MISSING PAGES

VOL. 4

August 14

Rev. B. Craven D. D. L. L. D.
President of Trinity College N.C.

Dear Sir-

Reply to yours of June 27th has been delayed by ill health and press of work. Our boys and girls come from twenty different Nomadic tribes "Plains Indians." Our great object has been to teach the English language, the rudiments of an english education, encourage industry and give specific direction to their efforts. To accomplish this. Various branches of the Mechanics have been established under competent and practical workmen, and a skilled farmer placed in charge of the agricultural department. The older boys desiring to learn trades have generally been allowed to choose the trades and place at work at a trade. They have not been allowed to change except for extraordinary reasons. Under this system we have a Blacksmith & Wagon Maker with ~~six~~ eight apprentices, alternating so as to work two days each week and attend School the other days.

The Carpenter has nine Apprentices, the Harness Maker twelve, the Shoemaker six, the Printer two, the Tinner six, and the Baker two. To these branches we are just adding the Tailor's Department. The same general System of working hours, is maintained in all the branches, except the Shoe-making, which for health considerations is confined to three half-day hours each week. All the boys not under instruction at trades have been required to work periodically under direction of the Farmer. The Sessions of labor have been seldom greater than one day each week because of the large number of boys and the limited quantity of ground cultivated. In all of our labor instruction we aim to produce good, marketable work with as little waste of material as possible. The boys have been organized into Companies and Uniformed, we have drilled them as Soldiers, especially in what is called the "Setting up Process." This has benefitted their health, given them true art Carriage, and in the appointment of Sergeants and Corporals aided us in rewarding the deserving, and generally in the discipline and management of the whole

In the Educational Department the instruction is Objective, although object teaching is subordinate to the study of the language. This is the great point — the mastery of the English language. We begin this study and that of reading by the objective word method.

The object or thought is presented first; then language given to express the idea. We use Script characters first, reading and writing being taught at the same time by use of the blackboards. Drill in Elementary Sounds aids in securing correct pronunciation. Spelling is only taught this way and by writing. Numbers are taught objectively, as far as the knowledge of the language will permit, following Grube's Method. Geography is taught by oral lessons, and by drawing.

Next year we propose to use moulding boards for forms of Relief.

For beginners we use no text books. "Reep's first lessons for the Deaf and Dumb" has been serviceable as a suggestive for teachers use. To a limited extent we have followed his method. We use "Webb's Model First Reader" "Appleton's Second" which is not satisfactory, but the best we know; "Reep's Stories

and Questions", and in Arithmetic "Franklin's Primary."
"Picture Teaching" by Jamet Byrne, is a book we have recently found and esteem especially valuable in our work. Pictures and objects are of great service, furnishing material for conversations and sentence-buildings.

These are all the points I think of, if others occur to you I shall be glad to correspond further.

We are so young, and have been so driven with our work (and being exclusively a Government School) we have not gotten out any printed exposition of our work.

I am sorry you do not include the girls in whatever you may do for the Indians. They are more than half.

Respectfully Yours.
R. H. Pratt
1st Lt. 10th Cavy
In Charge

Aug. 18th

Dear Sir.

Perhaps if your time is not occupied with other employment you would like to come here for a month, and help me in the organization and management of the boys if I paid your fare to and from and your board here. If so, come at once.

Truly yours
R.H. Ball
Supt.

Mr Geo Gates
East Cambridge, Mass.

Aug. 19th.

L. M. C. Ewing
Rheems Hall
Carlisle

My dear Sir.

I am obliged to you for the suggestion contained in your note, just received.

Should it be the desire of the Members of the I Lodge Knights of Pythias to formally visit the Indian School, they will be most cordially received and I will take pleasure in showing them around, and afterwards explaining the objects of the school, and answering any questions in regard to it personally.

Fraternally yours
R. H. Pratt
Ch. In Charge

The time could be fixed to suit the convenience of the members.

Aug. 21st

Brower Bros.
293 & 295 Broadway N York

Gentlemen - I enclose cash $1.00 for which please send me by mail two No. 3. Index 10 x 12, Letter Files. and oblige.

Yours truly
R H Pratt
Capt

Aug. 20th

Abby F. Goodsell
Wilson College
Chambersburg, Pa.

Dear friend.

I have received your P.O. order covering $12.2n a donation from the Sunday School of Wilson College, to the Indn Ts. School. The amount is entered on our charity list and will be applied to the best uses and greatest needs of the School.

This recognition of our work, and interest in its progress, is most grateful encouragement to us.

Enclosed I send you our last E.K. Tok, and your name is entered on the list of subscribers, that you may know something of us from time. If you could make it convenient to visit us soon after Sept. 1st we should be glad to have you do so, and see our School. Very truly yours

R.H. Pratt

Aug. 26th

Mr E. H. Bowman,
U. S. Indian Agent.

Dear Sir,

I am just informed that Agent Miles is delayed in getting off with his delegation and you may be able to reach them with the new number you ask for. Our Pawnee students here are doing so well, that I would be very glad indeed, to have the number considerably increased, and I have no doubt your request will be granted for the number you ask for. I write this to suggest to you that if you find there is a considerable desire on the part of your people and you are pressed to take more than you have asked for, that you push the Department for a good sized delegation, say twenty in all. The Ute delegation of fifty, which we anticipated this Fall, is likely to fail; it certainly will if Ouray dies.

Be sure and send only those in good health.

Very truly Yours, R. H. Pratt

I am glad you take such a interest in the Pawnees. He Sadly deserve better of this Govt. My regards to Esquire-ke-tade-ks. He was one of the best scouts I ever knew.

Aug. 27th

Jonathan Richards
Penna. Hospital
Philadelphia

Dear Friend.

We begin our school work on Wednesday next, and the boys had better return on Tuesday. I enclose you a $5. Bill to cover their transportation. I sent them down for half fare. Please have R.R. receipt on enclosed sub voucher, in my favor.

I have written to Margaret Wilson and her reply is very satisfactory. What would be a good salary for her? What is usually paid such help?

Cordially Your friend
R. H. Hall
Pr. In charge

August 27th 80

Mr. Charles Crissey
U. S. Indian Agent
Sisseton Agency D. T.

My Dear Sir.

I enclose herewith to you in accordance with the request of Mr. Renville, bill covering expenses &c connected with the keeping of John Ivory, Coffin and the transportation of Nancy and John Ivory to Chicago. I would gladly cover these or any part of them into my account if I could do so, but it would be useless to ask the Department. Mr. Renville seemed cheerfully to accept of the expense, and desired me to send the bills to you and he would arrange them. I feel assured that when you see Mr. Renville you will change your mind about my action in the matter, and will believe with them, that we used every means and gave notification at the earliest moment we were justified in doing, from information received from our Medical Attendant.

I am badly spelled down by my work here, and have asked for a two weeks leave that I may take a rest. I wished that I could hide away among your little Lakes about your Agency and spend the time in fishing, the only sport I ever really enjoyed.

Mrs Pratt joins me in the kindest remembrances to Mrs Crissey and yourself.

Excuse this by the hand of another, and believe me

Cordially Yours.

R H. Pratt

Lt. in Chge.

