

Refer in reply to the following:

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Washington, January 8th 1890.

My Dear Captain:

I owe you an apology for not having written you before this a letter in acknowledgment of the very kind attention I received during my visit to your school, and the great pleasure and profit of mind and body it afforded me. The best excuse that I might offer would afford so little justification for such neglect of the proprieties that I hesitate to formulate any at all but simply throw myself upon your mercy. This is one of the instances of always going to do but really of "never do to-day what you can put off till to-morrow."

I answered formally, from a sick bed, your note about the death of Mr. Gould, your late clerk. I have felt a great deal of sympathy for you and your school, because of the sadness which his sudden death cast over the Christmas season. I can appreciate how severely you feel the loss of such a man, so faithful, so efficient, and so true. His death following so close after the decease of your trusted physician, Dr. Given, has added greatly to the burdens of your head, no less than to those of your heart.

It was not until I visited your school, where I enjoyed

every moment of my stay, that I realized that such an event would bear heavily upon you. Whether it be right or wrong, it seems to be true that we do not naturally expect to find in men of your profession, much of the tender sensibilities of human nature generally; and with your military training ever uppermost in my mind, it had seemed to me that you were a man whose manner and bearing indicated sternness of character, strict in discipline, lacking in kindness, gentleness or sympathy; but when I saw you at your post of duty and noted your manner and bearing toward your pupils, teachers and other employes, and witnessed so many evidences, not only of the highest respect and regard in which you are held by all, but of genuine love and affection, I was forced to say that my judgment was erroneous and that in this one thing, at least, I have met with disappointment at Carlisle.

I was prepared to find a good school at Carlisle. Indeed I should have been disappointed, had I not so found it, for every Secretary, every Commissioner, and every Inspector heretofore visiting it have so pronounced it, consequently I looked for a high standard of excellence, and in that I was not disappointed. I hope it may long have your valued services for the improvement of its condition, the increase of its efficiency and to develop it on broader plans for greater usefulness as the pioneer in the great

work of regeneration of our Indian population.

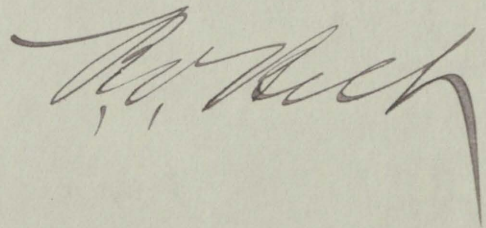
I hope that Mrs. Pratt's health has improved.

I am just recovering from a serious attack of "La Grippe" from which I hope that you and your school will escape.

Remember me kindly to Mr. Standing and all of the ladies and gentlemen with whom I became acquainted during my delightful visit.

With kindest regards to yourself and family, I remain

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. H. Pratt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Capt. R. H. Pratt,

Supt. Carlisle Indian Training School,

Carlisle, Pennsylvania.