

CARLOS MONTEZUMA, M. D.

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[1909 Jan 16]

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HOURS 8 to 11 A.M.
7 to 8:30 P.M.

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the Indian Department. I cannot express too strongly
against their policy. For that reason I suffered
myself as I did to present elect Mr. Taft.

In my way I am trying to have other
educated Indians to write personal letters to
Mr. Taft. (Dunison Wheelock passed through
Chicago the other day on his way to Washington
to have a personal interview with his friend
Sherman and I hope he will see others also.

The time is ripe to speak for ourselves especially
when we see that we Indians are being
used as curiosities & not like other human
beings.

I hope you are not idle in the matter.
Now is our time to strike and strike hard
at that. We may not have another chance
to work for justice in behalf of brightest
race.

Remember me to your family.

Sincerely,

Carlos Montezuma

June 4, 1909.

Mr. Horton G. Elm,

Caledonia, N. Y.

My dear Friend:

I thank you with all my heart for your good letter of appreciation. It has been my ambition for many years to be able to live long enough to see the Indian recognized as an individual man, capable and competent as a component part of our population. I believe now, as I always have believed that a proper system of education would have accomplished this long ago. Educated in the wrong direction in schools, whose aim and purpose is to maintain tribal conditions, has been the trouble. The Indians would have fared far better, in my judgment, had there never been an Indian bureau and had they been compelled to scratch gravel and hoe their own row as individual parts of our population.

While the Government has seemed to be extremely liberal in land matters and in help with money, a careful examination of all these establishes beyond question the fact that they have been used almost universally to strengthen tribalism.

No man's property is safe and secure to him and his uses when in other people's hands, no difference how honest the trustee, or perfect the system. All personal rights are parts of the education of the individual and the nearer the man comes to absolute personal responsibility and control of himself and his property the more perfect is the development. Lincoln took charge of himself and his own development when he was a mere boy and so well did he manage his estate that he became the greatest among us. His was a case of necessity. When we confront such results under the law of necessity, we ought not to lament that that law exists nor to try to lift either individuals or peoples from its influences.

I am delighted to have heard from you my dear old school son, and if you knew how much good it did me, you would not be so long silent again. My future years under ordinary conditions cannot of course be many. The government has been kind to me personally and I am above want, so that I am free to think and act when I can upon those interests that claim my attention.

With kind regards,

Faithfully yours,