Sept. 7th

E. S. Fahnestock,
Secy of Adams Co. Agrl. Association
Gettysburg Pa

My Dear Sir

I have your Communication of Aug. 31st in reference to visiting your fair on Oct. 19 & 20th by a Party of our Indian Guests endorsed forward to me by the Hon J. E. Bailhache yesterday.

I have considered the matter and am sorry to say that I can see no way by which we could agree to accept your very kind invitation. The difficulties of coming to and from Gettysburg are a very material obstacle. Then too we are already obligated to fully as many interruptions of our regular work as I feel justified in meeting. I am sorry I am not able to oblige you and especially regret not being able to oblige Mr. Bailhache who is such a warm friend of this school.

I may say here that it is in my mind to visit the Gettysburg Battle field and encamp with the

Indian during a part of our Vacation Next year.

Very Respectfully

R.H. Pratt

1st Lt. 10th Cavy

In charge

Sept. 15th

Paymaster J. A. Nelson
U. S. Army
Leavenworth, Kansas

Your last draft in my favor, returned endorsed payment refused for want of funds. How is it.

R. H. Smith
Lieut.

Sept. 25th

Wm Whiting
U.S. Indn Agent
Ponca Agency I.T.

Dear Sir

I am in receipt of yours of the 15th inst. in regard to Wm Young and Luke Phillip. Please state to Chief Hunsa Kette and Chief Mother that Chas. Bear left here for the Agency just at the close of our two monthly vacation. We began school on the 1st of Sept. and if Chas. Bear were here now and returning to his Agency the children would probably send home messages that they were having too much school and work. Such is the nature of children of whatever race. I know Hunsa Kette and have heard much more about him and am sure if he knew just what we are doing here he would say, good; Go ahead! I like to hear that the Indians are pushing us in this matter, and can

stand on that ground and argue in their favor forever. If your chiefs go to the Muskogee Fair they will see something from Carlisle on exhibition there. They might meet Little Raven, Yellow Bear and Left Hand of the Arapahoes, and Big Horse and Bob Tail of the Cheyennes who have just been here to see their children who came last fall. They would give details.

We must have rest for our teachers and rest for our scholars mentally, as we have a two months vacation, which is as little as any school takes. Wm Young is doing very well indeed. I have him at the wagon making & Blacksmithing trade where he works two days each week, and goes to school four. This keeps him strong and self reliant. Luke is not very strong as we give him plenty of liberty outside of school hours. The other two boys

from the Nez Perces, and the two girls do remarkably well. Especially Harriett. I wish we had more Nez Perces. Tell Nurses Kittle and all the Indians who have children here, that I am right here close to Washington, where the Great Father can see all I am doing, and I am trying my very best to push the children ahead so as to please Him, and also the parents and friends of the children, so that much more may be done for the Education of the Indians everywhere.

Very truly yours
R. H. Pratt
Sup. In charge

Sept. 20th

My dear Mr. Karr

I am getting down to the bottom of my tinner supply of material, and ought not to buy any more if I may have what I estimated for. Can you shove all our supplies in soon, and especially the tinner stock? Wish you could run over and see us.

Very truly
R. H. Pratt
Lt.

Sept. 25

Major. B M. Thomas
Santa Fe, N.M.

Dear Sir:

I send you, this mail, triplicates of the children as they came, and have arranged with the photographer to take the same groups as they now appear tomorrow morning and they will follow, in four or five days. We are very much pleased with your children. They take to english faster than any we have had, and are so gentle and obedient that all the teachers love them. The boys brought the mumps, and have most all had them. Taylor Ealy is just having his. but we'll put him in the picture and his friends will think him well fed. I hope you may get an order for the other 25. Yours truly, R H Pratt

It is our rule to report each child to the parents once a month by card. I will have other reports made to you if you think best.

Miss Semple.

For the present the following seems to me to be a tolerably good arrangement for evening exercises.

Monday - Boys sing in Chapel
Girls study at Quarters.
Tuesday Girls sing in Chapel
Boys study at Quarters
Wednesday Boys and girls at Chapel
Mr. Standing Lecture
Thursday Debating Societies
Friday - 1st & 3d of each month after Oct. 1st Med. Lecture.
2d & 4th of each month Declamations 1st & 5th under your management in Chapel.

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday evenings school from 7 to 9 in number 2 room for apprentices otherwise not in school.

