Image ID: 32413676

Feby 19th 81

My dear Sir

At your convenience please go with me to the farm and point out the reservation for stable &c. you make, that we may have no cause for difference in that respect, hereafter.

Very truly yours
R H. Wall
Jr.

R M. Parker Esq.
Carlisle -

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Image ID: 32413677

Feby 17th 81

Wm G Fischer
1210 Chestnut St. Phila. Pa.

Dear Sir -

To meet the Feby payment on Piano for Mrs. Pratt, find enclosed my check for $19.71, for which please send your receipt.

Very Truly Yours
R H Pratt
Lieut.

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Image ID: 32413678

February 23 81.

Dr. D. M. Thomas.
U. S. Indian Agent,
Pueblo Agency, Santa Fe, N. M.

Dear Sir:

Your of the 9th instant is received. I hope that you may be favored in bringing the detachment of principal men east. However you will know best about all that.

The ten children arrived here on the 4th instant. The boy William Allen (Se-wi-kutch-lye) from Acoma is not a proper subject to be sent here. His body is filled with scrofula and his right arm is stiff and shrivelled from the disease. There is some suspicion that one of the girls is not sound minded. Without giving her name I leave that for a future letter. Otherwise they were quite satisfactory and have dropped into school with the others and will probably do well. The description statement forwarded is all filled up and certified having evidently

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your personal signature without any explanation, I judge the writing is all done by Dr. Henaul who certifies to the physical examination of the whole.

Little Harry Harmon is our baby now and in his new uniform is the subject of many comments seems to be a bright promising boy, and as are the others all bright and promising except the boy and girl mentioned before. I can only continue to speak well of our Pueblo children who are, without exception, in the enjoyment of good health and making rapid progress.

Very truly yours.

R. H. Hall

Lieut. In charge.

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Image ID: 32413680

February 23 81.

My dear Wilkinson:

I have yours of the 3rd January, and put the letter from Mr George into our "Saddle". I do hope that you may get your asked for order to come east, that we may see you at Carlisle. Things grow and prosper with us all the time and in every way. We have now 259 pupils, 83 of whom are girls, and are pretty well settled down to regular, systematic work. I am glad to know that you get on so well under so many unknowing circumstances.

The new administration will come into power very soon, and I suppose we shall shortly feel the bent of its inclination. There is no telling who are to fill the places of Secretary and Commissioner under General Garfield. I am assured by friends that he is heartily in sympathy with educational work for the Indians. Everything depends upon a very large amount of it. If we are left to work along with a very small per cent. from each

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but the work will be so discouragingly slow that it will ultimately drive away our friends.

I have heard nothing but good words from you & hope that your anticipations of criticism from Pollock are not well founded. You have a very strong advantage in the visit of the President to the school which would certainly stands you in good stead as against what might be said. If you are persecuted a little remember, my dear fellow, that it is "for righteousness' sake." Pollock wrote me while he was at your place stating that you were working under many discouraging circumstances & his sympathy seemed to be entirely with you.

I am very sure that the coming Congress will take some active steps to enlarge & push the work of Indian education. Petitions are flying around all over the country & memorials are being sent in urging this, but almost every petition & memorial has a particular way of doing it. Some of the best friends of the Indians I think are very short sighted in their prejudices & preferences. I consider

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Image ID: 32413682

the hardships of separation between parents and children as nothing compared to the hardships of their savage life and the want of success in almost all efforts to educate them under its influences at the agency.

We are all well and shake hands with you across the continent.

Very truly your friend.

R. H. Pratt

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February 24 81

Black War Bonnet,
Pine Ridge Agency,
Dakota.

My dear Friend:

Your son Lawrence seems to grow a little weaker each day. We hope he will be able to go home, so that you may see him, and so we do all we can to try to make him stronger.

He seems very cheerful, he smiles very often and is glad to see his friends when they go to see him.

Everybody likes him and wants to do something for him. I will write to you again and tell you how he is. He will probably start home next Saturday with Dr. Faulkner of Pine Ridge Agency.

Your sincere friend
R. Wall
Clerk in Charge

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Image ID: 32413684

February 28 81

Brave Bull,
Rosebud Agency, Dakota,

My dear Friends:

Your daughter continues to improve steadily. On Saturday she was well enough to go out to her quarters for a while. We have her stay in the Hospital yet, so that she may become entirely well. I did not send her home with Dr. Faulkner because she seems to be getting well, & he said he could not take care of her on the journey, but if she should not grow strong again, I will send her to you. We will take very good care of her, & do everything we can for her just as though you were here to see it yourself.

I will write to you soon again & tell you how she is. She is very happy & contented for she has many friends among the girls.

Very truly your friend
[illegible]
Lieut in charge.

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February 28 81.

Black War Bonnet,
Pine Ridge ~~Pecuud~~ Agency, Dakota.

My dear Friend:

Your son Laurence started home on Saturday under the care of Dr. Faulkner, & I hope he will reach home safely so that you may see his face once more. He has promised to send us word about his journey & we shall be quite anxious to hear from him because we are all very much attached to him. He has been a good boy & not made us trouble. While he has been sick he has always been so pleasant & patient. The teachers all liked to go & see him. We are all very sad about his being so sick & having to leave us because he was a bright, smart boy & we thought he would be a very good and useful man. But you know that when your people used to go out to battle, it was very often the brave, strong men who got killed. Sickness seizes the brightest & best very often, &

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all our care, all our sorrow will not save them. This is true among the white people as well as the Indians. It is only the Great Spirit, God, who can heal sickness. Lawrence has learned about God and we hope he has learned to love him, so if he dies he will go to the happy home of the Great Spirit.

When you gave him to me to come here and learn the good way it was because you loved him so much that it made your heart strong to do what was the best thing for him, and you must still have a strong heart and be glad you did all you could for your boy.

I should be glad to have you write to me my friend, and tell me about how Lawrence got home. He has so many friends here who want to know about him.

Your friend,
R. H. Pratt
Lieut. in charge.

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March 1 81

Mr. Jas. Milligan,
Manayunk, Pa.

Dear Sir:

In reply to yours of the 28th ultimo, I would answer your questions as follows.

1st, This school was established on the 5th October 1879. It is purely & wholly a Government institution,

2nd Indians are the only beneficiaries.

