

Office of the

Inspector of Indian Agencies,

LAKE MANITOBA INSPECTORATE,

Portage la Prairie, Man., 1st Dec 1898. 189

Rev'd Professor Baird.

Sir, Manitoba College.
Winnipeg.

Dear Sir.

There is trouble here between the Principal of the Indian School and Mrs C.H.B. Burley in regard to Sioux Indian girl : Topsy :.

I am afraid that owing to certain circumstances it may become quite serious, and certainly very disagreeable.

Can you come up on Saturday and try and make an amicable settlement without my official interference? I think you are the best one to do it, I will be pleased to meet you on the arrival of the local train, at my office, and give you the particulars.

Yours very truly.

BURLEY'S BUSY CORNER.

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, MEN'S
FURNISHINGS, FOOTWEAR.

C. S. B. BURLEY,

OPPOSITE LELAND.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MAN.

Decy 1898

Rev. Prof. Baird.

Winnipeg

Sir -

I beg to acknowledge, with thanks,
 the receipt of your favor of 3rd inst. The matter
 re Indian girl Dupuy has indeed as you say
 reached an acute stage but let me assure you
 is regretted much by us, though there would
 have been no trouble whatever had the action
 of the acting principal in leaving the girl with
 us, doing well and improving in every way,
 not been officiously interfered with, her inter-
 tions being made known before the actual return
 of the principal. already all your
 advised has been attempted. Mr Marshall
 was seen and ordered the girl back at once
 hearing one side of the question but on learning
 the facts of another side said he "would
 rather not have anything to do with it"
 recommending reference through him to Ottawa.
 Mr Burley since went to the school to
 again endeavor to amicably arrange with the
 principal, who has not been seen, though she

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since says she does not wish to see her, after
Miss Walder conveying Mrs Burley's suggestion
that the girl be taken back for a week or so for
discipline (Miss Payer's previous suggestion to
our friend which can be proved) and then be
returned to us. You ask what I
think of imputing unworthy motives. Believe
me there is no imputation about it, as, unfor-
tunately affidavits can be readily procured, since
your accusation forces ^{the statements} ~~it~~, proving Miss Payer,
who should have nothing whatever against us,
told Popsy she "would place her in a good
Presbyterian home a nicer and better place"
if she left us, and on Sunday last threatened
her with the Police Court unless she returned.
also, though Miss Walder positively contradicted
the girl was engaged on Sunday, insisted on
telling Mr Marlath she was. and further
endeavoured to sow trouble between our dearest
friend in spite of Miss Walder's denial of the
accuracy of her statements.

The further exposure of these lamentable facts
if carried to the Indian Dept., among the fine
Officers of which, we have friends, will reflect
anything but credit on an officer of a

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Christian, state-aided institution.

We understood you were expected in town about this time. If so I earnestly trust a full investigation will be made. Just coming, let me again appeal for a word from you to stay the question or at least see the girl is left until a reasonable excuse is offered for her removal.

Being a stranger as hinted, would you do me the favor to enquire, if thought necessary, of Postmaster W. Whittier, well known to you, whose assistant and partner I was for over fourteen years, and who can tell you it is not a vindictive meddler who writes but one who wants only what is right and firmly but respectfully demands it.

apologizing for such a lengthy explanation but which you will agree the occasion demands

I am, Sir

Yours respectfully
C. S. B. Burley

THE DEPARTMENTAL STORE



J. & E. BROWN.

H1007

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Rev A.B. Baird.

Manitoba College.

W I N N I P E G.

Dear Mr Baird!

The trouble that has arisen between Miss Fraser of the Indian School here and Mrs C.S.B. Burley over Topsy McLeod has no doubt been fully explained to you.

Owing to my connection with the Indian work and to the fact that for some years past Topsy was a member of our family I am well acquainted with all the facts in connection with this matter, and I would like to say that not only has Miss Fraser in my opinion acted entirely from a sense of duty, and has sought to have done that which she believed was in the best interests of the work, but I am strongly of the opinion that it is most important for the successful maintenance of the work in the future that her wishes should be carried out.

I have not the least doubt but that in view of the number of *years of* faithful wholehearted service that Miss Fraser has given the work here and in view of your personal knowledge of her character that she enjoys your confidence to the fullest extent. Since her last interview with you she seems to be somewhat shaken up on this point, and I know that were it not that she has just had a long holiday (though a well deserved one) at the works' expense she would at once drop out, and this under the present circumstances will only be postponed for a short time.

I have always been of the opinion that it would be hard to replace Miss Fraser's management, and recently I have been convinced

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Rev A.B.B.

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of it.

I would like very much indeed if you could see your way clear to write to Mrs Burley asking her to have Topsy returned to the school. She might perhaps agree to it, and your doing so would no doubt convince Miss Fraser that you approved entirely of the course she has taken in the matter.

Very truly yours.

Edw Brown

P S

Kindly treat this letter, outside of your com- as confidential

E B