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R. H. Pratt

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Rel. to character and
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Amos Longwolf

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Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., Aug. 25, 1898.

Hon. W. A. Jones,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Commissioner:

Amos Longwolf comes to me with your letter to him dated the 24. Amos is a Sioux, from Pine Ridge, Dakota. He has been here seven and a half years, and has reached our tenth section. He learns very well, speaks English well, and writes a fairly good letter, as you know. I have had at this school two of his sisters and one brother, all older than he. One of his sisters came very young and remained a long time, and was a good girl. The other sister had been off with her father in Buffalo Bill's show, and was in Europe, where she took up habits that were unfortunate. His brother Dana was a young man when he came, and had many habits that were very troublesome. Amos, the writer of the letter to you, came to us when quite a little boy. It has been my ambition all the years to try to make a man of him; to keep him at Carlisle until we could cure him of habits that were inherited and inherent. He has been court-martialed several times for stealing and for mis-conduct on farm, but I had never lost faith in him. I had believed that somehow, in time, he would come out and be a man. He has unusual force of character, and this has been my hope. Though I have been urged to send him home ^{or away} from the school by

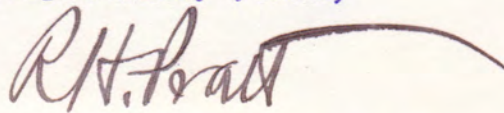
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Hon. W. A. Jones.-2.)

those who had charge of him, I have held on to him. His father and mother are both dead. If I send him back to the agency and he behaves there as he does here, (and I am sure he will, and a great deal worse,) he will bring a bad name on this school and Indian education. He writes his letter to you while under a pressure of punishment by a court-martial. If he were a good boy, honorable and upright, as I think he ought to be and can be, I should not hesitate to turn him loose. But I am afraid to send him back home with his present habits. If you choose to direct me to send him home, I shall not object. He has fared a great deal better always than he deserved, and I am beginning to be afraid that all the work and expense placed upon him will go for nothing.

Under any circumstances, the punishment awarded Amos by a court-martial ought to be carried out.

Very respectfully yours,



CMS

Maj. 1st Cavy, Supt.