Miss Burgess visits teachers. Respectfully
R. H. Good

Sept. 9th

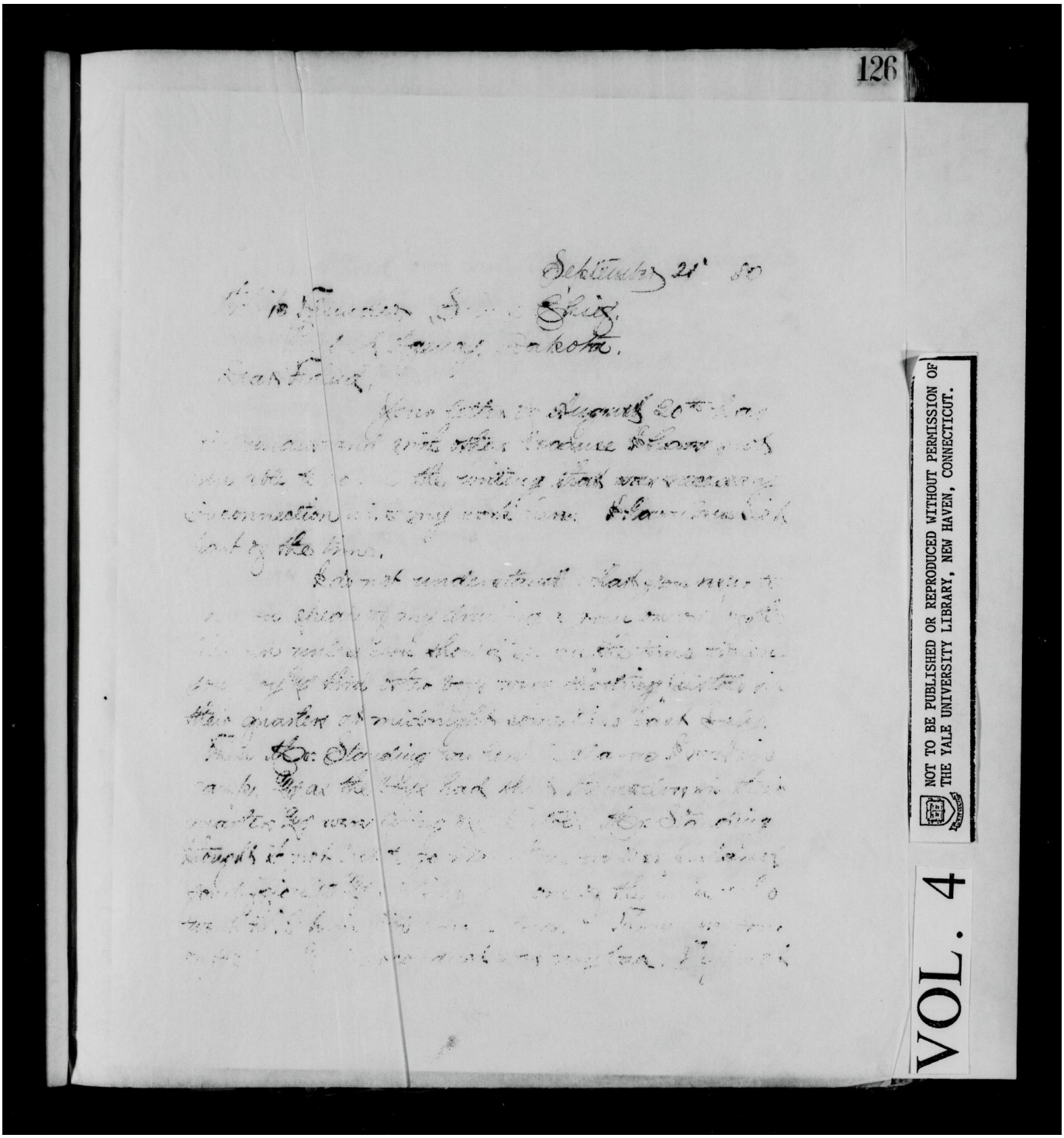
Sept. 21st

J. C. Blair Esq
Huntingdon Pa.
Dear Sir.

The Teachers send me the enclosed bill, and I forward for your notice.

It seems to me best I should inform Miss W. of the decision which I made known to you by secret letter from Phila.. I hesitate until I hear from you, as you may desire it brought to her some way not known to me.

Very truly Yours
R. H. Pratt
Jr.



only frightened our lady teachers & the people on the grounds but people in town were alarmed because of so many shots late at night. I felt called upon to punish the whole party when I returned & since then your son has behaved tolerably well.

Your assumption that our feelings are good toward toward the children & particularly toward those who are without parents is not correct. We are still treating the children exactly the same as when you were here, in every respect doing all for them that we can & I am glad to say that they seem contented & happy & they are certainly doing well in their learning & work.

I shall remember what you said to me about Jones, when I see him I shall tell him just as you desired I should. When I see you when you see him again he will tell you that he has been treated just as you wanted him to be.

Your friend,
R. H. Pratt

September 22 88

Dear Fuller.

I sent a message to you by Captain Romaine & also wrote you as I understood satisfactorily ending the plan of your coming here for the present. As I told you in my letter then was not sufficient certainty or permanence to authorize me in bringing you here & as I found a party here who could undertake the work, & who, if I was compelled to discharge her, would not be so incommoded as this was her home, I employed her.

I hope things may turn out better for you at Hampton & you may find it satisfactory to remain there. I can hardly see how they will get on without you.

Your friend
R.H. Pratt

September 22 80

Chief Big Bull,
Ponca Agency, Ind. Ter.

Sir:

I have yours of Sept 2nd. about your son John Bull being sick. He may have the consumption but just now he seems to be quite well off & in much better health than at any time since he came here. He seems happy & contented & is doing well.

We do not want him to die here any more than you do. If he gets sick & we think there is danger we will send him home. He had the whooping cough during the summer which was probably the foundation for what Samuel Other told you, but he has recovered from that now & I should not like to recommend that he be sent home, without there was some good reason for it, as there is none just now I do not think that I can comply with your request.

It is the nature of boys to not like to work, I assure you that we do not overwork our boys at all. We must keep them at work, part of the time in

order that they may enjoy good health.

Depend upon it if I think your boy is getting to be permanently sick or disabled I will ask that he be sent home. Yours Truly

R. H. Boals

September 22 80

Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Co.,
Worcester, Mass.

Gentlemen:

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of a bale of your galvanized barbed wire sent by you as a contribution to this school at the solicitation of my friend and the friend of the Indians Major Henry S. Alford of Easthampton, Mass.

I assure you that the donation is a very acceptable one as it enables one to fill up a gap in our surroundings more necessary to be filled in order to keep intruding white boys out than to keep our Indian boys in, for here as elsewhere it seems to be necessary to protect the Indian from the encroachments of the white race.

Very truly yours,
R. H. Pratt
Ch. in charge

September 21 80

My dear Little Chief.

I have your letter a long time, I did not answer it sooner because Hatcher went home and your letter talked to me as though you might come with the chiefs and I thought I could talk to you much better than I could write.

Hatcher can tell you all about the chiefs while they were here. The chiefs and their children went as far as Harrisburg with Hatcher and Shave-Head and I went with them. After we had put Hatcher and his party on the cars we all went on to Philadelphia and then we saw many wonderful things in the State Fair which was held in an immense building nearly as large as the Carlisle Parade Ground. I leave the Chiefs to tell you about this. We went to the public schools. In one place we saw seven hundred young ladies all going to school, in the same room. Big Horse made a speech and the young ladies all got up and courtesied to him. Then we went to another school where then

were over a thousand children in one building and then we went to a colored school where there were a great many colored boys and girls, and then we went to a deaf and dumb institution and to the great Pennsylvania Hospital and one night we had a meeting and Mr. Fox was there and interpreted for Little Raven who spoke in Comanche, and Big Horse spoke again and the people were very much pleased because they talked right. They talked in favor of schools and work for their people. Then we went on to Washington but the President and the Secretary were not there they were away off west. And so while we were waiting for the Secretary to come back, Agent Miles took the chiefs and came with me up to Martinsburg in West Virginia to a great Fair where there were thousands of people and fifty of the boys and girls from the Carlisle school came away down to Virginia to see this fair with Mr. Pratt and two of the teachers.

We did not let the chiefs know that the children were coming and they were very much surprised to meet them in that great crowd of white people.

The people treated us very nicely and they gave

us a fine dinner. There was some horse racing and there was fine horses and cattle and a great many fine things to look at.

Agent Miles told me how good and faithful you are and how much help you are to the Doctor. I am very glad to hear that you are on the right road and that you stick to it and are doing so well. He told me that you intend to come here some time if you had to pay your own way. It would be very expensive for you, for with the money that you would pay to come here you could buy many things very useful for yourself and your family that would make you and them happy. But if you think best to come here, my dear little Chief, we shall be very glad to see you, I can assure you, for we all think a great deal of you.

Give my love to all the old Florida boys. Star, and Buffalo Heart, and Chief Killer and Little Medicine and all of them, and say to them that Captain Pratt loves them and is glad to hear such good report of them and their work among the Cheyennes.

Tell the Fathers and mothers of all the Cheyenne

Arakahoe children who are here, that they are well and doing well. The new boys and girls drop right in and take hold and by their good conduct and their learning so fast, the white people are changing their minds about the Indians.

Good-bye my friends, write to me soon again,

R. H. Pratt

Sept. 24th.

S. B. Shearer
Co. Supt. Cumbd Co.

My dear Sir.

We accept with pleasure your invitation to occupy a half hour with exercises by our students before your Teachers Institute on the evening of Oct. 28th. at Carlisle.

Very respectfully Yours
R. H. Crall
Pr. In charge

Sept. 25 80

A. S. Barnes
Publisher, New York City.
Dear Sir-

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of five dollars, from Mrs. J. A. Walker a donation from you to this school, in the interests of Indian Education, and thank you for this evidence of your interest in a most needy and worthy cause.

