339 INDIAN AFFAIRS 1001 White Thurde etal Rose had Mel. to death at Car slile of Envil + mand wants their bodies sent house mor ling Die letter 1837 4/81 fr. Pract with endorsement. Setter to agent Cook Jan 27/81. Room

Anited States Indian Service, Rosebud Agency, Da16 DEC. 27 th, 1880. How Commissioner of Vade an Affairs hashington D.C. My Dem Dis We have just heard with gratest Dorrow of the chath our Children Ernest, and Mand. We have had frigued letters from Capp Pratt in organd to one Children but did not think the asses hopeless. We gave them up charfully to the graf father to Eche cate believing That when they came back to us they would not only be of great help to as their parents but That the civilizing influences brought to bear upon them would, a stimulus & our prople to follow quickly the ways and customs of the whites. alas they will not come to as helps to track our prople. They are gone from earth forwer, gone to four the others of our children in the land of the Graf & pint. The provile are gone

the castless are only left and they are for Is orny for away from us. He cannot bear 8 have three sleep so for from their Earthy home The hearts will grive too long if we do not have to I's what is lift of them back to our homes. Whe want to deck their graves with our own hands. we would when the birds hig in to sing I the flowers begin to bloom to have theme. to here we can stow This graves with flowers and have there have (in their spirit,) the sowel songe of the angel birds that, fullies around and about their quiel nothing places Now my chur friend, you have always but good and Kind to as we are in a tup corrow now. We don't blame gove or any Fore for the great loss ar have oustained. The do want you to do one thing for us and We want you to do it as quickly as you care. your draw children. It will help as & drive away the dup sorrow we ful and in time will have any love for as we hope you will do this I Digned White I hunder & Dwift Bran & for as-

Rosebud Agency, Dak. Dec. 27th, 1880

Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

My Dear Sir,

We have just heard with greatest 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 causes 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 to bear upon them would be a stimulus to our people to follow quickly the ways and customs of the whites. Alas they will not come to us helps to teach our people. They are gone from earth forever, gone to join the other of our children in the Land of the Great Spirit. The jewels are gone

[page 2]

the caskets are only left 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 dick [dig] their graves with our own hands. We want when the birds begin to sing & the flowers begin to bloom to have them where we can strew their graves with flowers and have them hear (in their spirits) the sweet songs of the angel birds that feather around and about their quiet nesting places.

Now my dear friend, you have always been good and kind to us. We are in a deep sorrow now. We do not blame you of 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 for us.

Signed, White Thunder & Swift Bear

Spotted Tail is present and desires to say to you that he thinks when "our children" get sick & the Dr. cannot help them they ought to be sent home, for if they are to die we want them to die at home.

Spotted Tail