

Jan 14th 80

Hon. J. C. Rowland
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

I send you today a few stereo views of the Southth Youth here. You will note that they came mostly as blanket Indians. A very large proportion of them never saw the inside of a school-room. I am gratified to report that they have yielded gracefully to discipline and that our school-rooms, in good order, eagerness to learn, actual progress & rise to our minds quite up to the average ^{stage of} of our own race.



Isolated, as these Indian youth are, from the savage surroundings at their homes, they loose that tenacity to the savage life, which is so much of an obstacle to Agency efforts, and give themselves up to learning all they can, in the time they expect to remain here.

Now that the school room work is well started, we are turning attention to the Agricultural and Mechanical features proposed.

One of the two large Stables, 200/40 feet, will make us an excellent workshop where we may carry on instruction in Carpentry, Wagon & Harness making, Blacksmithing, Boot & shoe making and repairing &c. &c. And this too without very great expense. I have proposed to the



Dept. and am encouraged, to
 make, Hames, Linware ^{to agencies.} for issue.
 This getting rid of what we make
 without imposition on the local trade
 will be a great relief, and I believe
 will not only enable us to teach the
 Ind's boys trades, but will be a
 saving to the Department.

The location is healthy, Buildings
 commodious for four hundred pupils,
 and there is a strong current in
 favor of this kind of work among
 the Indians. I believe I told you I
 was invited to come and get 500
 more boys and girls, by Spotted Tail.
 Since my return from Wash^{ton} I have a
 letter from the Navajoes asking to
 get some of the children of their
 and I have asked the Dept. to allow me 50 to 75.
 Chiefs and headmen here. The last
 annual report of the Commissioner of



of Indian Affairs shows that out
 of 4000 children this tribe has not
 one in school. (See Com: Report 1878
 page 180) Both Spotted Tail and Red
 Cloud Indians have heretofore antagonized
 education ~~heretofore~~. Now I could fill
 six institutions as large as this could be
 made (say 500 each) from those agencies
 alone. I am sure of it. They see in
 this a fair chance for their children
 to become like the whites, and this
 is the supreme idea with the Indian of
 the plains. Your bill proposes a
 number of vacant military posts which
 the Adj. Genl. informed the Committee
 would be available. Genl. Sherman
 named others to me. I know a
 number of Army Officers who would
 render valuable service to this complicated
 and question, in this connection. I

Should be glad to appear before your Com.
 and also be glad to have a delegation from it
 visit the school, with great respect
 Yours obediently
 R. R. Johnson

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