Very truly yours
R. H. Pratt
Sh. in charge

Sept. 25 80

Miss S.A. Brown
Springfield Mass.
Dear friend -

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of five dollars from Miss S.A. Mather, a donation from you to this school in the interests of elevating the Indn race. For this expression of your interest in a most needy and worthy cause, please accept my thanks.

Very truly yours
R.H. Pratt
Supt. Indian Schools

Sept. 25 [illegible]

Miss S. H. Brown
Springfield, Mass.
Dear Friend —

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of five dollars from Miss S. A. Crafts, a donation to your Mission School in the interests of elevating Mt. Silva Oran, by the exposition of Woman's interest in a small home under the care of pleasant people. May God [illegible]

Yours truly [illegible]

Oct. 27th

Gen. J. F. Rodenbough
Pres. Military Service Inst.
Governor's Island
N. Y. Harbor

My dear General

Ever since the receipt of yours of May 22nd it has been my intention to write a paper on our Indian question to submit in accordance with your request, but during the summer my health has been somewhat impaired & my mind has been much taxed with the organization care & management of our school of 400 Indian children from 40 different tribes & I have not seen the time that I have felt able to write a paper that would be satisfactory to my own mind.

I have been engaged, as you know, for over a year past in building &c

MISSING PAGE

VOL. 4

Sept. 25.

Hon. Carl Schurz
Sec'y of the Interior
Sir,

I am in receipt of the enclosed letter from Miss Susan Longwell, one of your lady friends in Philad.

I have written to her, that the donation of a bar of iron which I can influence to offer, upon the Museum, would be a matter of such gratification to me that I felt it would be only proper to her to make it a present from you of it, and I send you the letter to read, hoping that the return to me.

I know just forward in regard to the Indian Office from the House, & I know only that to say, that I consider it extremely important that if the Department does not feel able to give me a month or two

but is willing to give one two & third of the sum, I will appeal to friends in New York, Hartford, & Boston, & make up the other third, & thus have a suitable building, & bring interest to our work.

I have talked fully with Dr McCauley about the building and of eminent educators. He concurs that it would be valuable to the work, & quite appreciates the delicacy of your position. He apprehends no difficulty in securing the interest of the persons named. This opinion is concurred in by Miss Mather, who is with us now, & is in correspondence with some of the parties named. Dr McCauley will cheerfully undertake any correspondence that may be desired to secure the attendance of the gentlemen named, & has blocked out the enclosed letter, which can be modified in any way to suit your views, & he will make copies,

Sept 28th

Hon. Carl Schurz
Secretary of the Interior.

Sir.

Knowing that the donation of so large a sum would please you, I have written my Quaker lady friends in Phila, that you, as the real head of the school should know all about it, and asked them to send forward her letter inclosed for your information. With your allowance of $600.00 I now have the steam heating for the boys quarters. Please return letter.

I have asked the Indian Office for the Hospital. I have only this to say, that I consider it extremely important, and that if you do not feel able to give me the whole sum asked, but will give two third, putting it on the basis of a want of funds, I can go to New York, Hartford, and Boston friends and raise the other third, so that we may have a suitable building, and in that way bring interest to our work.

I have talked freely with Dr. McCauley about

the Board of Visitors, composed of eminent Educators. He shares my views of its value, and appreciates the delicacy of the situation. He apprehends no difficulty in securing the presence of the persons named, as most of them are deeply interested. Miss Mather is in correspondence with some of the parties named, and knows of their desire to forward your efforts in this direction. Dr. McCauley has blocked out the enclosed letter which can be modified to suit your views, and he will gladly undertake any correspondence you may desire. He suggests the names of Dr. McCosh of Princeton, and Prof. Gilman of John Hopkins University Baltimore, as additional members, whom he knows to be interested.

It would suit us best to have them here early in Nov.

With great respect
Your obedient Servant
R H Hall
Pr.

Dear Doctor. Oct. 8th

I send with pleasure a set of our photographs for your bureau. I received a copy of your gratifying report sometime ago, and would be glad if you could spare me a dozen or more copies for distributing among our friends.

Very truly Yours
R.H. Pratt
Lt.

Dr. Chas. Warren
Educational Bureau
Washington D.C.

Carlisle Barracks Pa
Oct 18th

J B Gilder Esq
Herald Office New York

Sir.

Your of the 15th inst with inquiries relative to the school here in the absence of Capt Pratt has been referred to me for attention.

In addition to answering your questions I send some Papers and Reports that I judge would be of service to you, and if anything further should be required would gladly furnish anything in my power.

I regret that Capt Pratt is not here to give his personal attention to your wishes, but will inform him fully on his return.

Very Respectfully
A. J. Stuart
Acting Supt

1. Nov. 1st 1879
2 156 Students, about 1/3 girls, from the Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Kiowa, Comanche Pawnee, Neez Perce, & Ponca Tribes — mostly full blood children of chiefs & head men
3 (196)
4 (19)
5. Sioux
6 All Ladies
7. None
8 Only one, who speaks Pawnee.
9 Not any
10 Instruction in the English Language with branches usually taught in elementary schools
11 Yes — 1/3 of pupils "Mechanics only"
12. No. Encouraged to save & put to good use.
13. The following trades are carried on by — Blacksmith & Wagon Maker with 10 apprentices Carpenter with 7, Shoemaker with 8. —

Tailor 3, Tinner with 4, Shoemaker
with 8, and two at the Bakery —
For information as to quality of manufactures
I refer you to Report of Fair Committee from the
"Carlisle Herald" — All of these departments may
be claimed as successful and the testimony
of all the mechanics is that, usual ability to
acquire a trade is exhibited by nearly all of the
apprentices —
Two boys work at Printing, and are able to assist
in setting off the school paper —
The girls are placed under a system of training
in the manufacture and mending of garments &
in household & laundry work —
The Boys have been organized into Company
as soldiers and the best material chosen for
Sergeants and Corporals — A Brass Band
has been organized and rather unusual ability
displayed in learning to use the instruments.
14. Whole
15 25 gps — 9 gps about 15
11. Fully —

Nov. 8th

A. W. Crain
Wewoka Ind. Ty.

Dear Sir-

I have just returned from the Lake Superior Country where I went under orders of the Dept for Chippewa Sioux and Menomonee Children for our School, and find your letter awaiting my return. I am not able to answer your letter and have asked the Ind. Dept. for instructions. My opinion is that if you would get the Agent to correspond with the Dept. you would sooner have instructions on the subject. If I get a reply to my letter to the Dept. I will write you again. As I am corresponding to help the Seminoles in Florida, I should be very glad to have some of their and the Creek children here.

Very truly Yours R. H. Pratt Capt

Informal

November 9

Hon. Carl Schurz,
Secretary of the Interior.

Dear Sir:

I have received several letters from unknown parties in the Indian Territory asking the privileges of the school here for the children of Seminoles and Creeks. Considering that these applications should come properly from the authorities of the Department or duty among these Indians I have generally refrained advising them to that effect. You will remember you sent one to Florida last year to look after the Seminoles in the southern part of that state, and that at the time my visit seemed to produce no favorable results. Since then I have been in correspondence with parties I became acquainted with at that time who probably come more in contact with these Indians than any others and I find that there is a growing interest which will soon develop into an opportunity to get hold of these people through the education of their children. A letter received from Captain Army

within two or three days informs me of the almost complete success of his undertaking to educate one of the Seminole boys. There was a connection in their minds between their own interests & that part of the tribe who emigrated to the Territory & a desire to know about the welfare of those who had emigrated & have kept parties there posted & have sent photographs of our school to them which have aroused quite an interest.

