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July 12th, 1904.

Col. R. H. Pratt,

United States Superintendent, School,

Carlyle Indian School,

Carlyle, Penna.

My Dear Colonel:

I see by the paper that your enemies have finally succeeded in their purpose, and have laid you out. I cannot tell you how sincerely I regret this. You will probably receive a great many letters of sympathy, and I have no doubt that these letters will be some consolation to you. It seems as if it was impossible for a man to try to do anything to up-lift and better the condition of affairs, without exposing himself to the envy and hatred of others. It seems impossible for one to inaugurate a reform and accomplish anything without the spirit of a martyr, and it seems also that besides having that spirit, he is also compelled to suffer martyrdom. You are aware of course, that I do not agree with you in your views of the best methods of civilizing the indians. I would however, be the last one to throw any straws in the way of the development and execution of your plan, because practically it was impossible to carry out your plan. You could only effect a ~~few~~ of the vast number of indians in the country, and for that reason I would not have offered any obstacle to your doing what you could in carrying out your plan. If your plan had been adopted by the government, and preparations had been made for making it apply to all the indian youth, in all the United States, in the interest of motherhood and fatherhood, I would have done all that I could to change the policy of the government.

The question is such a large one, and the end to be gained so important, and the number of laborers in the field so few, that I think

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all those who are friendly to the Indians, and desire their advancement should encourage every honest laborer, whatever his peculiar views, purposes and plans, might be. In other words, I believe there is room for all. I saw by the paper that the government purposed to abolish the school at Carlyle, and to move it to some place in Montana. So far as the Indians are concerned, I think that this would be a good move, but in order to keep the interest of the people of the country, aroused, I think it is a bad move.

your

You and your wife have done a great and noble work, and I regret exceedingly that this misfortune should have come into your lives, and I sincerely hope that it will not have the effect of making you either sour or bitter. I have been a close student of these problems since '82, and have watched with a great deal of interest the progress of your work, and whatever criticisms may be justly made, there is one that ought never to be lost sight of, and that is that your example and your zeal, and your hope and courage, more than anything else, I do believe, was the inspiration and the direct force in the establishment of that great system of educational work for the Indians, which has, the past twenty years, grown to such proportions.

I want to say too, that I am not at all surprised that many of your brother officers in the army are incensed by what you have done, because, it has been reproach upon their lives of idleness and self indulgence. Instead of employing the time, which the government paid for, in idleness and self-indulgence, you have devoted yourself to an enterprise, which has been of incalculable good to the cause of humanity, and will for all time, bring more credit upon the army of which you are a member, than if you had led conquering hosts to victory.

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I know that you and your wife will, in time, if not immediately, appreciate what you have done, and will be satisfied and content with the laurels you have won, in these peaceful pursuits.

I want to assure both you and your wife, that Mrs. Bryan and I sympathize very deeply and very sincerely with you, in this your moment of humiliation, and to assure you that we have only the supremest contempt for the littleness and the cowardice of those, who have in this way, sought to humiliate you, and admiration for the sterling qualities of man hood, which have enabled you through all these years to devote your time and your strength, and the impulses of your soul, to the worthy cause of Indian education.

While we believe that you will eventually secure a full and complete reward for your labor, we hope that you will experience, joy, peace, and satisfaction, in this world.

Believe me, yours sincerely,

R. W. D. Bryan