

Paxtonville Pa.

Aug. 20, 1902.

Col. R. H. Pratt, Supt.

Carlisle, Pa.

Dear Sir,- On my return from a little pleasure trip, I found your letter. It does not require an answer but I desire to give you a frank expression of my feeling on the subject.

I realize what a great responsibility it is to take charge of the school work, especially in the beginning of the year. There will be five or six new teachers to introduce to Carlisle ways. In order to follow Prof's. "Course of Study" and to keep as near as possible to his standard of excellence, it will mean a tremendous amount of work in Sept. and Oct. - until the school is in running order. If I occupy the place at all for either a short or long time, I cannot afford to fail. My reputation and success as a teacher are of first importance to me. It is my life work. I recognize the opportunity for growth which the work would give to me but I know full well also the needs are great and must be met.

In order to measure up to the position in all its requirements and privileges, I shall throw into the work all the powers of mind and body which I can command. Time will make no difference. I shall want to be just as conscientious whether I hold the position a month or a year. In fact it is harder to fill a place of that kind satisfactorily to all concerned, temporarily than if it were permanent.

In justice to myself, therefore, I can't afford to take the position even for an indefinite time unless you can in some way satisfy these two conditions; viz. - That when I am no longer needed in the office, I can go back to my work in the Normal room, for which I have at considerable expense, prepared myself; and that my salary be sufficiently increased to make it worth while for me to assume the extra responsibility and work.

I am not especially desirous to have the place and if you think I am not justified in making these two requests, and you have some one else more suitable to you for the place, I assure you, that I will make no difference, for this year, in my relations with the school or in my loyalty to you.

as my Supt.

Doubtless you have thought of all this and have some plan in mind which will be satisfactory. I trust you to do the fair thing by me if it is possible. In the nine years that I have been connected with Carlisle, I think I have received all I deserved.

I have had several offers to take positions elsewhere in the last two years, two from the public schools and one from Mr. Spray but the opportunity of growth under Prof. Bakelus as principal, and the many broadening influences at Carlisle, led me to stay there.

I regret exceedingly that Prof. has gone. I knew, of course, that he recommended me to succeed him but I gave it no serious thought. I really didn't expect you to consider my name, and I also thought at the last moment Mr. Bakelus would decide to stay.

During the four years in the Normal room part of my work has been to furnish substitutes, when necessary, for the rooms from 1 to 10 and supervise the work of the pupil teachers. Thus I learned to know intimately and to value Prof's. ideas of education and his methods of teaching. We were also, as you well

know in entire sympathy in the religious and moral life of the school and in our efforts to do individual work among the pupils. I could always talk to him about "my girls", confident of his sympathetic advice and support. There are no doubt some of the influences which led him to suggest my name to you. Because of this relation, I shall miss him probably more than any other teacher on the place.

Prof's. recommendation is invaluable to me, however I should not succeed, and I can not accept the position at all unless I have your own cheerful and willing support.

I made no application for the place. If you place me there, I shall make every effort to carry on the work as nearly as possible in accordance with Prof's. ideas and your principles of Indian education.

I thank you for your confidence in me - and I assure you that I shall make every effort to be worthy of it in any position that I hold under you.

I expect to be in Carlisle Monday (25th inst) on the noon train. My time will then be at your disposal.

Very respectfully and sincerely yours
Kate J. Bowersox.