It seems to me if we could have a few of the Indian Territory Seminoles & Creeks it would furnish a connecting link & a better opportunity for us to work up the welfare of those in Florida. There will be no trouble in securing children from these tribes. I think this anticipating that those from the Territory who have written me will make application through their agent as I have advised & that the matter will come before you properly as it ought.

While writing to you I desire to speak of some matters connected with my recent trip to Wisconsin & Dakota. The whole system of agency schools seems to languish & I judge that the schools at the Grand Ray La Pointe & Sisseton agencies are as fair samples

of agency schools as any we have. One of the most annoying difficulties at the agency schools, I find, is the clothing. That purchased by the Department is miserable shoddy, very soon ragged & worn out. The boys with their trowsers out at the knees & clothing held on by strings certainly cannot feel much of a tendency upward & I know from talking with the teachers that many of them are worn out & discouraged from this one difficulty. I have found Indians more sensitive to the kinds of dress than any other people & it seems to me that true economy would favor the adoption of some more respectable & durable goods for clothing, especially for the boys.

At the Sisseton agency I had more time & saw more of the workings of the system than at the other agencies. I found that a very considerable number of the children were prevented from attending school by scrofulous and consumptive complaints & that numbers died. One very intelligent Indian talking to me about his own children who were loathsomely affected by scrofula said that it seemed to him as though some great punishment were resting upon his people. Numbers of children who wanted to come here & parents who wanted to send their

children I could not consider because of scrofula.

I was shown through the school and present at meals & found that the only meat provided for the children was pork & bacon. I found also that that was the meat provided by the Government for issue to the Indians at that agency generally. I was then reminded of the statement made by one of our best army surgeons that if we wanted to kill the Indians off the best way was to feed them on pork & bacon. Certainly from all that I saw at the Sisseton Agency, the killing process is going on & believe that it is in a great measure through these means.

It may be presumptious in me to bring these matters before you, but they bear so heavily upon my mind that I feel that I ought to. Something can & should be done to give new life & better health to the work at agency schools.

With great respect.

Your obedient servant

R. H. Pratt

Lt. In charge

Nov. 16th

Dear General Hagen.

Last nights Army & Navy Journal indicates that you may be in Washn a few days yet, and it occurs to me that your long acquaintance with Genl. Garfield may give you his ear upon topics of interest to his coming administration. I have watched carefully every utterance of his, during the campaign, and have not seen that he said "Indian" once, but all he has said about education, the interests of all classes, and the negro has been broad and grand, and I am sure the aborigines will be lifted up into a better state during his control of affairs, just as much as he can lift them. Your long service in the army on the frontier before and since the war, and your duties at one time in charge of the Indian Territory tribes, will I am sure endorse the statement that education and training for the young, is our only relief from Indian complications and burdens. You will remember

that in all the great treaties of 1868, with the Sioux, Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, Comanches, Navajoes, Utes, Shoshones, Bannocks, Pawnees and other tribes comprising all our nomadic Indians east of the Mountains, a special Educational clause was inserted promising educational advantages to every child between 6 & 16 years of age. Now I believe in regard to that, that if in the hereafter of our country we are burdened with Indian pensioners, vagabonds and criminals, very much of it will come upon us because we failed to carry out in good faith, that part of our self assumed obligation.

The present administration has done more than any previous one to get at the root of our Indian status, but it has only begun to open the way. There is no doubt in my mind but that during General Garfields administration, a lifting up of the Indians can be accomplished, that would, of itself, leave its mark on the history of this country, so bright that all the future would not erase it. We have at the outside 50.000 children among our Indians who are of proper age to attend school. This is less than

half the number in the Schools of Philadelphia alone. Now it seems to me a small matter for this great Country of ours to reach out, and cover into educational and training influences, for self support and manly living of some kind, all these children. If we had made no promises to do it, it would be economy and statesman like to do it. How much more binding upon us is it to do it when we have promised to. It will require vigorous and intelligent management, with possibly some pressure of force, but I am sure less of the latter than we bring to bear in some of our States. The success of it depends much on the completeness of it. We have agreed to give to all. We can give to all, and we ought to give to every Indian boy and girl of suitable age the privileges of Schools and training in civilized ways. To do less than the whole invites failure in just the proportion we do the work. The obligations of the Indians to send their children to School is clearly undertaken by them, in their treaties, and the right to enforce

attendance clearly defined, as resting with us through our agents.

My plan would be to create an educational Dept. for the Indian Service, and to place at its head a great and earnest Educational man, like General S.C. Armstrong of Hampton Inst. for instance, and to provide him with all the means necessary for the work. We must feed and clothe the children, and it should be done so liberally that disease will be driven away instead of enticed, as I am sorry to say my observation shows to have been the case in the past. Properly fed, clothed, and well taught and as much industrially as possible, would in few years send the children into a new life and destroy savagery in this country.

The Bill twice reported favorably from the House Committee on Indian Affairs to use vacant Military Posts and Barracks would be a large means for beginning, and if the system of congregating our Army into large commands at a few important points, which has been urged for several years past, should prevail,

many additional places for schools, would be created, in very many of which all the needs of sheltering, and for agricultural training, are already provided for.

I write this to you because you are in the way to say something to Genl Garfield on the subject, with less of suspicion of selfishness than any one I know.

I am dear General
With greatest respect
Your obedient Servt
R H Ball
Jr.

Nov. 16th

E. Stephens
U. S. Ind. Agent
Keshena Wis.

Dear Sir.

It was a question whether we had not better make a travel account with your subvouchers attached, and get your cert. or affidavit. I have concluded to use the vouchers as though taken by myself in person, and if questioned will then call on you, if we are both alive at that time. Enclosed find my check in your favor for the amount ($7.00) of expense incurred by you with the children.

I have written the Dept. that all the children brought by me had best remain here.

Ans. Enignon will go at the Harness making trade as desired. Plenty of time for the other little boys hereafter. All well and happy.

Yours Truly
R. H. Pratt
Sp. Inc. Agt.

Dec 1st 80

My friend
"Black Wav Bonnet"
Pine Ridge Agency Dak.

Capt. Pratt went to Washington yesterday and told me he wanted me to write to you about your son "Laurence" he is not well and is under the Doctors care – I do not want you to think him very ill – he is able to walk about and is out almost every day and eats pretty well – We have him comfortably taken care of and and provide him with everything he can want, and I will write to you again soon and tell you how he is getting on – I am sorry to have to tell you this as your son is one of our best boys and doing so well I hope he will soon be well again – All the other boys from Pine Ridge are quite well –

Your friend
A J Mackay
for Capt Pr

December 6 80.

Chief White Thunder,
Rosebud Agency,
Dakota.

