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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, communicating, in answer to a Senate resolution of January 8, 1879, information respecting an arrangement made between the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Lawrence University, of Appleton, Wis., for the education of Indian children

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

COMMUNICATING,

In answer to a Senate resolution of January 8, 1879, information respecting an arrangement made between the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Lawrence University, of Appleton, Wis., for the education of Indian children.

JANUARY 22, 1879.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 21, 1879.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, under date of the 9th instant, of a resolution adopted in the Senate of the United States dated January 8, 1879, in words as follows:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to communicate to the Senate all information furnished by the records or files of the department respecting an arrangement made between the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Lawrence University, of Appleton, Wis., for the education of Indian children, together with copies of such unpaid accounts as have been presented to the Indian Bureau, on behalf of said university, for the instruction of such children, and copies of all correspondence between the Commissioner and the officers of said university or other person writing on behalf of said university. And, further, that the Secretary be directed to inform the Senate what reason exists for not paying such accounts, and whether the officers of said university have been notified at any time whether such account will or will not be paid.

The subject having been referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for report, I inclose herewith a copy of his reply thereto, of the 18th instant, together with copies of the papers noted therein and comprised in the said resolution.

I have the honor further to report that the account mentioned by the Commissioner appears to have duly reached the department, and, being temporarily laid aside by the accountant to await his personal examination as to the arrangement under which the expense was incurred, was not submitted by him for my approval in its regular order.

It has now received the proper indorsement, and been returned to the Indian Office for transmittal to the proper accounting officers of the Treasury for settlement.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. SCHURZ,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

EDUCATION OF INDIAN CHILDREN.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 18, 1879.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference from the department, of a copy of a resolution dated January 8, 1879, by the Senate of the United States, that the Secretary of the Interior be directed to communicate to the Senate all information furnished by the records or files of the department respecting an arrangement made between the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Lawrence University of Appleton, Wis., for the education of Indian children, together with copies of such unpaid accounts as have been presented to the Indian Bureau, on behalf of said university, for the instruction of such children, &c.; and in reply thereto I herewith respectfully transmit the copies called for, with advice that but one account for such instruction remains unpaid, the same being for the year 1877, and amounting to the sum of \$60, which was presented at this office January 11, 1878, allowed, in the sum claimed, February 21, 1878, and submitted to the Board of Indian Commissioners for such action in the premises as might be deemed proper, since when the said claim has not been returned, and it is not known to this bureau what reason exists, if any, for not paying said account. The officers of said university have not been notified, at any time, whether said account will or will not be paid.

The resolution referred is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

E. A. HAYT,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,
February 15, 1854.

SIR: I have had under consideration the communication which you addressed to me on the 13th December, 1853, as the agent of the Lawrence University in the State of Wisconsin, with the accompanying papers, and have to state that I do not consider this office clothed with authority to enter into arrangements with any institution for "perpetual scholarships" for Indian youth. In view, however, of the location of your institution, being in close proximity to the Oneidas of Wisconsin, and the urgent memorial of the principal men of the tribe, I have concluded to appropriate a small portion of the Indian civilization fund to the civilization and education in the preparatory department of the institution of a few of the Oneida youth, male and female.

You are therefore informed that if the institution will receive and clothe in a comfortable manner, and board and educate any number of Oneida youth, not exceeding ten, this department will pay at the rate of \$60 per annum for each scholar, on an account rendered by the proper officer of the institution and certified to be correct by the United States agent for the Oneidas. The account may be rendered quarterly or half yearly, at the option of the institution.

I would suggest that the Indian youth be selected by the chiefs of the Oneida tribes, and in case of difficulty that the agent be consulted. I would likewise suggest that the selection be in equal numbers of male

and female youth, and without regard to the party of Indians (*i. e.*, Orchard party or first Christian party) to which they belong.

This office reserves the right to revoke this arrangement at any time that it may judge such revocation expedient.

You will please file in this office your appointment, or a copy thereof, as agent of the Lawrence University.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner.

Rev. J. S. PRESCOTT,
Agent, &c., President.

APPLETON, WIS., *October 11, 1875.*

DEAR SIR: A rumor has reached me, though I can discover no foundation for it, that the appropriation heretofore made by the government toward the education of two Oneida youths in this institution is likely to be withdrawn. I write to inquire whether this is the case, as they are still here and depending in part upon the usual appropriation.