3rd The branches taught will appear in the article which I inclose & which I had just finished for our own little school paper

4th You ask what results have followed the training here given, I answer the time is so short that we could not expect results beyond what are shown in the article inclosed.

5th There are other institutions but not so large. A similar school is established at Forest Grove, Oregon, with about ninety pupils. & there are about ninety Indian youth at the Normal & Industrial Institute at Hampton, Va. also a limited number at an industrial

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Image ID: 32413688

institution in North Carolina. The Government has schools at almost every agency, some of them doing good work for the Indians. In addition to this, it has issued hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of agricultural implements, wagons, stock, &c.

Very Truly yours
R. H. Pratt
Lieut. In charge

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Image ID: 32413689

March 5 81.

Major Chas. J. Sprague,
Paymaster U.S.A.
New York City.

Sir:

From May 1875 until April 1878, I was on detached service in charge of Indian prisoners at St. Augustine, Florida. During that time the Quartermaster's Department paid an allowance for my quarters & renting the property & paying more all of the time than was allowed by the Department. On the 11th April I was ordered north with the prisoners, on reaching Hampton, Va. I applied for a leave of absence for six months which was granted by Special Orders number 80, paragraph 4, dated Adjutant General's Office, April 15. 1878. That leave took effect on the 17th of April. By paragraph 3 Special Orders number 115 from the Secretary of War, dated May 29. 1878. I was sent to Leavenworth, Kansas, with reference to the obtaining of fifty Nez Perce Indian children for Hampton Institute. When I returned

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June 20th, 1878, I reported to my former station of leave of absence.

On the 2nd September 1878, I was detailed by paragraph 2 Special Order No. 190, War Department A. G. O. 1878, to escort to the Secretary of the Interior to proceed to Dakota after Indian children for Hampton Institute. I was absent in Dakota in the discharge of this duty & did not reach Hampton until the 4th day of November 1878.

It now appears to me that under the recent ruling of the War Department I am entitled to commutation of quarters throughout the period from April 11th when my commutation at St. Augustine ceased, until November 4th when I reached Hampton & commenced to draw commutation of quarters there. Will you please inform me if such is not the case & send me the necessary blanks & instructions as to how to make up the account.

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servant.
R. H. Peale
1st Lieut 10th Cavy.

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[illegible]

Crawford,
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]:

I [illegible] to tell you that your daughter Dora has continued to grow better. She is now able to go around the house and the room to eat her supper with the other girls. She seems [illegible] happy and contented and I think she is getting on nicely.

I will write to you again & tell you how she is.

Yours truly
[illegible]
Lieut. Enclosure.

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Image ID: 32413692

March 7th 81

Dear Mrs Dugan

Yours of the 28th Feby, came several days ago and I was sick in bed, which delayed response.

I wish I could see you. There are so many things one would like to know before entering into an arrangement. I do not know just how you your might take to the kind of work I could give.

Just now I want a teacher for our night school of twenty apprentices who have no day opportunities. 7 to 9 P.M five nights a week, and for some special work on classes during the day. For this I have authority @ $45.00 per month.

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I want in addition to my present help, a matron for boys grs. with special reference to the smaller boys. Some oversight of bedding, clothing, health cleanliness &c. This seemed to me a place that might suit your powers. We have 190 boys. I have no authority for this place, but will get it when I find the party. Why could you not come down and visit us. Certainly there is a chance for you and your & me. Place might be held in abeyance, until we are both satisfied.

Sincerely yours
R.H. Pratt
Sh.

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See p. 323

March 7th 81

My dear Sir.

Your note of application is received.

Be kind enough to send me some testimonials on the points you name, and what family, if any, have you.

Yours truly
R.H. Pratt
Lt. In charge

Henry Newman Esq
U.S. Barracks
Washington D.C.

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March 7th 81

My dear Capt. Ramsay -

Henry Newman, formerly 1st Sergt. of Bat. "E", and Qr. Mr. Sergt. of your Regt. applies to me for work. What can you say for him of anything? He must be a good man to have reached Regtl. Qr. Mr. Sergts place.

Poor Gates died Feby. 21st.

Sincerely Yours.

R.H. Pratt

Capt. J.G. Ramsay
2d Arty.
Fort McHenry, Md.

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March 7th 1871

Capt. John McGilvray
2d Atty
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir

Henry Newman formerly of Augusta Maine & Boston & also Capt. Jno McGilvray in the 2d Atty, asks me for employment. I have a vacancy there & Mr Richmond suggests my writing to you. I formerly had a place which would be satisfactorily filled by a man with Newmans experience and probable qualities, if he is active and unimpaired, and his moral influence satisfactory. Would you oblige me with a free letter about him, and something of his family, if he has one.

Very truly yours
R.H. Pratt
Ch. In charge Schools

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March 7 87

Dear Sir,

Your application for employment is received.

Be kind enough to send testimonials covering the points you named and also some information of your family if you have one.

I have a vacancy by the death of Mr Yates, formerly Sergt in your Regt. which I hope it may be satisfactory to offer you, after you reported.

Yours truly

R H Pratt

Lt. In charge

Henry Newman

U. S. Barracks

Washington D.C.

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March 7 81

Mrs. Jane Stevenson
Summit St.
Natick Mass.

March 7 81

Dear Madam: Lucy

Acknowledging the receipt of your esteemed appreciative letter, I have to inform you that our positions for teachers are all filled at present. I cannot choose at this time from coming in the fall but will keep your letter in mind. Should need a girl I will correspond with you about your daughter. Will, meet the allusions you ask.

I am glad you think of what I am doing. I may say to you without fear of your misunderstanding it that I believe this and other educational methods for the Indians the only possible way out of our complications with them, their only salvation and our only hope of saving our society of a large dangerous vagabond element.

Sincerely yours,
C.H. Pratt
Lieut. In charge.

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Image ID: 32413699

March 8 81

Agent. Jno. D. Miles
Darlington Ind^a Ty.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 25th Feby enclosing $35.00 to be paid to certain Ind^n boys from your Agency, is in my hands, and will meet the attention you ask.

Very respectfully
[illegible]
[illegible] Lange

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Image ID: 32413700

March 10 81

Miss Ania A. Grant,
Mankato, Minn.

