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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
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Chas. F. Mezure

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Raleigh N.C.

Mar. 18/97

Remarks in re-
gard to attitude
of Capt. Pratt
towards the Ind.
Office

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The Interior has followed with result in matters moving along
harmoniously and cordially. You surely have my best wishes to
this end, and I wish to say further that if I were in my power
you would continue to *be* *in* *the* *best* *of* *the* *best* *of* *the* *best* *of* *the*
at affairs.

I wish to thank you in closing for sending me a copy of the

correspondence.

Respectfully yours,

Chas. F. Mezure

SHAW UNIVERSITY.

FOUNDED IN 1865 FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE FREEDMEN.

CHAS. F. MESERVE, A. M.,
PRESIDENT.

J. GREENWOOD SNELLING, Esq.,
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C. W. JEWETT,
ASS'T TREAS. AND SEC., RALEIGH.

Raleigh, N. C., March 18, 1897

Hon. D. M. Browning,
Com. of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Judge Browning:-

Your favor of Feb. 27th inclosing copy of a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Interior to yourself concerning Capt. Pratt and his strange attitude to the Indian Office, is before me. I have just returned from a three weeks' absence and this will explain why I have delayed so long in acknowledging its receipt.

It has been a surprise to me for a long time that the Indian Office has tolerated the criticisms and strange actions of Capt. Pratt. It has been a source of great grief to all who are interested in the progress of the Indian and who have appreciated the great service that Capt. Pratt has rendered to the cause. It seems too bad that, after a man has done such good work, as he draws near the close of life, it should be to such an extent spoiled by his career of the last few years. He is a man of many good qualities and has given years of service to the cause, but he seems to have utterly failed to understand that there are others also equally interested, although they may disagree with him and should receive from his hands nothing but courteous treatment.

D.M.B.2-

Aside from this it has surprised me that the officials of the Indian Department have tolerated his insubordination as long as they have. I surely think that he is getting off very easily indeed.

His unreasonable course must have been a source of great annoyance and trouble to yourself and other officials, and I trust and hope that the course that the Honorable Secretary of the Interior has followed will result in matters moving along harmoniously and cordially. You surely have my best wishes to this end, and I wish to say further that if it were in my power you would continue Commissioner of Indian Affairs, notwithstanding there has been a change in the political administration of National affairs.

I wish to thank you in closing for sending me a copy of the correspondence.

Faithfully yours,

Chas. F. Meserve