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United States Indian Service,

Omaha ^{and} Winnebago Agency,

Nebraska

Oct. 23rd, 1894

Gen. C. L. ...
My dear Captain:

I had promised myself to write you, but it seems as if there was no end to my work. The land questions here are of such a vexatious character that it is enough to make one wish that he could wipe it all out and begin over. and numberless other matters are continually arising so that I have to "cut" some of them. in order to make a showing of the most important.

Mr. Standing got 9 unformed minds for you to develop. I could not do much to help him nor show him the attention I ^{have} would liked to: but I hope you were not disappointed. Genoa School representative is now here, I told him to go ahead and get all he could. He has succeeded in getting one so far, if he don't run away. X I am of opinion that all Indians are not farmers any more than are others;

and while early training in that direction may tend to make them able to understand agriculture in some degree, it will only make successful farmers of those who are disposed to follow that pursuit. If, however, an Indian becomes educated so as to be able to do something beyond field work, I see no place for him - certainly there is none on a reservation. P Several young men have told me that they did not "like" farming; but I think that, perhaps, the blood of their forefathers is so strong in them that there is no labor, mental or physical, that they like - and it is only by placing them in such a position that they must employ their brains or bodies, or both, that they will become competitors, truly, with the whites. You know the persevering labor that will see for the one who undertakes to lead the enterprise of surrounding the Indians with new environment. Unfortunately the majority of those who come in contact with our Indians in the west, are of a character to contaminate rather than elevate him. Greed, eternal greed is the besetting sin of the white who infects the Indian Country and to obtain all that is valuable which an Indian may possess, the greedy caucasian offers with smiling face a can of whiskey

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to the eager Red man - and the result is that the poor nomad is without house or lands, afoot and penniless. In attempting to stop some of these things I have been assailed by the lying press of the district and abused shamefully: but I am so constituted that I only am the more persistent after receiving a volley of newspaper abuse and I have the satisfaction of knowing that I am making them "howl" through their pockets. I have no doubt that I have made it cost the land-grabbers thousands of dollars this last year - and on the 3rd. of Dec. next I expect to have the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, at St. Louis,

To settle the case, that the Indians will have some rights that even a corporation of white men will respect.

To go back to the reservation for pupils who graduate. (The young women will not succeed on a reservation, so long as the "Timber" Indians, the old ones, are not punished for violation of Government orders. They drag back the returned girl-pupil - oblige her to follow the old customs, of dancing, of living and of marriage. Here and there one rises up beyond this condition, but the majority sink to the level of their mothers, and there too, I think heredity comes in: but how to remedy it?

There is only one way that I see now, and that is for young men and women to follow the occupation best suited to them, after they have been taught, off of the reservation.)

If something could be done in the way of establishing manufacturing establishments among the Indians on the reservations sufficiently large to absorb all the trades taught in the schools. That is to give employment to returned pupils in their various occupations learned while at school, then the example and comfort might induce a following of those not too old. However I can only give a faint glimpse

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of my ideas in a letter and I do not suppose
you care to have me discuss a Subject so
familiar to yourself.

Referring to John Lemmon's letter to you about
Henry M. Rice's daughter. I cannot see
why the girl is not considered. John Lemmon
nor Mrs. Henrietta Lemmon have any rights
over the girl. He nor she are proper
people to have a nice girl under their
charge, and I should hold them to
the strict letter of the agreement. Let
them take the matter to Washington.
The Department knows something of Lemmon's
Character and perhaps of that miserable
drunkard Henry M. Rice.

We regretted that you did not come

out after the pupils, you and Mrs. Pratt,
we will be glad to see you at any time,
and send you our thanks for your
very kind invitation to visit you at
Carlisle. We should like to do so,
and may be able to, if we get east.

With best wishes from us both
to you and yours, I am,

Cordially Yours
Wm. H. Beck.