Dear Madam:

I have received your letter of the 8th instant, in regard to a position as teacher here. For the present all such positions are filled. I cannot tell whether there may be vacancies in the future, but will file your letter for consideration in case any should occur.

Thanking you for the interest in our school which you express,

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

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1808

Mch. 12th 8

Henry Day Esq.
New York.
Dear Sir.
Your Check for $25. for the bettering of the condition of the Indians is received, and is carried to the donations account, With thanks.
Very truly Yours
R H Ball
Lieut.

Mr. Schermerhorn is to speak on Indian Education in New York next Tuesday evening.

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Dear Mayor Pol. March 14 81

I am just back from Washington. Thanks for the "Busy Bee" and your nice little article. I see the drift of your splendid idea I have not written for the public press at all on this subject in fact my ability does not run that way and I am bitter out of it so if what I say is useful to your intention use it as your own.

In September 1879 in company with Miss Mather an old lady of sixty two years I visited the two largest Sioux Agencies, Rosebud or Spotted Tail and Pine Ridge or Red Cloud, with an order to get thirty six Indian children from each agency for this school and that would be the nucleus. We went up the Missouri River 250 miles above Yankton and then went out to the Agencies, the first one one hundred miles from the river and the second two hundred miles from the river. It was hard to make the Indians understand our object and when they did understand it they willingly gave a number em

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greater than we asked, and there were almost all the children of Chiefs. We started first from Pine Ridge. About three or four thousand people gathered there to see the children off and there were a great many tears shed and as is customary with the Sioux Indians when they are stirred by either great grief or great joy the relatives and friends gave away ponies and horses and calico and strouding and different kinds of food to show the depth of their feeling.

Great strong men wept like children. Such men as Red Cloud and American Horse, and the mothers and relatives made great noise in their wailing. Still the children came, although crying, all came, though they understood they could come or not as they pleased. At Spotted Tail Agency the scene was repeated on a much larger scale. There are between seven and eight thousand people at that agency and I think almost all of them were present to see the children off. More than two hundred ponies were given away to the old women of the tribe who were very poor. Several of the ponies were so very fine that both Mrs Mather and myself were

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impressed with the depth and sincerity of the action when we considered that a horse to an Indian is valued so highly and especially a good horse. We must acknowledge that this is a trait of character to admire. One old Chief gave away seventeen horses because he was letting his girl go with me to the Great Father's school.

The girl herself was present on the ground gorgeously dressed in her Indian costume, her dress made of blue and cloth was covered with elk teeth so as to be very heavy, while her arms were covered with brass rings nearly to the elbow and her ears must have sustained a weight of nearly half a pound of brass chain, rings, and wampum ornaments. As I went around to bid these old men good bye many of them took me in their arms and pressed their cheeks against mine, first to one cheek and then to the other crying like little children but there was no going back on their determination. Much as they were stirred by their children going so far away they had fully concluded it was best for them and best for their children

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& so were strong in spite of their grief. These incidents made a strong impression upon my mind and add to the many other evidences that a soldier gets, that these are a heroic, fine natured people in many respects. One little incident of our school life might add to the interest of what you would say. Professor Lippincott of Dickinson College preaches for us every Sunday afternoon. He is most earnest in his discourses and very practical. Some Sundays ago his sermon was directed towards encouraging the students to do well whatever they undertook to do. He followed the boys through their different work shops, told how the love of God in their hearts would lead them to be very careful in the little things. Then he came to the girls in their work and among other things he said that a girl that loved God if she were sweeping a room would be very careful to sweep in the corners, &c. Monday morning very early one of the teachers heard a girl sweeping the teachers parlor which was so unusual that she got up and went to the door. The girls name is Josie, and she said "Why Josie I thought you swept the parlor

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Saturday." The girl understands English pretty well and answered, "Yes, I did, but I did not work in the corners."

I fully expected a visit from you and George on Washington's birthday. You did not come and I received no word from George about it. We were very much disappointed.

With great respect
Cordially yours,
R. H. Pratt

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Image ID: 32413707

March 14 81.

Mrs. S. C. Pearson,
Nashua,
New Hampshire.

Dear Madam:

Your note is received on my return from Washington. Our place of Matron is now satisfactorily filled, as too are all our teacher's places. What may come next year is more than I can now determine.

Very truly yours,
R. H. Pratt
Lieut, In charge.

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Image ID: 32413708

March 14 84.

Brave Bull,
Esq. U. S. Indian Agent,
Rosebud Agency, Dakota.

My dear Friend:

Your daughter Dora continues to improve in health. I will write to you from time to time and tell you how she is.

Very truly your friend
R. H. Pratt
Lieut.

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March 21 81

Miss K. M. Eggleston,
Rochester New York.

Dear Madam:

I have your application of the 1st instant & in reply have to say that we are crowded with applications for places. Our teacher's positions are all full at present & there is really nothing that I can say encouraging you to think of a place here.

Very truly yours,
R H Pratt
Supt In charge.

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March 21 81.

Ella J. Gilbert,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Madam:

In reply to yours of the 14th instant I am sorry to inform you that our places are all filled and that your lack of experience as a teacher would be a very great objection. If you wish to become a teacher it would be well for you to give yourself training several years in primary work. We cannot undertake to educate our teachers, they must come to us with the capacity and skill to teach.

Very truly your friend,
R.H. Pratt
Lieut. In charge.

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Image ID: 32413711

March 21 84.

Miss K. E. Smith,
Perrysburg, Ohio.

Dear Madam:

I have received your of the 16th instant and in reply can only say that we are crowded with applications for teachers positions, while we have no vacancies, nor does there seem a probability of any occurring.

In compliance with your request I return the testimonials which you inclosed.

Very truly yours,
R. H. Powell
Lieut. In charge.

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Image ID: 32413712

March 21 81

J. W. Curtin,
Carlisle, Pa.

Sir:

It would be better for you to come out and see me.

Very truly
R. H. Pratt
Lieut. in charge.

