

Personal -

Washington D.C.

Feb. 19 1803.

Dear Col. Pratt;

I am just now in receipt of the order placing you on the retired list and note in the papers that you have asked to be relieved from duty at Carlisle.

I want you to understand that I am in sympathy with you in this state of affairs

and so write, altho,
hastily in the midst
of closing up my
business.

As a friend and as
one deeply interested
in all good work
done for the welfare
of the Indians may I
not suggest that you
must have a good
work to do where
you are; the Indian
trust you as their friend
and you have made
a place that you can
fill much better
than any one else

can. As a matter
of your own con-
scientiousness & happiness I
believe you will make
a mistake by fixing
up the work. Re-
tired officers generally
seem to me to be an un-
fortunate class if they
have conscience and
alert minds, you have
your work in your
hands & trained ability
to do it. You
know I have always
thought that the empha-
ses of work for
Indians should be

placed on that
have for them where
they live and if you
do leave Carlisle?
Hope you will take
up the work elsewhere.
With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

J. M. Davis.