We have two of them, a boy and girl. The latter has been here for several years, and is very promising. She has just entered our freshman college class on the scientific course, and is doing far above the average of our former Indian students in her studies, and is very lady-like in her deportment. The boy has been here not so long, and I think is doing very fairly. He is in the academical department. A society in Boston provides for the board and some other expenses of these pupils. The government has heretofore allowed me \$20 a term each for their tuition and incidental expenses. I trust it may be kept up, and especially in the case of the girl, whose education I am confident will pay excellently.

Yours, respectfully,

GEO. M. STEELE,
President.

To the INDIAN COMMISSIONER,
Washington, D. C.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,
October 21, 1875.

SIR: I am in receipt of your communication of the 11th instant, asking whether the appropriation heretofore made by the government towards the education of the two Oneida youths in Lawrence University, Wisconsin, is likely to be withdrawn, and in reply have to say that the fund at the disposal of the Indian Office, applicable to the above purpose, is so nearly exhausted as to necessitate the reduction by one-half of the amount heretofore paid you. The correspondence upon the subject of educating these Indian children, between this office and your institution, has been too infrequent, and it is desirable to sustain closer relations and possess more detailed information. I have therefore to request that you inform me where they came from, by whom and when they were placed under your care, their ages and capacities, and for what positions in life they are being fitted or are adapted to fill. Whether it is designed to send them back to their native homes to aid in the educa-

tion and civilization of their people, and what promise they give for usefulness in such sphere, and whether the Boston society of which you speak will probably increase their contribution, and thus enable both of these youths to finish their education. Please also state to what extent aid has hitherto come. Also please state up to what time the tuition fees you speak of were paid by this office, and what arrears remain unpaid, and any other matters you deem important in the premises.

Very respectfully,

EDW. P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

GEO. M. STEELE,
President Lawrence University, Appleton, Wis.

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY,
Appleton, Wis., October 25, 1875.

SIR: Your letter of the 21st instant came yesterday.

We have at present in this institution one girl, Lydia Cornelius, daughter of John D. Cornelius, of the Oneida tribe, living on the Oneida reservation; and one boy, Fred A. Cornelius, son of John W. Cornelius, of the same tribe and place.

Lydia is now about eighteen years of age. She has been here since she was about ten years old. She could then hardly speak a word of English, and barely knew the English alphabet. She is now a member of our freshman class scientific course in the college, and entered somewhat in advance of the average of her class. For some time at first her advancement was slow, owing to the difficulties of the language and the usual inadaptability of the Indian mind to get hold of anything of abstract character. But for the last two years she has surprised us by the progress she has made, overcoming difficulties we had expected her to fail to surmount, and evincing a growing competence to grapple with anything which came in her course of study. She has developed also socially and morally, is very ladylike in her deportment, as much so as any young lady in the institution of her age, and is very highly respected by all classes. During the whole period of her residence she has been an inmate of my family, where she is treated as one of us, and *has become accustomed to various kinds of domestic matters, in which she shows excellent proficiency and skill.* She is altogether the most promising of all the Indian pupils with whom I have had the fortune to deal. I sincerely hope that the department will aid us in keeping her here till she can graduate in 1879. I think already her education is having a perceptible and most salutary effect on her father's family, with whom she usually spends her vacations. If permitted to complete her course, my opinion is that the result will be beneficial to the tribe generally.

Fred is about seventeen years of age, and has been here not quite two years. His father was educated, I think, by the aid of the government, and is a respectable and useful member of the tribe living on the reservation. His uncle, Harry Cornelius, graduated as a scientific student from this institution in 1874, having been educated by the same means as are used by those now present. Henry returned to his tribe and taught school for a while and afterwards engaged in mercantile business at Depere, but keeping up his connection with his people. He died a few years ago much respected.

Fred is not very far advanced in his studies, but compares favorably with boys of his age, and is about the average of Indian boys of his ad-

vantages. He is at present taking academical studies, mostly of an elementary character. My impression is that it may not be worth while, at least at present, to think of more than a two or three years' course for him. I presume there is no other intention than of their returning to their families when they shall have completed their studies, whether the course be more or less limited.

The Oneidas are slowly advancing in civilization, and I apprehend that the time is not very far off when they will give up their tribal relations, and assume the responsibilities of civilized citizenship.

I do not know how long the department has been in the practice of paying these tuition fees, nor do I understand what are the precise terms of the arrangement. I found on my advent here ten years ago that it was the practice, and I was directed by my predecessor to send in our bill every year for the amount of \$20 per term for each of the two students allowed to attend from the Oneida tribe. I have done so, and my draft has regularly been honored up to this time.