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March 22 81

To the Honorable
The Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your promised visit to us in April, do you not think it possible to bring a few members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs with you? It seems to me that more can be done in favor of Indian work in all its branches by that means than by any other. I believe that seeing our workshops & apprentice system with their own eyes will have more weight than volumes of testimony. There is a desire too, on the part of the best citizens of Carlisle to come what atone for their failing to receive as cordially as we felt the members of the House who first came to here, but I do not ask you to do it for this, I ask it simply in the highest & best interests of the Indians in every way. There is no maudlin sentiment about it. It is good effective earnest work in the shops

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in the school rooms and in the girls department
rest that I am sure every member of Congress
however much he may be against the Indians
cannot condemn and if Congress can be induced
to establish plenty of schools of instruction in in-
dustry under favorable circumstances for progress
the Indians can and will be redeemed speedily
but if our efforts are to be limited to the very small
per cent. of the least, it will be exceedingly discour-
aging and progress will hardly be appreciable.

With great respect
Your obt. servant
R H Pratt
1st Lieut 10th Cavy.
In charge

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March 24 81.

Hon. H. L. Dawes,
Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,
U. S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

There is so much concern by way of applications to take more children here from the different Indian agencies that it seems to me extremely necessary to enlarge this kind of work by the establishment of more schools. Certainly the tide has now set in the direction of education so far as the Indians are concerned & it seems criminal not to fully meet it. The applications for us to take children here cover thousands & this leverage for good on the uncivilized tribes who make these applications is to my mind greater than any other means. As this is purely a Government work under the direction of the Department & in the interests of a people having treaty promises from the Government for very large help in the direction of education

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it seems consistent for me to say that it should meet your consideration upon its merits as such.

I am here under the authority and by the act of Congress and have committed to my charge two hundred and eighty six children from twenty three different tribes. As having a bearing on what might be done for all Indian children I am sure it will be esteemed worthy the attention of Senators to witness the mechanical and other industrial skill of our pupils as well as the progress Indian children can make in gaining an elementary education and knowledge of English when placed under favorable circumstances.

I do wish the subject could be looked into and thoroughly understood by your Committee, not in the interests of anything that we need at this school but in the interests of the whole Indian work. Would it not be possible for you to visit us with the members of the Indian Committee and such others as you like and to give this matter your attention from the stand point of a personal inspection.

Very respectfully
Your obt. servant
R. H. Pratt
Lieut. In charge.

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March 26 84.

Mrs. G. H. Hair,
Frankstown Av. East End,
Pittsburg, Pa.,

Esteemed Madam:

I have your note in regard to your niece and while I acknowledge the friendly interest you have in our work here, I regret to inform you that it is of such a nature as compels me to select with the utmost care after a full acquaintance those whom I employ as helpers. As I have no vacancies now and cannot anticipate any, I can offer you no encouragement for your application.

Very respectfully,
[illegible]
Lieut. In charge.

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March 26 81

Miss M. E. Davis,
62 West Newton St.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Madam:

Part of the time since the receipt of yours of the 14th inst. I have been absent, for that and other reasons an answer has been delayed. We are quite well built up in our employes here and I really can see no chance to encourage you that we shall need your services here in the fall.

Very respectfully
R. H. Peale
Lieut. In charge.

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Image ID: 32413719

March 26 81

Jno. Cook,
U. S. Indian Agent,
Rosebud Agency, Dakota,

Sir:

Since writing you upon Dora, Grant Bull's daughter has continued to do well until today, when the Doctor reports that her fever is much higher. This very probably results from an, as yet, undeveloped attack of measles but in any case the fever is unfavorable, for a complication of measles with her present illness is to be dreaded. I will keep you informed as to her condition.

We have about sixty cases of measles among the students, but the disease seems of a mild type, and we hope by exercising great care that the convalescent period may be safely passed.

Very respectfully
R. H. Pratt
Supt. Indian School.

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March 26 81.

Jno. D. Miles,
U. S. Indian Agent
Darlington, Ind. Ter.

Sir:

Straight Nose's son Grant has continued to do quite well until today, when his fever is much increased. The Doctor thinks this may be the result of an attack of measles not yet sufficiently developed to make it certain that he has them. But in any event his symptoms are not favorable, as the complication of measles with his present disease is quite serious. We shall watch our boy very carefully and will keep you informed as to his condition.

We have about sixty cases of measles among our students, but the disease seems of a mild form.

Very respectfully
R H Pratt
Lieut. In charge.

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March 28 81

Captain H. A. Hendry,
Fort Myers, Florida,

Dear Captain Hendry:

I enclose you blanks & one as sample. Be full & explicit in the explanations as to how you undertook the boy's education, cover all the time, give the progress made, the influence upon the tribe & all the details. Sign this certificate or statement but not the receipt, cover the actual time & make your claim for what you think right. Send it back to me with a full letter, I will endorse that & forward it to the Department with my views, your letter will be the real strength of your claim.

I think that Lieut Brown is down in South Florida. In all probability he & Dr. McCauley will work out something in behalf of the South Florida Indians. Their case was up upon the Senate but was not favorably acted upon.

We get on well here in our work, have now 286 pupils & are more confined than

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ers in our views that the Indian is entirely susceptible of education & civilization in one generation.

Very truly yours.
R.H. Hall
Lieut. In charge.

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Image ID: 32413723

* * *

Mch 31st 87

Annie C. Debery
Cleveland, O.

Dear Madam –

The $10. Bill from the Bushnell Boys Band of Woodland Avenue Presbyterian Church, enclosed in your letter of the 28th is just received. Please say to the boys that Capt Pratt is very grateful to them for their donation, which is applied on a fund to provide a reading and evening amusement room for our boys. The Govt is too poor to give me $500. I asked to turn one of our big Cavalry Stables into a boys gymnasium & reading room, so I have undertaken to raise

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the amount amongst our friends. I have about $200. now. The building is 180 feet long by 40 wide, with good brick walls and tin roof. I want to floor it throughout and cut off 50 feet at one end into a nice room, with books papers tables seats &c, and light well for an evening resort for the boys. The balance of the space will give ample room for Gymnastic & muscle culture, which is just as good for Ind^n boys as for white boys. I hope the boys will be pleased with this disposition of their money.

I send you a package of one of our school papers, for distribution to the boys. It is printed & edited by a Pawnee boy 16 yrs old under the direction of one of our lady teachers.

