing in the very midst of civilization and culture, apparently only debased and degraded in the scale of humanity by contact with the white population. They have no permanent location and preserve many of the peculiarities of their race. They often suffer from hunger and cold, are grossly addicted to intemperance, and present a picture of absolute heathenism, with scarcely a single redeeming trait or quality.

Other bands have made great improvement in civilization. They live together in settled communities, own the land they occupy, have good farms, with flourishing churches and schools, and are rapidly assimilating themselves in all respects to their civilized neighbors, and becoming qualified to avail themselves of the privilege of citizenship guaranteed to them by the constitution of the State of Michigan on their abandoning their tribal state, and assuming the habits of civilized life. Indeed many of them now exercise the right of suffrage, and are regarded as citizens in all intents and purposes.

This great contrast is mainly owing to the labors and efforts of Christian missionaries and teachers, and no argument beyond the bare statement of the fact is needed to show the duty and importance of sustaining and encouraging them by every constitutional means.

The fact that our Indians are divided into so many independent bands, and are scattered from one extremity of the State to the other, I regard as the main obstacle in the way of their more rapid improvement. They will never consent to remove west of the Mississippi, and the people of Michigan have no desire to exile them from the home of their fathers.

If, then, the United States would grant them, in fee of lands west of the Mississippi, (to which they are entitled by the treaty of 1836, on satisfying their desire to remove thither,) a reasonable amount of land within the limits of this State, they might be withdrawn to a great extent from the bad influences to which they are now exposed, and brought together in situations where educational enterprise and missionary labor would be brought to bear upon larger numbers, at less expense and with much greater effect than is now possible. One location for the Chippewas of Saginaw, and three or four for the Ottowas and Chippewas of Lake Superior in all from six to eight townships of land, would be sufficient. The whole should be held for them in trust by the general government of the State of Michigan, and only conveyed to them in fee if they become sufficiently enlightened to be capable of taking charge of themselves. I know of no other plan to remedy this evil I have suggested, and believe that such an arrangement could be effected with great advantage to the Indians, and with no expense to the United States greater than would be incurred by a literal compliance with the provisions of the several treaties, to the benefits of which these Indians are entitled. The Indians themselves would readily acquiesce in it, and it would be satisfactory to the people of this State.

There are now employed in this agency twenty-five persons, exclusive of the agents, who receive their appointments and salaries from the United States, in pursuance generally of treaty stipulations. A statement