

(COPY)

Dulce, N. M., Jan. 17, 1913.

My dear General Pratt:

Not to be a long letter. It comes to say chiefly that we are a much more comfortable lot of Indians than we were ten days ago! And we do not forget to whom our thanks are primarily due. Many of the old Indians -- spokesmen for the tribe at large -- have come to me and the substance of all their speeches has been about this: "The Government do nothing for us. You come around us and see us and feel sorry for us -- you tell your friends. They feel sorry for us. We thank you. But we know that alone you could no help us. We thank your friends too. Tell them for us -- we say so!"

I know that during your long life of service thousands of things have been done that make you at this hour rich in heavenly store. I want only to say that at that end you yourself little realize the good you have done the past three weeks -- to God's neglected, and I can easily believe that few things you have ever done in your life will count as much with God as these days spent in the interests of the Jicarillas -- and General Pratt, let me say that I am not going to let you assume all the responsibility in this thing. If you purchased \$400.00 worth of stuff on faith, I stand here with my "little pocket book"! to see that you don't lose a cent of it -- and you must tell me, too. I insist on this, for your friends may not respond as you hoped they would at the outset. I'm only on a \$75.00 per month salary, but I don't care for money and I do care for these Indians I think more than any living white man -- and I won't see you lose anything on their account when you have answered our call so magnificently.

So promise to keep me posted about this. I wrote to Mr. Wanamaker, thanking him. I also want to thank the Gen'l Freight Agents of the Pennsylvania, A. T. and S. F. and D. & R. G., and have requested Mr. Coyle to give me their names and addresses.

None of the things forwarded by freight are yet here. But look for them any time. Did you get free transportation for all the things you freighted -- on all three Roads?

I read your leaflet with much pleasure and consideration. My own study of the Indian nature and Indian conditions in general quite a long time ago brought me to the conclusion that your ideas and your policies were correct and wise. Of course I know of the fight you have passed thro' -- and the world admires the man of conviction and courage, whether it always agrees with him or not.

In all probability I will come East this Spring or Summer, and I want to meet you.

Faithfully yours,

JAS. H. BELL.

P.S. Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Walter, formerly of Carlisle -- now here in the School -- want to be remembered to you.