

EFFORTS TO EDUCATE AND CIVILIZE INDIAN TRIBES.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

IN ANSWER TO

A resolution of the House of March 24, 1870, in relation to the efforts that have been made by the government to educate and civilize the Indian tribes within the limits of the United States.

MAY 11, 1870.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., April 21, 1870.

SIR: On the 25th ultimo this department received a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 24th ultimo, in the following words, viz:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be requested to furnish to this House a specific statement of the efforts that have been made by the government to educate and civilize the Indian tribes within the limits of the United States, the amount of money which has been expended for that purpose by the government and by charitable institutions, and the success which has been obtained, or the results that have been secured by these efforts, as far as the facts can be ascertained.

The resolution having been referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I now have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of his report, dated the 19th instant, giving the reasons why the information called for cannot now be furnished.

"A general view of the subject" is given in the Commissioner's report in advance of a full and complete statement, as requested by the resolution, which, when prepared, will be transmitted to the House of Representatives.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. COX,
Secretary.

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., April 19, 1870.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the resolution of the United States House of Representatives, dated the 24th ultimo, re-

ferred here by you, requesting that the House be furnished "a specific statement of the efforts that have been made by the government to educate and civilize the Indian tribes within the limits of the United States, the amount of money which has been expended for that purpose by the government and by charitable institutions, and the success which has been obtained, or the results that have been secured by these efforts, as far as the facts can be ascertained."

I beg leave to remark that to furnish a statement so comprehensive would require in its preparation not less than ten or twelve months' labor, as the facts could only be ascertained by the examination of all Indian treaties, appropriations by Congress for the Indian service, the accounts of the disbursements by officers of this bureau; also, the examination of the numerous reports of superintendents and teachers of schools. So far as respects the amount of money expended by charitable institutions, this office has not the data upon which to base a statement thereof; the information desired on this point would have to be furnished by the institutions, as they were not required to report such matters to the department. It therefore being impracticable to give the information called for by the resolution as early as it is doubtless expected by the House of Representatives, I submit a general view of the subject. Many of the Indian treaties contain stipulations providing amply for the education and civilization of the tribes with whom they were negotiated. A special fund has been provided by act of Congress of March 3, 1819, giving annually the sum of \$10,000, and various religious societies have, for many years, contributed largely of their means for these purposes among the Indians. The success of the government and of these charitable institutions, if not commensurate with the efforts made and moneys expended, has been, it is believed, fully as great as could be expected under the adverse influences and circumstances attending them, and the extent of that success is indicated by the advanced state of many of the tribes in civilization beyond that of others not so highly favored with such aid. The civilization fund of \$10,000 annually, which up to the present fiscal year amounted to \$510,000, with the exception of a balance of \$16,000, upon which are prospective demands sufficient to take up the whole, has been, it is understood, faithfully, and to the best advantage, applied for the accomplishment of the purposes designed.

The resolution is herewith returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. PARKER,
Commissioner.

Hon. J. D. Cox,
Secretary of the Interior.