My dear Friend:

Your son continues very sick. It is willing now to take food but not medicine. I have fears that he may not get well, for as the Doctor says if he will continue to take food as he is wanted to the chances are good for him. There is nothing in his disease to cause his death, but he has been so obstinate from the start about medicine. My good that his condition is brought on by himself.

His throat is sore but it does not appear to be diphtheria, only an ordinary sore throat. We have no other cases here.

Truly your friend.

[illegible]
Act. Dr. U.S. Navy, In charge.

December 6 80.

To the Honorable
The Secretary of the Interior:
Sir:

While Plunder's son is very sick, I doubt if he recovers. I consider that it is entirely his own fault as I explained to you.

He is still very obstinate, seems rather want to die.

Very respectfully
Your obt. servant,
R.H. Pratt
1st Lt. 10th Cavy, in charge.

December 7 80.

Spring White Thunder,
Rosebud Agency.
Dakota.

My dear Friend,

Your son is no better this morning, is rather weaker. The Doctor says if he would only take enough nourishment he would get well but he will not take any food at all unless I go and give it to him myself. And even then will take very little. We have done all we could for him but he will not try to get well.

Very truly your friend
[illegible]
Act Dr. in Charge.

December 8 80.

Chief White Thunder,
Rosebud Agency,
Dakota.

My dear Friend:

Your son seems a little better this morning. He is more willing to eat, and the Doctor hopes he will get well. We give him whatever he says he wants, and try in every way to do all we can for him.

He will not yet take any medicine but if he will take food enough to keep him from losing all his strength, we think he will get well.

Very truly your friend
R. H. Pratt
1st Lt. 10th Cavy. In charge.

I enclose you a letter from one of the boys.

Dec. 8 80

Hon. A. Bell
Asst. Secretary Dept. Interior
Sir.

In reply to your communication of the 7th inst. marked J.G.S. I have to inform you that a set of the Advance sheets sent to me, shows the account referred to appearing on pages 201 and 214 inclusive of the "Proceedings of the National Museum". My account was written in Feby 1878, and I am probably in error as to the year. It may have appeared in 1878.

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
R.H. Pratt
Lt. U.S.A.

Chief White Thunder,

Rosebud Agency, Dakota.

My dear Friend,

December 9 [illegible]

Your son continues about the same. Although he does not seem really worse he is not more. Today he is more willing to take his good medicine. We look on doing all we can for him, & as the hospital surgeon cruelly to see the taking good medicine. The teachers give him good things & everybody is good to him, except himself.

Very truly your friend

[illegible]

1st Lt. 10th Cavy. in charge.

Crow Creek Agency,
Dakota,
December 9 1878

My dear Friends:

Your daughter Maud is taken with Pneumonia, she is quite sick but in no immediate danger. When she came here her lungs were examined by the Doctor & found to be somewhat diseased. This makes it necessary for us to take especial care in watching over her health. She will recover very strong though we hope she will soon be in her usual health.

She is now receiving careful medical attention & the best nursing.

I will write to you from day to day while she is sick & you may tell our that we shall do everything we can for her.

Very truly yours friends
C.H. Ball
act Dr. & Chg. in charge

December 9 80.

Black War Bonnet,
Pine Ridge Agency,
Dakota.

My dear Friends,

Your son Lawrence is improving very much. We have him stay in the hospital yet so as to be well taken care of but he is now so nearly well that he is able to go about a good deal. We will continue to watch over him till he is quite well again and then I will write and tell you.

Your friends

1st Lt. 10th Cavy. In charge.

December 9 80

To the Editor of the
Philadelphia Press.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

In your yesterday's issue you say in your editorial comment on Mr. Henry Ward Beecher's speech at the Union Square meeting in New York, you say "When Scott Lail took away his children from the Indiana Home of the Orphans, Carlile was accomplice of the occasion, and the Lail visited upon the fugitive of that outlaw the worthily obtained lash of a whipped boy makes a whole man. Now is undoubtedly true that in the remark."

I desire to call your attention to the fact which has doubtless escaped your critic, that Philadelphia "Times" which furnishes the statement "that Scott Lail removed his children from the Home because they had been whipped" published in contradiction of it, on

learning that it was not true that whipping was ever administered here. Spotted Tail having taken his children away for the sole reason that we would not continue to employ his son-in-law as interpreter at the school." That Spotted Tail has repented this foolish revenge is shown by his urgent and repeated requests that the children may be allowed to return to the school.

Will you be kind enough not to leave us with the shadow of disadvantage which your erroneous use of a false statement gives.

Very respectfully
R. H. Pratt
1st Lt. 10th Cavy. In charge.

Dec. 10th

To the Ladies
of the U. B. Club,

Par. 1784 of the Revised Statutes provides that "No officer, clerk, or employe in the United States Government employ shall at any time solicit contributions from other officers, clerks, or employes in the Government service for a gift or present to those in ~~authority~~ a superior position; Nor shall any such officials or clerical superiors receive any gift or present offered or presented to them as a contribution from persons in government employ receiving a less salary than themselves. Nor shall any officer or clerk make any donation as a gift or present to any official superior. Every person who violates this section shall be summarily discharged from the Government Employ."

You can very readily see the impossibility of my accepting your appreciative and appreciated gift, tendered me on my fortieth birthday, which is hereinbefore returned.

Very truly - R. B. Hayes

Chilocco Indian School
P. O. Rosebud Agency,
Dakota.

December 10 80

My dear Friend.

Your daughter has not quite so much fever today as she had yesterday. It is not that her lungs are at fault when she is well we should not be at all troubled about her. We do not think she is in any danger. It is only necessary to take the best possible care of her. This we are doing. If you may be sure that even if you were here yourself we could not do more for her.

Very truly your friend
[illegible]
Pst. Dr. 10th Bazy in charge.

December 10 80.

Chief White Thunder,
Rosebud Agency, Dakota.

My dear Friend:

Your son is about the same as when I wrote yesterday. He has been more willing to eat today, has drunk several cups of tea and eaten some beef. He has taken his medicine too, and now I hope for long if he keeps on taking food and medicine that I can write to tell you that he is a great deal better. We will give him the most strengthening food and the best care that we can.

Very truly your friend
W. H. Pratt
1st Lt. 10th Cavy, In charge.

December 11 80

Mr. Good,
Rosebud Agency,
Dakota.

My dear Friend:

I got your letter and have read what you say about Grace and have taken several days to consider the matter. Grace is in excellent health, is doing well in every respect and while I can appreciate your feeling as a father separated so far from your child and also the feeling of her mother, I must say that when things are going well it seems to me better to let them go and my impressions are not in favor of Grace's going home the coming summer unless there is some reason for it more than is now apparent. There is another reason my friend and it seems to me that you ought not to lose sight of it. That is the expense. I am sure you are not rich and I know very well everything in the way of property or money that you can accumulate now you ought to save.

that changes will take place among the Sioux people within a very few years and will demand of each individual man among them not only the ability and disposition to work but also the possession of something to work with. For the $100 it would cost you to get Grace home and get her back here you can buy many things that you need and ought to have.

There is another way to look at it too. There are other Indians who have children here who are not able to pay their way home but would of course like to see their children as well as you. They will feel badly to see your daughter come home even if you pay her way and they will not be as favorable to the school as though she remained here the same as the other children. These are the thoughts I have about what you say, but there is plenty of time for us to talk more about it between this and next summer.