Beside these two we have had several others from the Oneidas during my incumbency. One of them, Eliza Cornelius, a cousin of Lydia, was here for several years, and made considerable advancement. She was married some three or four years ago to a young man of the tribe, and is making a respectable woman, I believe. The others have been boys, some of whom were here no more than a short time, and made no great improvement. The tuition fees are paid by the department up to January 1, 1875. It is my custom to send in the bill about the 1st of January in each year for the preceding year. Our bill this year up to January 1, 1875, will be \$120.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, &c., in Boston is the same which furnished the aid of which I spoke, to pay the board, &c., aside from the tuition; whether they could be prevailed upon to enlarge their grant is doubtful.

There was another arrangement in operation from about 1869 to 1874, by which the government furnished means to the extent of \$200 a year for the support of a young man or two from the Stockbridge tribe. It was transacted through the Indian agency for the district (Green Bay). It was not wholly successful, still J. C. Adams nearly completed a collegiate course, and though he was not an apt scholar and hardly competent to the whole course, yet I think he got much benefit from his studies, and is now using it for the advantage of his people.

I have written considerable and more than perhaps you will care to read; but I desired to give you all the facts in my possession.

With very great respect, yours, truly,

G. M. STEELE,
President.

Hon. E. P. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,
November 6, 1875.

SIR: I am in receipt of your communication of October 25, in reply to office letter of October 21, relative to the two Oneida youths, Frederick A. and Caroline Cornelius, being educated at Lawrence University, Wisconsin.

It appears from your letter that the girl, Caroline, has been at your institution some eight years, and is now about eighteen, and evinces more than an average intelligence and aptitude for study, but has no more definite idea of her future mode of life than to return to her tribe and people when her studies shall be completed in 1879; and that the boy, aged seventeen, has been with you less than two years, and I infer has not a capacity upon which you can build much hope of his future usefulness to himself or his people.

Under the circumstances of the case and the condition of the fund out of which the charge for the tuition of these young people must be defrayed, I have to renew the conclusion announced in my former letter, that hereafter the amount which you are authorized to draw from the Indian Office for the above charges must not exceed \$60 per annum, subject to such further modification as the funds at the disposal of the bureau and the exigency of the case may require; but the amount \$120, stated to be due up to January 1, 1876, will be paid as heretofore.

If, then, no aid is afforded from other sources, it will be well to discontinue the education of the boy; and the duty should be impressed upon the girl of fitting herself for teaching her people, as some return for the education given her by the government and the religious community, and her education should be so shaped as to fit her for such position; and, indeed, unless she shows a decided disposition and aptness for the duties of a teacher, she too had better be discontinued, and the fund be used in aid of some Indian school.

The arrangement in regard to these children seems to have been indefinite, and I must advise you that the Indian Office will not feel authorized to pay the charges incurred in the education of Indians away from their own reservation and agency schools, unless a specific arrangement is first made, and with the distinct understanding that the recipients of such government aid are to teach their people, and help in the work of their civilization.

Very respectfully,

ED. P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

G. M. STEELE,
President Lawrence University, Appleton, Wis.

The United States to Lawrence University, Dr.

To tuition of Lydia Cornelius, an Oneida girl, for term beginning January 3 and ending March 28, 1877.....	\$20 00
To tuition of Lydia Cornelius, for term beginning April 4 and ending June 26, 1877	20 00
To tuition of Lydia Cornelius, for term beginning September 12 and ending December 18, 1877	20 00
	60 00

APPLETON, WIS., *January 1, 1878.*

Received payment.

JOSEPH W. HAMMOND,
Treasurer Lawrence University.

KERSHENA, *January 5, 1878.*

I certify on honor that the within account is correct and just; that Miss Cornelius is an Oneida Indian under care of this agency; that I am personally aware of the fact that she has received the tuition as mentioned within; that the same remains unpaid to this date, and that this voucher is made in triplicate, of which this is the duplicate.

JOS. C. BRIDGMAN,
United States Indian Agent.

GREEN BAY INDIAN AGENCY,
Kershena, Wis., January 5, 1878.

DEAR SIR: Please find inclosed vouchers in triplicate for \$60, which I forward at the request of Dr. Steele, for payment at your office, as customary. The same is for the tuition of Miss Lydia Cornelius, at Lawrence University, Appleton, Wis. I notify the Second Auditor by same mail, as is usual in such cases.

