

U
Pratt
1371 Park Row,
La Jolla,
California.

January 8, 1921.

President J. H. Morgan,
Dickinson College,
Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

My dear Dr. Morgan:

Yours of the second of December, with nearly three-hundred other letters, came to me duly. I was ill, had been ailing for several weeks, was with Mrs. Pratt at my daughter Marion's in Berkeley, California, for Thanksgiving and my birthday. My ailment grew worse but I came on here to spend the winter and probably next summer with Mason and his family. I grew worse and put myself under the care of an excellent physician who after a week agreed, on my suggestion, that I had better go to a hospital in San Diego and be under the care of a distinguished specialist for that class of ailments. Five days in the hospital with Xrays and constant attention from a special nurse brought me through and started me on the up grade. But I have refrained from writing until now.

Among the many letters received, those from old friends in Carlisle and from scores of my former students who had gone out in the American life and are living independent of Bureau control, gave me greatest pleasure. Not the least of all these, my dear Doctor, was yours, because you and the college faculty knew and appreciated and most materially aided constantly what I was trying to do. In the whole quarter century of my Carlisle effort there was not a note of discord, but the highest helpfulness from old Dickinson. Dickinson gave to the boy who had to quit school and go to work at thirteen one of the most distinguished honors colleges can bestow. It was unsought and overwhelming, and in a few hours thereafter, when I had time to think it over, I called my wise counselor, Judge Henderson, over the 'phone, told him of it and said the college had made a mistake, that I was not entitled to any such honor and my judgement was that I must return it at once with thanks. Judge Henderson's reply was that the honor was conferred, not upon my judgement, but upon the judgement of the governing body of the college and that it would be discourteous to their judgement to refuse. I therefore accepted it and my greatest tribulation for it ever since has been that impecuniosity and the lack of opportunity resulting from my overthrow by the Bureau oligarchy, has prevented my making some return to the college.

Dr. Morgan.

I have not entirely given up hope that even at my age I may still influence government policy and action. Had Garfield lived I am sure there would have been a radical change in Indian management, sufficient to somewhat clear our skirts of the infamy which has for more than a hundred years compelled tribal segregation and political supervision by scheming incompetence. The last eight years have been among the most prolific in enforcing tribalism, segregation and Bureau supremacy, all of which destroy manhood and enlarge cost to the Government without prospect of any early ending of the abomination.

In much of which Mr. Harding has said in the campaign and since, I see another Garfield. The friends of the Indian race throughout the country ought to rise up everywhere and demand that the Bureau supervision be radically changed and the Indians everywhere be given a white man's chance to become useful and citizen. I am enclosing for your confidential reading a copy of a letter from my former band leader, whom you will remember, I am sure. He is a lawyer, practising his profession for years in De Pere and Green Bay, Wisconsin. Oddly enough I have another letter from one of my earliest pupils, also a lawyer, with great Indian practise. The other fellow has a Catholic wife and is largely under Catholic influence and also has long been in the hands of ethnologists. I know of no other candidates except the present Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner, who are hoping that their system may continue to receive endorsement and they be permitted to carry it out.

My inclination is to write you much more at length. I am very grateful indeed for your kind expressions, and you are entirely right in your position that I am still on the firing line as I could amply demonstrate.

Mrs. Pratt joins me in most cordial regards and best wishes to you and Mrs. Morgan and to our great and good friend and friends, old Dickinson and its faculty.

Very faithfully yours,

RHP/map

