

22474

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs.
Rec'd JUN 14

1894.

21320-94,

39/110

Indian Indus. School, Carlisle, Pa.

Capt. R. H. Pratt, 10th U. S. Cav. Supt

In regard to Ophelia King and
Helen Patterson's return home.

3 inc.

FILE ✓

E

P

In reply to:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

Carlisle, Pa., June 13th 1894.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of June 9th marked "Education, 21320," enclosing letter from George King, I have respectfully to inform you that Louisa King, an older sister of the two girls mentioned in the letter, was at the school several years and under just such urgency as Mr. King now shows, she went home to help the father and mother. While she was at home she and her father urged me to take two little sisters, Celinda and Ophelia. They were both under age but I yielded to their urgency and Ophelia and her younger sister came here. Ophelia is 13 years of age, and is, as you can readily understand, too young to give her father and mother the help they expect. The family is large and the work heavy, and after being at home sometime Louisa broke down under it and her father urged me to take her back, which I did. She returned and went to the hospital for treatment for two months and then under my arrangements she went to the country and has been out two years. She is in an excellent family in Lansdown and goes to one of the best country schools we know of. My visiting Agent reports that when she visited Louisa in May Louisa informed her of her father's

Hon. Commr. of Indian Affairs, page 2.

demands for Ophelia to go home. Louisa said that Ophelia was not strong enough to do the work her father expected her to do, and said "if one of us has to go home, I will go; but I want the Captain to take a stand against Ophelia's going, and I don't want to go if I can help it."

If we are ever to get into these Indian people any stamina to hold their own in our civilization we must take a different stand from that which you seem to take in all of these cases. There must be a disposition not only to get them into schools and employments away from the reservations, but to hold them to such schools and employments.

In regard to Helen Patterson, daughter of N. C. Patterson, I have to say that I accepted of the New York children under protest as the correspondence in your office and here will show, and it was only after the greatest urgency from the missionaries and people interested in them on and about the reservation and of the Indians themselves that I did finally consent to take them. They came here for a fixed time, and if no other reason existed their own future and the training of both parents and children in their duty to carry out obligations demands they should be held to their time. My information does not agree with yours in regard to the ability or the intentions of Mr. Patterson or others whose children are here, to send their children to school and keep them there. I enclose a recent letter from the mother. It seems to me as well to avoid ex parte judgements and with a fuller knowledge of all the issues involved I do not agree with you that it is best to send the girl home.

Dictated.

Very respectfully,


CCapt. 10th US Cav'y. . . Supt.

Cattaraugus Reser.
May 15th 1894.

Capt. R. H. Pratt.

Dear Sir—

Your letter of the 11th Inst. has been received and in reply I wish to say that I did not write to you to have you permit Helen^s return home. It was my husband. I am very sorry he should want her to return to such wickedness as there is on this Reser. I tried my best to persuade him not to write to you asking such a favor of you but he seemed to think it best to write to you.

No. Mr Pratt it is very kind of you to keep Helen where she is, and I am very thankful to you that you did not grant my husband's request as it is far better for Helen to be among good christian people and where she can make a woman of herself than to be tied down on this reserⁿ in ignorance. Oh how glad I am that she has the chances that she has and it is my earnest prayer that she may continue to try and take advantage of the chances she has.

I would like very much indeed to see her, but I would rather she would wait until the time is up.

I think her Grand-mother
Mr. M. Kennedy is very
foolish she is for ever talking
about getting her back.

I would not take any notice
of her letters if I were in your
place, she is a very ignorant
old lady. Now Captain
it is my earnest request
that you will keep Helen
as long as you can as
she write to me and tells
me that she loves Carlisle
and is very anxious to learn
and become some-body.

Poor girl her own relations
are a great hinderance to
her, but where she is they
cannot hinder her much.

Hoping you will be successful
in your great undertaking
I remain as ever

Respectfully,

Mrs W. C. Patterson.

P.S. Please excuse this paper,
as it is all I have at hand at
present

