White Thunder and Rose must
ful. to die at Car
shies of Ernest
& Oakland. Want
their bodies sent
home.

W. D. I. S.

See letter 1837 4/81 fr. Pratt with
endorsement.

Letter to Agent Cook Jan 27, 81.
United States Indian Service,

Rosebud Agency, S.D.

Dec. 27th, 1880

Mr. Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington D.C.

My dear Sir,

We have just heard with great sorrow of the death of our children, Ernest and Maud. We have had frequent letters from Capt. Pratt in regard to our Children, but did not think their cases hopeless. We gave them up cheerfully to the Great Father to educate believing that when they came back to us they would not only be of great help to us their parents, but that the civilizing influences brought bear upon them would be a stimulus for our people to follow quickly the ways and customs of the whites. Also they will not come to us as helps to teach our people. They are gone from earth forever, gone to join the others of our Children in the land of the Great Spirit. The jewels are gone...
the castles are only lift and they are far
very far away from us. we cannot bear to
have them sleep so far from their earthly home.
our hearts will grieve too long if we do not have
what is left of them back to our homes.
we want to deck their graves with our own
hands. we want when the birds begin to sing
that the flowers begin to bloom to have them
where we can view their graves with flowers
and have their hear (in their spirits) the
sway songs of the angel birds that flutter
around and about their quiet resting places.
now my dear friend, you have always
been good and kind to us. we are in a
deepest sorrow now. we cannot blame you or any
one for the great loss we have sustained.

we do want you to do one thing for us and
want you to do it as quickly as you can.
we want you to send us the remains of
our dear children. it will help us to drive
away the deep sorrow we feel and in time will
make our hearts glad once more. if you
have any love for us we hope you will do this.

signed willie thunde & willie bear 73 for us.