Our boys and girls from your agency are not acting badly, we have very little trouble with them. We have had the chicken pox and some

the sickness that was not bad. My mother had a few cases that are a little bad. I have written to the parents of the children when the children are much sick.

My heart shakes hands with you and all the parents of the children I have here.

I send you my photograph.

Your friend
R. H. Pratt
1st Lieut. 10th Cavy. Exchange.

December 11 80

1st Lt. Carl C. Smith U.S.N.
Springfield Mass.

My dear Sir:

Acknowledging the receipt of your of the 8th instant I have to say that just at present I have no vacancies here. I have very much needed the assistance of an officer and have been working to secure the service of one whom I know to be in entire accord with me in this work, who is full of energy to take hold of any one hundred and fifty boys. That matter is pending.

Should I not get this officer the field would be open.

Very truly yours,
[illegible]
1st Lt. 10th Cavy in charge.

December 11 80.

Capt. F. S. Hindry,
Ft. Myers, Florida

Dear Sir:

I am quite delighted to get Billy's little son which does so much credit to his efforts at learning to write, & send in return my photographs & a few other pictures which will probably please him. Tell Billy that he is the advance guard of the army occupying the post & responsibility & danger & everything depends upon his careful effort to do his part well.

I am glad the old Indians are beginning to change their minds & I shall hope to come day see them again. I as well as thousands of others all over the land am anxious to see the Indians becoming an enduring part of our population & this can only be accomplished through the education & training of their children. If the old Indians can bring themselves to admit & encourage this, it will be all that we could expect of them. From my experience

here and elsewhere I am sure the Indian race can be saved and enjoy with us this great country which once was theirs but which Providence has probably taken from them because of their unwillingness to use it well.

The matter of payment to you can only be brought about by your making out a bill of that I would advise you to do. However small it may be to begin with it will continue the attention now directed toward this people and I am sure bring about the appropriation of means more in keeping with the needs of the work to be done. It requires an immense amount of patience to deal with the Government but I have found in my own experience that even the Government is reasonable to proper claims and I have no doubt that the Seminoles in southern Florida will eventually come in for such attention as they need if we only follow the matter up.

I shall be pleased to have you remember me kindly to all the friends whom I met in that region and to hear from you as soon as your convenience.

Very truly yours,

[illegible]

Act. Sec. to take charge.

December 11 80

Chief White Thunder,
Crow Creek Agency, Dakota.

My dear Friend,

Ernest seems in an improved condition today, his throat is much better and he continues to take good and medicine, so that the Doctor gives a favorable account of him. I am very glad to tell you this.

Very truly your friend
R. H. Pratt
1st Lt. 10th Cavy. in Charge.

December 11 80

Chief Smith Dear.
Rosebud Agency, Dakota,
My dear friend,

Your daughter seems easier today, she vomited much better than she did yesterday and is able to sit up. We will keep on taking care of her the very best we can.

Very truly your friend
R. H. Hall
1st Lt. 10th Cavy in charge.

December 11 80

Black War Bonnet
Pine Ridge Agency,
Dakota.

My dear Friends.

Your son Laurence is now so well that I have let him leave the hospital and go back to his quarters. I am sure you will be glad to know this as I am glad to tell you.

Very truly your friend
R. H. Pratt
1st Lt. 10th Cavy in charge.

Informal.

December 11 80.

Hon. Carl Schurz,
Secretary of the Interior.

Dear Sir:

The time has arrived when I feel that I must press my own case. I respectfully invite your attention to the fact that in February 1879, 9 months before I began this work I wrote a letter to the Honorable the Secretary of War, then Mr. McCrary, in which I showed clearly the sacrifices which I would make in undertaking this work and the need that would press upon me for additional support. A copy of that letter I inclose herein and also a copy of the reply I received from Mr. McCrary.

I have now at the end of more than a year experienced all that I apprehended. By leaving Hampton and undertaking this duty I sacrificed for 7 months in my pay in the way of commutation. As I occupy quarters here belonging to the United States I am not entitled to draw commutation for quarters. At Hampton the school

was glad to furnish me with quarters & the commutation was then additional to my pay.

I must press upon your attention that my responsibilities & can here are very great & that to meet them successfully I certainly should not be subjected to any decreasing personal tax. The pay of a Lieutenant is not adequate to meet the needs of this place & field.

You will remember that aside from the promise contained in Secretary Mr. Grant's letter this matter has been canvassed by yourself & Commissioners Hayt & Trowbridge with me, & always with a favorable design on your part & their to remove the difficulty so that I have had constant reason to hope that there would be a turn in my favor sometime. I have thus gone forward & expected myself to make this effort a success & have gone to my friends & the bank for loans to meet my personal needs, until now I find myself cumbered with over $800. debt as the reward for my zeal.

I cannot handle Indians & work for them without it costing me money. The officer in charge here

should not have less than a Major's pay.

I feel that it is right for me now to say that unless something can be done to help me out in this matter I had better be relieved & resume my station in the line when my duties will be equally modest with my pay.

That I have every confidence in the present status of the school will be shown to you by my desire to have those who would be best able to know come & report upon it. & I would say further that I invite any criticism or inspection that may be considered necessary to satisfy the Department.

Having this confidence & being pecuniarily distressed as I am, I do not feel that I am violating any trust or duty to ask relief or release.

I certainly have had every reason to believe that I would not be left in my present condition.

Very respectfully
Your obt servant
R.H. Pratt
1st Lt. 10th Cavy. In charge.

December 13 88.

Chief White Thunder.
Pocebud Agency.
Dakota.

My dear Friend.

Your son did not sleep well last night and so this morning he does not seem quite so well as he did yesterday. He says he does not feel sick and I hope when I write to you tomorrow I can tell you that he has slept better and got rested. Yesterday he ate beefsteak and pudding for his dinner and drank tea made of beef so as to have all the strength of the meat with it. He has got to liking one kind of medicine that he takes so that he is glad when they bring it to him and laughs. Somebody stays by him all the time day and night so as to wait on him and give him anything he wants to eat or drink. American Horse's son Robert is a good friend to Ernest. He stays with him and reads him and gets him to do what the Doctor says.

I tell you this because I know you want to know how your son is taken care of.
We do just as we would if you were here yourself.

Very truly your friend
R. H. Pratt
1st Lt. 10th Cavy. In charge.

December 13 80

Chief Smith Bear,
Rosebud Agency,
Dakota,

My dear Friend:

I have just been down to the hospital to see how your daughter was this morning. She had had her breakfast & was sitting up in a big rocking chair eating an apple. I cannot tell you that she is a great deal better but she is certainly no worse and I think she is a little better.

The lady teachers go often to see her & take nice things to her.

Very truly your friend
[illegible]
1st Lieut 10th Cavy. Inchange.

December 12 80.

Yankton
Sioux Agency,
Dakota.

My dear Friend:

Since I got your letter telling me you want to send Joe to have your son Daniel come home, I have thought much about it. Daniel is doing very well, so that you have very reason to be proud of him. When he has stayed here the time you sent him for, if then goes home, he will be a help to you and to your people, and because he is doing so well and has a chance now to learn English it seems to me you would do better to let him stay. It is a long journey for him to take by himself and he might get lost if I should let him go.