You ask me what your boys can do for us! Just now I can

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think of as work we could ask of you, such as you suggest they have done for the School in Africa, but it occurs to me they might be interested, and help me a little and the boys here too by opening a correspondence with some of our boys. Of course I cannot promise to look after their correspondence and see that our boys respond, but I think they would. Your boys could offer these Indians good cheer and courage in the new life they are undertaking, and in telling what part of the "here a little, and there a little" is to shape the future of this or that boy. Boys can help boys more perhaps than we think. I send you a few letters from my boys to me, which you might distribute to yours with this suggestion.

I write you thus at length because the soil seems so good, and if in the hearts of these boys of yours better things than dissipation & our poor helpless Indians shall spring up happily we will be your debtors. R. H. Pratt

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Apr. 2 87

Rev S R Riggs
Beloit, Wis.

My dear Doctor—

Your note of 21 March came in due season. I have been in a perplexing controversy with the Dept. and added to that the school has been scourged with measles brought to us by a recent Osage delegation. On monday we had 84 in bed, and looked quite like an Army Hospital after a battle. The troubles are all now happily passing away. The Doctors report yesterday showed only 39. The disease is of mild type and if we can pass the convalescent stage all right we have no fears. Otherwise we get on nicely. I did not go to Washington inauguration day. Found it would be rather more in fuss and expense than

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ought to stand. My Disciplinarian had just died, leaving me with a load of details to look after.

If you find it suits your purpose and convenience to give us your time here as a guest, or in a more permanent form, any or all the period of your Brak- duties, or longer, I can assure you no one would be more welcome. We throw the door wide open!

I have sold four of "Mary and I", 3 at ministers rate, and four of Gospel Among the Dakotas. I enclose you a $10. Bill, and still owe you .10¢. No, I put in stamps.

Mrs. Pratt Miss Semple and all our workers join me in kindest remembrances.

Cordially yours.

R.H. Pratt

We had the death of our good friend Mr Sinclair.

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Image ID: 32413728

April 4th 81

Annie Rhodes
330 West 23rd St.
New York.

Dear Madam.

In reply to your application of the 2d. I have to inform you that our positions for teachers are all filled, and I do not know that any will become vacant soon.

Very truly yours
R.H. Prall
Pr. In charge

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April 4 81.

Hon. H. L. Dawes,
U. S. Senate.

Dear Sir:

Allow me to express my gratitude for your interest in these school matters for they will solve the question & nothing else will. Would it not be possible for you yourself to visit us before or just after the close of the official session as it seems impossible to get the Committee. From your interest in the work & the probability that during the next of Congress you will think upon & discuss the subject more or less, it seems to me desirable that you should know & consider us from personal observation.

You say "we cannot take all the Indian children away from the tribes to educate them in such schools as yours. Why would it not be better to attempt their general education among the tribes themselves on the ground when they are to live & employ such as you educate for that work opening schools of practical industry & employing the educated of that tribe as the teachers."

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I perfectly agree with you that it is not practicable to take all Indian children away from the tribes to educate them nor would it be wise to do so, for not all Indian children have sufficient capacity to justify the outlay. There should be now on the reservations together with those of a large enough number of industrial boarding schools to provide for all Indian children. From the agency schools judicious teachers will readily determine what children are worthy of increased advantages away. There is to my mind not the slightest fear that the work will be overdone. Though you should establish schools like Carlisle sufficient to accommodate three or four or even five thousand children this would be so small a proportion of the whole number of Indian children that agency schools would still find themselves loaded with the responsibility of educating the great mass. Day schools on the reservations are generally impractical & a positive injury. But by a system of industrial schools on the reservations from which the most competent should be taken for further training in the schools in the midst of civilization the whole work would go forward harmoniously

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and to the greatest advantage, the hope of going to school away furnishing a healthy incentive to pupils of the agency schools. The problem to me seems not how it is done, but to get it done at all. Whenever those in whom is vested the power to accomplish it determine that the work shall be done and shall apply the necessary force to do it, the best plan of doing it will develope itself very quickly in the light of experience, if the best plan is not then considered to be already developed.

The question of using graduates from this school and Hampton for the industrial and literary work of the agency schools is one for the future to decide. It takes several years of training to make a good mechanic, farmer or teacher of a bright white boy or girl, and so it will be no less necessary to give to Indian boys and girls a long and thorough training if we wish them competent in these departments.

I suppose the end to be gained, however far away it may be, is the complete civilization of the Indian and his absorption into our national life, with all the rights and privileges guaranteed to every other individual, the Indian to lose his identity as such, to give up his tribal relations and to be made to feel that he is an American citizen.

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If I am correct in this supposition, then the sooner all tribal relations are broken up; the sooner the Indian loses all his Indian ways, even his language the better it will be for him and for the Government and the greater will be the economy to both.

Now I do not believe that amongst his people an Indian can be made to feel all the advantages of a civilized life, nor the manhood of supporting himself and of standing out alone and battling for life as an American citizen. To accomplish that his removal and personal isolation is necessary. One year in the midst of a civilized community when, whichever way he may turn he can see the industrious farmer plowing his fields or reaping his grain, and the industrious mechanic building houses or engaged in other manufactures, with all the realities of wealth and happiness which thereto forth bring to the farmer and mechanic is worth more as a means of implanting such impulses as these you desire for him, in his mind, than ten years, nay, than a whole life time of camp surrounding with the best agency school work that can be done. If this year is spent in taking hold with the farmer and with

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the mechanic & by actual daily experience the effects of industrious civilized life grow in, so much the better. If the proper system of education is adopted & it is made general, lands in severalty and citizenship will be a natural result, the Indians themselves demanding it; & just that spirit which you bring forward & which can be implanted in Indian children is a necessary part of that education. It will take plenty of good patient workers to do that.

I think you are wrong to place the education after that as you seem to by saying "after that I would further their education as far as I could". Both should go forward together. To end our Indian troubles the Indian needs intelligence enough to manage himself & his own affairs, & he needs to be able to do that in competition with his white neighbor. It would be kindness to him to give him education & industrial training & let him begin without lands. This I believe you intimate when you say "First to work, next to know that what he has is his."

I hope I may have the privilege of meeting you on & understanding what your committee in

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Congress may be disposed to do in these matters.

It is encouraging to us to know that we are working in the line approved by you. We certainly all that we do should be but carrying out the wishes of Congress, who ought to dictate the whole plan.