Very respectfully,

JOS. C. BRIDGMAN,
United States Indian Agent.

E. A. HAYT,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

PRESIDENT'S ROOM, LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY,
Appleton, Wis., April 2, 1878.

DEAR SIR: Some two months ago our account for the tuition of Lydia Cornelius, of the Oneida Nation, signed by J. W. Hammond, treasurer, was forwarded to your bureau. We have usually had very prompt responses to such presentations, but have never heard a word from this. We are in great want of the money. Will you not let us hear from you soon?

Very respectfully,

G. M. STEELE, *President.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

PRESIDENT'S ROOM, LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY,
Appleton, Wis., May 13, 1878.

DEAR SIR: More than three months ago our treasurer, J. W. Hammond, forwarded our bill for the tuition of Lydia Cornelius, of the Oneida tribe. We have heard nothing from it since. I wrote a letter of inquiry several weeks since, but get no response. Inasmuch as this bill was for tuition *last year*, and as we are in very great want of the money, we are naturally anxious about the matter.

Yours, respectfully,

G. M. STEELE, *President.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

EDUCATION OF INDIAN CHILDREN.

PRESIDENT'S ROOM, LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY,
Appleton, Wis., July 6, 1878.

DEAR SIR: For many years it was customary for the government to pay this institution \$20 per term for the tuition of two Oneida youths whose board and other expenses were provided for by a benevolent society in Boston. The whole amount for the three terms was \$120 a year, which was usually paid promptly soon after the opening of the new year. We are sending in the bills properly vouched.

Some two or three years ago we were informed by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that this allowance would be reduced one-half, but that the \$60 a year would be paid regularly. We accordingly sent in our bills in triplicate and perfectly receipted last year, and received the money at a very late date, but before the school year closed. We sent in the bills as usual at the beginning of this year, more than *six months ago*, through our Indian Agent, Mr. Bridgman, but have heard not a word from them since, though I have written urgent letters twice. We are in great want of the money, and do not understand why we are thus treated.

Very respectfully,

G. M. STEELE,
President of Lawrence University.

Hon. CARL SCHURZ,
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

PRESIDENT'S ROOM, LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY,
Appleton, Wis., September 26, 1878.

DEAR SIR: Nearly nine months ago I sent to you our bill, made out in the usual form and indorsed by the Indian agent for this district, for the tuition of Lydia Cornelius, of the Oneida tribe. The bill was in triplicate, and receipted by our treasurer, J. W. Hammond. We have not received the payment of the bill, and though I have written to the department several times, we are not honored with any reply. I do not understand why we are treated in this unjust way. We have acted in accordance with stipulations expressly made with the bureau by your predecessor, E. P. Smith, and confirmed by J. Q. Smith, and have been at the outlay implied in those stipulations. The institution is poor and sadly in want of funds. It is also important for us to know whether the bureau proposed altogether to repudiate the engagements it has entered into, as the young woman is still here, and another year's expense is nearly already accrued.

May I hope that this matter will be speedily explained?

Yours, very respectfully,

G. M. STEELE,
President of Lawrence University.

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
Washington, December 14, 1878.

SIR: The president of Lawrence University at Appleton, Wis., writes me that on the 1st of January last a bill was sent you for the instruc-

tion of an Oneida pupil. He says the bill was receipted; was indorsed by the Indian agent; was for service actually rendered, and was in pursuance of an arrangement made with your bureau. He adds that, although several letters have been since addressed to you or to the Secretary, the bill has not been paid, nor has any reason been assigned for not paying it.

I have the honor to ask, on behalf of the university, that the bill be paid, or that some reason be assigned for not paying it. I am told the institution has been furnishing the same instruction during the past year.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. O. HOWE.

Hon. E. A. HAYT,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 13, 1879.

SIR: I have the honor to be in receipt of your letter of the 14th ultimo, relative to a claim, in amount \$60, in favor of Lawrence University for tuition of Lydia Cornelius, an Indian girl, during the year 1877, and in reply thereto have respectfully to state that said claim was examined and allowed by this office, and referred to the Board of Indian Commissioners for appropriate action February 21, 1878, since when it has not been returned. A more prompt reply would have been made to your said communication but for the reason that it was understood that decisive action would be taken in relation to the claim, of which you might be informed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. M. LEEDS,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. T. O. HOWE,
United States Senate.

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