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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. JUN 11

1903

Pratt. R.H. Col. & Supt.

Ind. Indus. School,
Carlisle, Pa., June 9, 1903.

Concerning sentence of two run-
away boys and letter of William
John.

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Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., June 9, 1903.

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

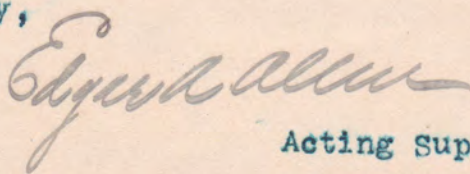
Sir :

Replying to your letter of the 8th instant enclosing a communication from William John, a student of this school, complaining of the treatment accorded the two runaway boys whom you apprehended in Chicago, I have the honor to submit the following in the absence of Colonel Pratt:

Upon the return of these boys to the school they were subjected to a regular trial by court martial such as is provided by the school discipline in cases of this kind. As both were frequent offenders in this particular, one having deserted three times and the other four times in the four months of their connection with this school, their sentence included whipping in the presence of the school battalion. It has done both boys a great deal of good, for they now seem quite contented and have remained at the school for a longer period than at any time previous. The sentence was executed, I am satisfied, without any brutality.

William John, the writer of the letter, is now under sentence of dismissal from the school for bad conduct and repeated desertion and will be sent home soon. His letter is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,



Acting Supt.

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Carlisle Indian School.

Carlisle, Penn. 5/20th 1903.

Mr W. A. Jones. Esq.
Washington. D. C.

Dear Sir: - As I have the greatest pleasure of writing to you of my inquiring few articles according to law in the Government Schools in the United States.

And I wish to inform of what cruelty I have witness on the 19th of May. 1903, in this there were two ^{boys} of the state of Utah. they came here for education and they are like all other boys came from the west with out much education. of course they did not realize what the Carlisle School^{is} and it takes a certain length of time for them to get used to what rules of some scholars. These boys were whipped and now as one of the boys that I knew is suffering from the brutal.

And I will also express my opinion of this school, as it has been made practised here of whipping the students since lately. I have a great sympathy for human being for such penalty given to an Indian. Is it proper in any way of licking a man, as if he was a dome animal in the Government Schools.

I understand this school to be a school for the

education of the Indians.² Do you think that whipping is the best way to educate him? I say No! I call it man slaughter. It is all brutal and cruel.

Farther more can be said of the act of whipping. that they called two of the larger boys to hold a little boy still and while the Asst Disciplinarian done the whipping. It was certainly a pitiful sight that ever I witnessed. And that I can not see in any way that is doing Justice to those boys, who can not speak the English language or to give any explanation of the cause of their running away from here, as I have mention about that it takes a times for them to be come well acquainted with the eastern people. And is it just because they are from distant state, or quiet away off from their homes that they can be beaten this way like a dome beast, and its not proper for me or even more of the people who have any confidence in the statements of the Human Nature.. These were caught in Chicago and brought back and punished in the manner I have mention. They did not realize what this school can do for them, because they did not stay long enough to know it, and as I looked down upon the poor fellows, I asked myself this question.

Whether this is the school that has a name to be mentioned among the best of all places for young men to be come highly educated? But as I can say now whether white people think that civilization or classical education can be hammered in the brains of a human being by beating him like a dog.

And if I'm not mistaken that there were about five or six of the young men punished in this way, and therefore I wish to know if such action in the Government Schools in the United States is lawful.

This is my second school I have been to, and in the differences of the two are not anywhere to be alike in treatment and schooling. I have learned more in the first that I went to than I do in this Central School.

And as my time expires Sept 28th 1903, and I wish to face the world for myself and I want to work and to prepare for my living, as I have a position to go now, and I hardly think that a few months would make much difference if making fully five years. Do you? If I can go now and it would that much better me in my way through life.

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I am now in the eighth Grade, and now 2 school-room, and it has been my second term in this one, and therefore I do not take so much interest in schooling as I did, and even if I do want to go to school again, I would go to some other school of my own expenses, and it would be deservicing what I can get.

So I would like you also to assist me in my desires. I came from the state of New York and my tribe is Seneca. I do not think that I have spent a third of my life since this world on the Reservation, and I do not have that in mind yet. But now as I leave this to you of your idea. I am awaiting of your reply.

Yours Very Respy

Wm. F. John,

Indian School,

Carlisle, Pa.

P.S.

The actions have been done before the whole battalion.
I am or will be 21 yrs. of age. the 4th of July.