As you are at the head of the Indian Committee, I take the liberty of sending you a set of our school photographs.

With great respect
Your obt. servant,
R. H. Pratt
Lieut. In charge.

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Image ID: 32413735

Apr. 8th 81

Hon. S. J. Kirkwood
Secretary of the Interior

Dear Sir

The several admonitions to economy in my recent letters from the Dept. lead me to withhold an application I had designed making for $2500. to enable me to build an extension to the girls quarters, and to attempt the needed addition through charity. It is extremely necessary that there be a room in connexion with the girls qrs. large enough to enable them to come together for evening study and other assemblages, and a few additional dormitories overhead will be no drawback. Boston & New York give Armstrong $22000. to put up a building for his 50 Indian girls he has not got. It will be

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an unpleasant commentary, if Phila. cant give me $2500. for a building for my 90 girls which I have got. I am already laying the lines for this and if you think it at all objectionable I should not undertake it. I beg your early notice.

With great respect
Your obedient servant
R.H. Pratt
Sh. In charge

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April 8th 81

Thos. Marshall
Association Hall Phila.
Dear Sir

We will take the Hall for Monday evening Apr. 25th. I will see about the use of it in the daytime. When I come down on Tuesday next.

Very truly yours
R.H. Hall
Jr.

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Image ID: 32413738

Col. Wm Whiting April 9 81
U. S. Indian Agent
Ponca Agency, Ind. Ter.

Dear Colonel:

It came to my knowledge that Wm Snake had received an objectionable letter from Tommy Skinner of your agency. I sent for him & asked him to bring it to me. In it I find these words. "The Agent has ordered work began on the new school building I think it will be done by September & then you can come home. Be patient & study hard until that time it will not be long". Then again "Andrew is a good boy in school & I love him very much, I hope you will come home soon & help him to be a good man."

You can readily see how very objectionable this is. I think I told you when you were here my difficulties with this boy. He is now doing very well in every respect but I am sure that nothing short of the fear of discipline keeps him doing well, When he is at home you would probably find him a most

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troublesome fellow to manage. Evidently this lady is little skilled in the knowledge of Indians & their needs, or she would never have written such a letter. As these children are here by authority of the Department it is difficult to understand her assumption in saying that this boy can come home in September.

Not wishing to press the matter or disturb what should be pleasant relations in all this work I write directly to you instead of sending this letter to the Department.

The Ponca & Nez Perce children are all very well & doing well, some of them exceptionally well.

Very truly yours,
R.H. Pratt
Lieut. In charge.

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Image ID: 32413740

April 11 81

Miss Georgia A. Geiriman
Bucyrus, Crawford Co.
Ohio.

Dear Madam:

In reply to your inquiries of the 8th instant I have to say that this school is wholly under Government control. Pupils are only received here under orders from the Interior Department. In one case by authority of the Department a full blood Indian youth was received as a pupil, the lady who sent him agreeing to pay $100 per annum, this amount covering all expenses to her, though the actual expense of the student, of course, exceeds this sum.

Should your Society desire to send the little girls you speak of, at this rate of $100 per annum I would suggest that you write detailing the circumstances giving the name of the tribe to which they belong, or any other information concerning them.

Very truly
R. H. Pratt
Lieut. In charge.

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April 11 84

Miss T. P. Matthews,
Houghton Seminary,
Clinton, New York.

Dear Madam:

I have received your application of the 9th instant, for a position as teacher in the school under my care. I should like to know whether you have ever had any experience in teaching & if so, when you have taught & for what length of time. I should also like to know whether your "specialty" is vocal or instrumental music.

Of course the beginning of our next school year is at a period too much to make any engagements yet for teachers, but should your answer be favorable it will be placed on file for future consideration.

Very truly
R. H. Pratt
Supt. in charge.

Are you familiar with the objective & phonetic systems of teaching?

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April 12th 81

Hon Saml. M. Fox
Phila. Pa.

My dear friend.

I had intended to return to Phila. today, in the interests of our meeting on the 25th, but my dear little baby girl Nana is dangerously ill with scarlet fever. This morning there is a slight improvement, and the Dr. gives us comfort. The perils to my other children both white & red are so great that it seems best to remain here this week, and if no calamity comes upon us, I take all of next week to work up the meeting.

By yesterday's "Press" I see that Dr Rhoads of Germantown with the other members

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of the Friends supervising Indian Committee visited the President on Saturday in company with the Secretary & Ex Secy of the Interior, & that among other recommendations made by Dr. Rhoads was one, that "the schools at Carlisle & Hampton be broken up." The grounds are not stated. As neither Dr Rhoads nor any others of that Committee have ever visited us, and as some of my Quaker help were anxious I should appear before that Committee, and wrote to Dr R. suggesting that I be invited to ~~state~~ meet them and explain this work, this condemnation without a hearing seems quite extraordinary, and very foreign to the kind character of those peculiar people. I confess it was the very last source from which I anticipated opposition. It is hard to be thus treated.

Very truly yours

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April 11 81.

Chas. Lee,
1st Sergt. Co. B. 6th Inf.
Fort Keogh, Montana.

Sir:

I have received your letter of the 2nd instant, asking whether we could receive as pupils here two little Yanktonnai Sioux boys.

Students are received here only under orders from the Interior Department to whom applications are ordinarily referred, but in this case the extreme youth of the children makes any favorable consideration of their case impossible.

Respectfully,
R.H. Pratt
Lieut. in charge.

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April 12 81

Jas. C. Pilling Esq.
Chief Clerk Bureau of Ethnology,
P. O. Box 666, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In compliance with request contained in your letter of the 9th instant, I enclose a letter from W. F. White, Genl. Passenger and Ticket Agent of the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fé R.R. giving information you desire in regard to rates to Juni Pueblo.

Very respectfully
R.H. Pratt
Lieut. in charge.

R.H. Pratt

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To April 13 81

Ex-Governor Theodoria Duran, &c
Lieut Governor Juan Cristobal Garcia,
Pueblo of San Felipe, New Mex.

Gentlemen:

I have received your letter of the 15th ult. inst, & am glad to tell you that Sheldon, John & Harry, the three boys from your Pueblo are all doing very well. Not long ago John was promoted for good conduct so that he is now a corporal.

