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OFFICE OF  
INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Recd. SEP 2

1885

2892

P. H. Bridenbough  
 Martinsburg Pa.  
 Aug 31 '85  
 Reply to letter of  
 27 inst. rel.  
 to certain pupils  
 from Carlisle  
 and refs. to same  
 pupils, notes  
 instructions &c

Answered Sept. 5 '85  
 ↓ file

E 18/185 Supt.

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Use your own discretion -  
boys should be taught to read  
with as few books as possible -  
why do you insist on this? There may be reasons  
which I do not know -  
I must substitute places of  
J. W. C.

Indian Training School,  
Martinsburg, Blain Co., Pa.  
August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1885,

Gen. J. A. C. Atkins:-

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

In reply to your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> instant permit me to say that I think Capt. Pratt is about right in saying that "Charlie Labadie, Lewis Finke, Clement Denoya, and Ella Carlton are not discernably Indian". But I have not noticed anything in their dispositions that would compel me to say that I do not want them in my school. In fact, I think it is due to them and to me to give them a fair trial. I must say that Capt. Pratt spoke very discouragingly of the transfer of the Osage pupils to Martinsburg; and, I would simply add, Why did not Capt. Pratt ask for the removal of Ella

Carlton, Emily B. Ross, Lewis Tinker, <sup>and</sup> Clement Denoya long ago, if the only objection to the girls is, that they are not discernably Indian, or are half-breeds? Some of these pupils have been at Carlisle two years or more.

Capt. Pratt told me that he had written to the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs that he should send some one to Martinsburg to see after the School. As far as the Department is concerned I ask that my work be inspected, and I hope that the Department will then learn that I should be better remunerated. But I doubt the propriety of Capt. Pratt interfering in any way.

I have no unkind feelings towards Capt. Pratt and I think he has done, and is doing a noble work. Yet I would like very much that he should encourage the transfer of the Osage pupils whom he had suggested it, rather than tell me "it would cause trouble."

I would say, in conclusion, on this matter

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that "Your honor" should inform Hon. J. H. Oberly, Supt. of Indian Schools, that I am perfectly satisfied with these Osage pupils, and do not wish any of them taken away at the present time.

Please give me instructions on the following points, viz. —

1. A number of these Osage young men, Webster, Robert Dunlap, and others, desire to attend school all day; — they say, they did not attend school long at Carlisle, as they were put on farms for one whole year.

2. Several of the Osages and several of the Oneidas have a great desire to take up a special course of training which will qualify them for teaching. These young men are worthy and I must say are very industrious both in and out of the school room. May I carry out the wishes of the pupils in these two particulars?

3 I will send two of the Oneida boys home. The one is sickly and the other is weak —

mindful and his parents want him at home. May I take two girls (Tuscarora Indians), from New York state, who desire to be instructed and trained for teaching among their own people. These girls would fill up the vacancy caused by sending two Oneidas home.

Very respectfully

P. H. Bridenbaugh  
Supt. of Indian Training School.