

The Kenesaw,
Washington, D.C.
November 28, 1913.

Dr. Carlos Montezuma,
7 West Madison Street,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Doctor:

Your letter of September 19th was forwarded to me at the Shoreham in this city, and only reached me yesterday. I note that you say in it "I was married by Dr. Steadman this evening". This, of course exonerates you in every way from any previous criticism I made in regard to your getting married without my knowledge and consent.

I note that the old officers of the Association were re-elected.

Their declaration switches off from the main needs and emphasizes property. What good is it for the Indians to own the whole world and had to have their property in the hands of others for management?

In regard to the appointment of Mr. Merritt as Assistant Commissioner; he seemed the best and most available of those familiar with the detail of office work, and this is what Mr. Sells must be relieved from. As a great many who think they know him had endorsed him for Commissioner it would seem that he would be all the better as Assistant Commissioner. My knowledge of him is remembered from the Columbus Convention, and you report how neatly Den Wheelock took him down there.

I had from the Association urgency in regard to the Carter bill. The Carter bill is not a momentous matter to me. Most of the laws bearing upon the Indians are already tabulated, and in such form as to be readily gotten at. It needs no act of Congress to have them completely tabulated. The Indian Bureau can do that whenever it wants to. Mr. Jones did start to tabulate the whole and got out one large volume and stopped there. The Bureau could go on and finish that. A tabulation of the laws as published in book form would serve the claim agents and people who are making inroads on Indian property better than anybody else. It may be that the interest is behind notwithstanding the pressure from the Indian Association. Wheels within wheels are one of the features of our Government machinery, and nobody can tell even where the in-

[1913 Nov 28]

fluence comes from that accomplishes unfortunate, unnecessary and expensive actions.

I should be glad to hear all that you care to let me know of your trip.

I agree with you entirely that Cooley's attitude is all wrong on the Denver pageant. His whole purpose is exploitation of the Indian, and the influences of it will be bad in every way on the country and on the Indians. I am glad you faced him down and stood your ground on it.

In regard to Mrs. Kellogg, I have it from most reliable sources that she and her husband are badly mixed up in oil matters among the Osages, and are likely to suffer. Laura has been a promoter and exploiter for some time, and evidently expect to get a living and something more by that means. Sloan is also involved or alleged to be. Of course I believe in the strictest fairness always, and that no condemnation should be given until there is a fair hearing. You and I know by experience that the Indian Bureau has in the past been entirely capable of very gross misrepresentation and even calumny.

I have just returned after a week's absence, giving a talk to about one hundred Quakers at Moorestown, New Jersey, and to the young men and faculty at New York University, and two talks in New Jersey, one at Cranbury and the other at Jamesburg. I pushed my views strong and was well received, and even cordially endorsed.

I have just had a conference with a distinguished gentleman from Carlisle in which it appears that representation to the Commissioner about freedman will be made this afternoon which ought to force prompt action against him. Discipline there is horrible.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Montezuma and yourself in which Mrs. Pratt joins, as ever,

Faithfully yours,