

Indian Industrial School,  
Carlisle, Pa.

Jan'y 21. '88

My dear Friend,

Ever since reading in the Tribune last night about the great event to come off next Monday at the Union League there has been a warm controversy between my new Captains suit and my Swallow tail suit about which should (or had the right to) appear. The uniform claims long association and service and that it has carried me from a private soldier in 1861 to a Captain of staff in '64 & '65 and through Indian Campaigns and hard ships of frontier service, and that it is still a power to push me forward and I should not go back on an old friend. While the Swallow tail claims that the piping times of peace have come and that while it is all right for the uniform to shine and take precedence in war, it would not be just right to gild everything.



that "there is a time for everything", and that "peace hath her victories no less renowned than war", and that swallowtails have some rights, and among them an occasional right to be taken out and dusted and allowed to appear in public. I really am divided on these claims and appeals and don't see just how they can be satisfactorily adjusted except you withhold that invitation.

All goes well and we still are hoping (almost against hope) to see you and Mrs. Agnew over here soon.

I was in Wash<sup>n</sup> last week and never was better received everywhere. There is push in the new Secretary, and much talk of radical changes in the Ind<sup>n</sup> Office.

Faithfully and affectionately  
Yours  
R. H. Pratt

Dr Agnew  
New York.



[*Printed stationary*: Indian Industrial School, Carlisle, Pa.]

Jany 31<sup>st</sup>. 88

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