It costs much money to make this great journey and the money would buy many good things for you and your family.

If any delegation from your country

should come east this year I should be very glad if you could come with them & visit my house here. It would be good if you could see the children here. & know how they get along in studying & working

There is much time before next summer in which we can think about whether it is the best thing for Daniel to visit you. & you must tell his mother & sisters to keep a brave heart.

Very truly your friend
D. C. [illegible]
Lt. 10th Cavy. In charge.

December 14 80.

Brig. Dwight Dear,
Pueblo Agency,
Dakota.

My dear friend.

My heart is sad when I write to you. I told you yesterday that your daughter was a little easier & was sitting up. All the day she seemed to be better & the Doctor & the nurse said they thought she would get stronger. But last night she got worse very fast & she died.

Once when I wrote to you before I told you that her lungs were diseased when she came here. Very slowly for years they had been getting worse so that she never could have mixed like other well girls. They were all consumide. We knew that she was not strong & we tried to take care of her. We gave her food that would do her good for the Doctor told us we must give her the very best & we did so. She had warm clothes to keep the cold from hurting her consumed lungs but in such

of all the girls sick with Pneumonia. His disease would not have been so bad if she had been well like the other girls, but it was because her lungs were not sound that it made her die.

The teachers and the scholars all loved Maud and their hearts are full of grief because she is dead. The Sioux girls cried all night. We all think about you and we are sad because we know you loved your daughter.

She looks very peaceful, just as if she were sleeping. She is dressed in a dress that was made by Good Voice's daughter Winnie, who was her best friend. Tomorrow we will bury her the way which people bury their dead and I will write and tell you about it. Ernest Chief White Thunder's son died this morning, too, and my heart is sad because my children are dead.

While Maud was living we taught her from the good book which tells about the Great Spirit and we prayed to the Great Spirit to make her well, but he has taken her from this world. I sorrow greatly.

Your good friend,
[illegible]
1st Lt. 10th Cavy in Charge.

December 14 80.

Chief White Thunder,
Rosebud Agency
Dakota.

My dear Friend,

It is with a sad heart that I write to you this morning. Yesterday I told you your son seemed worse but that he said he did not feel sick. We hoped he might sleep off the fever or better but he got worse yet this morning just at daylight he died. When I think about you yet that Ernest was the one son that you had just as I have just one son my heart is sad with you, for I know how a father loves his boy. It was because you loved him so much that you gave him to me to come far away to this school. You wanted him to learn the white man's good road yet learn to be a great man so that you would be proud of your son. But the Great Spirit has taken him out of this world where there is so much trouble.

All the time since he got sick I have done

everything I could to make him get well. You will remember I told you I had to make him go to the hospital and had to take his clothes away from him to keep him in bed. He would not eat and he would not take medicine unless I made him and then he would spit it out. All the time he had the doctor to see him often every day, and then was some one to take care of him day and night. Whatever was good we got for him, oranges and grapes, and other nice things he had always. After he had been long sick as I told you then he wanted to get well and he began to eat and to take medicine, but he had got so weak that all our care would not save him.

My friend when your people gave me your children I said I will be like their father. And all these boys and girls are like my children. It is this that makes me so sorrowful when I tell you about your son.

The Sioux boys would go to see Ernest while he was sick. They would talk to him and try to make him feel happy. American Horse's son Robert was his best friend. He stayed with him, and took care

of him just as if it had been his own brother.
High Wolfe con Amor was a good friend too & tried to help Ernest all he could.

Your son died quietly without suffering like a man. We have dressed him in his good clothes, & tomorrow we will bury him the way the white people do. I & will wait & tell you about it.

All the teachers & all the children are very sad, & they think about you & they are sorry.

Your good friend
R. Pauk
1st Lt. 10th Cavy. In charge.

December 14 80

Peter Primeaux,
Capt. Police, at Ponca Agy,
Ind. Ter.

My dear Friend:

I got your letter asking about your son. He is going to school all the time and he is very well indeed. His teacher says he is a smart boy and is learning very nicely in school. He is not always a very good boy and sometimes he makes his teacher some trouble but they hope that when he gets bigger and learns more he will be as good as he is smart.

I have sent him to town to get his picture taken and when it is done I will send it to you.

All the other Ponca boys are well.

Very truly your friend
[illegible]
1st Lt. 10th Cavy. in charge.

The man who takes pictures says he cannot get any time to make Tenkiki's picture now for two or three months, but as soon as he can make it I will send it to you.

December 15 80.

Chief White Thunder,
Crow Creek Agency, Dakota.

My dear Friend:

Yesterday when I wrote to you I told you that I would write to you when my buried your son & tell you all about it, because I know you want to know that we did what was right.

I had them make a good coffin & he was dressed in his uniform with a white shirt & a nice collar and necktie. We had flowers around him that some of the ladies brought for the white people love to get flowers for their friends when they are buried. Six of the Sioux boys who were Ernest's good friends carried the coffin into the chapel, & then the people sang about the land where people's spirits go when they are dead. & the minister read from the good book. & told all the teachers & the boys & girls that some time they would have to die too. We told them they must think a great deal about it & they must be ready to die too, because none of the teachers or scholars

could tell when the time would come for them to die.

Then he prayed to the Great Spirit we call God. He prayed for you and for the other friends of your son that the Great Spirit would take away your sorrow. And that you might learn from the good book about the good land of the spirits, when good people go when they die. Then they let all the boys and girls go and look once more at their friends, because Chief Smith Bear's daughter Hand died the same night that your son did, and we buried them at the same time.

The teachers and the boys and girls cried a great deal because their hearts were sad. After that all the people walked down to the burying yard, slowly and in order. They put the coffins in the grave and the minister said more words and prayed again to God and then they filled the grave up, just the way our people always do.

My friends, my heart is heavy when I think to you about your son, but I want you to learn about the good book, and what it says. That was the best thing we taught your son while he was alive, it was what the good book says that we wanted him to know so he

could tell you and all your people when he won't
back because it is that book which makes the white
people know so much as they do.

I shall not forget you, my friend, and I hope
your heart will always be good toward me.

I want to say a few words more to you
though we have more children from your agency
than from any other. There are the first that have
died, and they have been here more than a year.

I look upon this detachment of children away
from your people somewhat as you would upon a
party sent out to gather a quantity of buffalo meat
or even sent out to make war upon some other
people or to capture horses from some other people.
You know how that is my friend, how that very
few men are come who never come back. Such
is the course of things in this life. We must expect
death to come to some of us in a good cause as
well as in a bad cause. I heard that Ernest was
very sick before and it may be then was some of that
sickness left. He was not a wise boy and did not try
to take care of his health. I only say these

things to help you see it in what I think is the right way. Never in all the history of your tribe have you sent parties away from it on a better mission than this one and while my heart is pained and sad for the loss that you yourself have sustained in it I am sure your strong good sense will stand by what the Government is trying to do for you and help make it strong. I would be glad to have you write to me and tell me what you think and how you feel about it.

I find I have two pictures of Comest which I think you will like to have.

Your friend
R H. Pratt
Lieut.