All three of them are in good health, & they make many friends for themselves by their excellent deportment.

You ask to have them taught in Spanish, but we cannot do this. English is the language that everyone must learn in this country. As New Mexico continues to increase in importance more people will come there who talk English, & after a time it will be like all our other States & Territories, an English speaking country. English is a language spoken all over the world & it is a most useful language the boys

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can learn.

If it ever becomes possible for you to come and visit our school we shall be very glad to see you, and have you know just how your children live here, and see the can we take of them.

Very truly yours,
R H Pratt
Lieut In charge.

Dear Friend:

I have received your letter in which you talk to me about your brother Tom Carlisle.

Tom is very well. He belongs to the band and is learning to play nicely. He is also learning to work in the wagon and blacksmith shop. I cannot tell how soon he will learn enough so that it will seem not to have him go home. If you want him to come home soon I think you should tell him he must work hard and study hard, because he does not try as hard as he ought to. He is not doing as well as he might and unless he does better it will be many years ere he learns enough to go back and be a useful man among his people.

Your friend
R H Pratt
Lieut In charge.

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Image ID: 32413748

April 14 81

Cloud Chief,
Can. U. S. Indian Agent,
Cheyenne & Arapahoe Agcy,
Darlington, Ind. Ter.

Dear Friend:

I have received your letter in which you talk to me about your brother Tom Cahiles,

Tom is very well, he belongs to the band & is learning to play nicely, he is also learning to work in the wagon & blacksmith shop. I cannot tell how soon he will learn enough so that it will seem best to have him go home. If you want him to come home soon I think you should tell him he must work hard & study hard, because he does not try so hard as he ought to. He is not doing as well as he might, & unless he does better it will be many years before he learns enough to go back & be a useful man among his people.

Your friend
R. H. Pratt
Lieut. In charge.

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April 14 81.

Miss Harriet Benson,
1526 Spruce St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Friend:

Mrs. Graff writes of your interest in us and asks me to write and tell you our needs. I am not well today and write by the hand of my clerk. Nothing is more gratifying to us who labor for the Indians than the constant evidences of a growing and generous interest springing up all over the country in behalf of the object of our labors. Every indication we have here tells us that the interest is well deserved and that the time for general help to our Indians has arrived. Although we are only eighteen months old our school is full numbering 197 boys and 90 girls, from twenty-two different tribes. Our expenses in the beginning are necessarily large and as the Government is carrying us on the come what inadequate "Civilization Fund" which remains in the hands of the President and

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Secretary for general civilization purposes we are often informed that the strictest economy is required & that this or that improvement that we esteem very necessary cannot be allowed because of insufficient funds. The buildings here were built exclusively for army purposes & only adapted for living in. We have arranged them the best we could & carry forward our work with fair comfort & with great success. Two important additions we have wanted for some time. One of them I have now well under way through the aid of friends, that is a large room which shall accommodate the boys for evening lectures or any such purpose we may desire & a place to exercise them in bad weather. I am enabled to give this to them at small expense by adapting an old cavalry stable to that use, it being near the boys' quarters. A greater need has been a similar place for the girls, & I am forced to appeal to charity to accomplish this. You can readily understand that it will take quite a good sized building to accommodate ninety girls with any comfort for evening

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exercises of study or instruction, and too, I need more room for girls dormitories. I purpose to build attached to their present quarters a room on the ground floor 50x40 or 45 feet and put into it such comforts as may be needed for sitting room purposes for them and to use the second floor for girls dormitories. To accomplish all I would undertake in this direction will cost $2500, I have already something given and something assured for it, so that I feel encouraged that I may be able to raise that sum in Philadelphia.

Very truly yours,
R.H. Pratt
Lieut. In charge.

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April 18 81.

Dear Mr. Hawley,

I am so glad the General thinks he can come out to help us at the meeting next Monday evening. It occurred to me that possibly he might like to note the advance of public opinion on this Indian educational question as well amongst the Indians as the whites. It seems to me a most marvellous thing that after all the failure to arouse enthusiasm on Indian education at Dartmouth & other Colleges & schools established for that purpose, we are now able in the short space of eighteen months to gather here at Carlisle nearly three hundred Indian boys & girls from so many Indian tribes,

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most of them being children of chiefs and principal men of their tribes. Our appeals from the Indians for the privilege of sending their children here show that there will be no difficulty in getting thousands into schools. You will remember about Miss Gatherwood's three trips to Dakota & the Indian Territory with me, how we went out and brought from those great agencies, Red Cloud & Spotted Tail, ninety two children. There was no constraint about it. The children were given freely. Recently we have seen great meetings in New York when prominent men of all classes have met upon the same platform to approve this method of Indian education. I hope to have on the platform in Philadelphia, men of all denominations & professions. General Miles will be there to say something in favor of Indian education, setting aside by

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side with the friends who are against all war.

Among the Indians I shall have there will be a Ponca boy William Snake, a student at this school whose father, Big Snake, was killed in the agent's office, which tragedy was the subject of so much discussion in the United States Senate recently. I shall have a little Nez Perce girl who with her parents accompanied Joseph in his famous flight before Generals Howard, Gibbon, Sturgis and Miles. Little Grace Cook whose picture standing beside her father in a recent article in Harper's Magazine on Hampton and Carlisle has charmed so many. A Kiowa boy too, the son of old Satanta whose tragic death at Fort Sill a few years ago was the matter of so much comment. I shall have representatives from the Pueblos of old Mexico, the Pueblos of New Mexico, Kiowas, Comanches, Cheyennes, Arapahoes

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Pawnees & Cooks from the Indian Territory, Sauks from Nebraska, Sioux from Dakota, Menomonees from Wisconsin & Gros Ventrix from Montana. That there is progress & great hope in the work we are doing, Mr. Fox, formerly Mayor of Philadelphia who has recently visited us will be able to tell.

If the General cares for these points I think they will be effective.

Very truly yours,
R.H. Pratt
Lieut. In charge.

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Apr. 23 81

Hon A M. Rhoads
House of Representatives
Harrisburg

My dear Sir.

The interest expressed from time to time by members of the legislature, leads me to beg you will extend to all the members of your body and their wives, a respectful and cordial invitation to visit us, and see what we are doing. Any day from Mondays to Fridays would give us the most satisfactory opportunity.

