

[Abbott, Lyman]

THE OUTLOOK
287 FOURTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

June 30, 1904.

My dear Mr. Pratt:—

Your letter
of June 27th is at
hand. Of course I am
aware of the two
policies respecting the
Indians, one which
you represent, advocating
their intermixture and

assimilation with the ²
white race — the other,
which I should judge
from his letter Mr. Leupp
represents, involving the
maintenance of the Indian
race as a separate race
in this country. You
know that on this point
I have heartily agreed
with you for many
years, and have urged
the policy of intermixture
and assimilation by
speech and pen.

I did so also in the ³
paragraph which has
evoked your letter. I
quoted Mr. Leupp with
approbation only in his
account of your successor.
I know Mr. Leupp per-
sonally somewhat, and
intimately through
others, and have ^{had} con-
fidence in his truthful-
ness as an historian
of current events, though
I differ from him in
judgement on this issue

as I do on some others.

I have read the speech which you send to me, and in the main, perhaps not all its details, agree with it. But I doubt whether it was "good form" for me working under the Bureau to demand the abolition of the Bureau; but as you know, I have urged such abolition, and at the last meeting of the Lake Mohonk Conference pressed the

transfer of the care of
the Indians to the War
Department, partly
for the very purpose of
destroying the Indian
Bureau and bringing
the so-called Indian
work to a speedy end.

As to the statement
that your resignation
was accepted, of course

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I cannot tell. You must know in what form the notice reached you. Was it a de novo removal, or was it an acceptance of the resignation, although you had recalled it? If the latter was the case, then the statement in The Outlook would be correct, as far as it goes. If the former was the case, it would be incorrect, and of course we should readily

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correct the statement if you wish us to do so, though I can hardly see that there would be any advantage, either to you or to the cause in rectifying what after all would be a minor error.

I beg you to believe that I heartily appreciate the splendid work you have done in dealing with this Indian problem. I

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think that we should
have been much farther
along in its solution than
we are today, if your
fundamental principles,
not, perhaps, always
your detailed methods,
had been accepted by
the Government and
by the people.

Yours sincerely
L. M. Abbott.