

2631

OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS
Rec'd. FEB 8

1884

N. H. Pratt
Careless

July. 7. 84

Refs. to Monday
you Ind. child
seen at the school
& difficulty with
parents & others
enc. letter from
parties wishing
release of
certain children
or

Full

See #2629/84

Ans. Mich. 1/84
Letter to Gagnier Mich. 3/84 Copy sent Pratt
362 Miss Cook

United States Indian Service,

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR INDIAN YOUTH,

CARLISLE BARRACKS,

Carlisle, Pa., Feb. 7, 1884

To the Hon.

The Commr. of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In reply to yours of the 6th inst. in regard to the appeal for the return of certain Onondaga children now at this school, I respectfully invite your attention to the fact that the communication and the signatures are written by the same party - no doubt Jarvis Pierce, a half breed Indian, who takes special interest in stirring up the parents in order to oppose the plans of Miss Remington. He came here two months ago presenting the enclosed letter, which, he admitted he had written and signed himself.

Mr. Daniel La Fort was one of two sent here by the Agent at my request to examine into and report upon the alleged cause of

60mm.

dissatisfaction on the part of some of the children. He and the other Commissioners left in my hands a written expression of their satisfaction with the school; adding that "the alleged grievances of the children were wholly and entirely false."

The statement that there was any deception practiced in bringing them here; that they ^{were told} they were to go to a white school, and that there were no Western Indians here, is a new allegation and is, I am satisfied not true.

The fight on the Onondaga Reserve is between the Methodists and Episcopalians. The Pagan & Christian elements are used by both, and the feeling of the leaders on both sides is very intense.

Miss Remington has been here several times - she represents the Episcopalians and it was she who secured your permission for the children to come here. The Methodist Missionary has also been here to try to get some of them away; and we have had two delegations of their principal men here; one to try to get children away, and the other to examine and report upon the discontented children.

Comm.

To Mr. Jarvis Pierce, who tried to get children away, and to the Methodist Missionary, I said that the bringing of the children here, having been through the formality of an application to the Indian Department, I thought it best and courteous for them to secure the permit for them to go away from the same source. I did this hoping to tide over their discontent; but perhaps it is now well enough to allow them to have their children returned.

Compulsory education is the remedy for the condition of this tribe as well as all other tribes.

The children should be returned at the expense of their parents or people.

I would suggest that this appeal be referred to Mr. R. N. Gardner, Agent for these Indians, at Syracuse, N. Y. with the instruction or advice to find out if the parents really wish the children sent home, and if so to communicate with me direct; furnishing the means; that I have been instructed by you to return any children whose parents are not content to allow them

Comm

to remain -

They are a weak lot, both parents
and children -

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servant,

R.H. Pratt

Capt. 10th Cav.
Sept.

2631

INDIAN OFFICE.

1884

Inclos: No. /

Oronoque Castle, Dec. 1st
(1883)

To Capt. Pratt, Care
of Carlisle Indian School -

We the undersigned members of
the Oronoque Tribe of Indians having
children at your school several
weeks since under the management
by Julia E Remington, desire to be
released from said school the
following names one Enoch Scan-
-mashook. Mr. Thomas & Miss John-
-son. This is to certify that Paris
Pierce is hereby delegated for that
purpose, to take charge of the
above named persons to bring
them safely home. Immediately.

Wm. Johnson
Eliza Fish
William Thomas