If previously notified we can give such attention to transit to and from the R.R. as we are able. but you will understand that

With great respect, Yours Truly
R Heath Shoe

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Apr. 25 81

Hon. John Stewart
State Senate
Harrisburg

Dear Sir.

It would afford the authorities in charge of the Indian School very great satisfaction and pleasure to receive a visit from the members of the Senate and their wives, and others connected with the State government. May I beg the favor of your services in extending such invitation as may be necessary. Should the invitation be accepted, would you be kind enough to give me warning so I might arrange a little parade of our

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Students suitable, to the occasion.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

R H Ball

Sh. In charge

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April 23 81

Col. Alex. McClure,
Editor 'Philadelphia Times'
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Colonel:

I shall be down on the 10.30 train Monday morning with twenty of our children. I shall stop at the Zoological Gardens & do them before noon, will take dinner at the West End Hotel & in the afternoon visit Girard College & the Deaf & Dumb Institution. With the boys I shall have two whose fathers have been very prominent before the American people. William Snake, the son of Big Snake the Ponca Chief, whose violent death at the hands of Brooks in the Indian Agent's office was recently the matter of so much discussion in the Senate. a Kiowa boy who is the son of old

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Satank killed at Fort Sill ten years ago while on his road to Texas in company with Satanta & Big Tree. These two boys will speak at the meeting Monday evening. In our party we will have representatives from the Sioux, Poncas, Kiowas, Comanches, Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Pawnees, Crows & Menomonees, Sowas, Nez Perces, & Keechis. There are many incidents connected with the history of the various children of this party that will be of great interest.

My intention is to get the means to accomplish some improvements that are needed here but I think it best to defer all notice of it till some time subsequent to the meeting, when by circular or individual application I will ask for aid. Then I will write you again & shall be glad of your assistance if you think proper to extend it.

Very truly yours

R.H. Pratt

Lieut. In charge

If you think proper would be glad to have you notice us Editorially.

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April 23 81.

Chief Blue Horse,

Pine Ridge Agency, Dakota,

My Friend:

I have received your letter about your son, Baldwin, in which you say you want him to go to school all the time. He is not learning a trade yet. Some time ago I thought he did not appreciate his chance of going to school, for he was not studying hard enough, and did not try to mind his teacher, so I had him stay out of school and work a while thinking it would make him like study better. I think it is best for him to work part of the time so that he may become industrious. I want to do what is best for him, and I think it is best to try

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to overcome his dislike to work, because reading and writing will not do him much good unless he learns to work too, and becomes able to make a living.

Very truly yours.

R.H. Pratt

Lieut. In charge.

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Image ID: 32413763

April 23 81.

Edward Banks,
108 Market St.
Harrisburg, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of the 21st instant in which you make application for a position here as tinner, and in reply can only say that no vacancy exists.

Very respectfully
W. H. Pratt
Lieut. In charge.

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April 28 81.

To the Honorable
The Secretary of the Interior.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The inclosed letter is from one whose heart is deeply interested in the welfare of the Indians, I do not know that I ever met one more intensely interested in them. His wife was one of my best assistants in the school, at St. Augustine, Florida, each winter during my stay there. He is anxious to undertake a work for the Indians as he states, but I suppose that want of appropriation will prevent, if nothing else did.

With great respect
Your obt. servant
[illegible]
1st Lieut. 10th Cavy.

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April 27 81

P. T. Barnum, Esq.
Proprietor of the greatest Exhibition
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Sir:

I desire in the most grateful manner to thank you for the intense amusement and entertainment afforded to the young Indians and our party in general at the exhibition yesterday afternoon. I can assure you we were never more entertained in our lives. I had hoped of meeting you and personally thanking you for your kindness which came so unsolicited. Being prevented from that, I do so by mail.

Gratefully yours.
R. H. Pratt

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April 27 81

Editor of the "Record"
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Sir:

I desire to thank you for your kindness to us in the special notices of our meeting and in your good account of the meeting at Association Hall, Monday evening. The interest aroused on the subject of Indian education seems to have been very deep and earnest and I have no doubt much good will grow out of it.

Very truly yours
R.H. Pratt

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April 27 81

Dear Mr. Smith,

Please accept my thanks for the kindness of the "Press" in the matter of our visit to Philadelphia. If this interest that has been aroused can only be properly managed, I have no doubt that Philadelphia will do her full part in this movement in favor of general education for all Indian children.

Very truly yours,

R.H. Pratt

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April 27 81

Col. A. McClure,
Editor of the "Times",
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Colonel,

I desire to thank you for your interest in the meeting the other night and for the very excellent report the "Times" gave of it. If the interest that has been created can now be properly used we may hope that Philadelphia's status on this question will be all that it ought. I was a little sorry that Genl. Miles' and Mayor Fox's speeches were not given fully. I saw several short hand reporters. Could it be that the "Times" had one who could furnish me a clear account of the two speeches. If so, I

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would be very glad to pay for the trouble of making a copy.

Very truly yours,
R.H. Pratt

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April 27 81.

Genl. Nelson A. Miles,
Brevoort House, New York.

Dear General:

I found afterward that you had paid your own bill at the hotel, which I did not intend, as I had engaged the place for you. The effort must pay its own way, if nothing else. I inclose you a twenty dollar bill. If that proves insufficient please advise me.

So far as stirring up public sentiment was concerned the meeting was a grand success. It leads to the organization of a committee, with Mayor Fox at the head, to look out for the interests of Carlisle in Philadelphia, and I have no doubt we shall

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hereafter have a good healthy teaching in that city.

I was just barely able to get home last night. This morning I am in bed with a sore throat.

Yours Very truly.

R.H. Pratt

L.

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April 27 81

Dear Mr. McKean:

I want to thank you for your kindness in the matter of our visit to Philadelphia and for the very extended account you gave of us.

The meeting seems to have been admirably successful in stirring up an interest in our work, & we can only husband that and carry it forward, we can certainly feel that Philadelphia is with us in this thing, as it ought to be. No little part of this success I attribute to your own interest.

Very gratefully yours,

RB Hayes

Mr. Wm. V. McKean,
501 N. 18th St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

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