

Mountain View, Macleod,
Oct. 2nd. 1886.

Dear Susie:-

I rec'd yours of the 24th. last night. Mary got it at Macleod. By the same mail I got a Ind. Class Grade A. Certificate from the Board of Education of the N.W. Territories. Mr. McKean is a member of that Board and advised me to apply for it. I think I'd win'd his reason for asking me to do so, this morning. His next door neighbor is Rev. A. Frewitt, English Church Miss'y, and these two Reverend gentlemen are desperate rivals in these Indian Fellow I say desperate because they talk desperate & extremely bitter things of each other. Mr. McKean keeps all his plans a profound secret from Mr. Frewitt because that gentleman has the habit of frostalling Mr. McKean at every opportunity,

Now Mr McLean didn't know whether I would blab his plans abroad or not so he simply didn't say anything to me at all. This morning he told me what may be done. Just now the Indians are roving around in their Lodges but they have houses that they go to in Winter. Mr. McLean's charge is divided into two Communities. These are about 6 or 8 miles apart & our house is just midway. The decision to be made is whether to have one school here or have two one up & one down the river. Well, don't you see if two schools are established it is not likely that the Missionary Society will pay the salary that they pay me & Mr McLean's idea is to get me a good white school in the Territories. He can do this as he was T. S. Inspector a few years ago & is known in the best

schools in the Territory of Alberta.
You can understand that
Dr. Sutherland sent me out rather
prematurely, Mr. McLean said as
much when I arrived. If one
school is established between the
two communities, it may be
a large Industrial Boarding
school. I'm glad that I have
found out this much about the
business as I was getting disgusted
with the management. The last teacher
is an awful crank, he & Mr. McKay
& the Society are all at Loggroad
& are dragging out the trouble in the
courts. The old Teacher still prowls
around McLeod, Lethbridge & the
reserve & holds the key to the old
schoolhouse which contains desks,
blackboards & Reading Tablets.
I am holding school in our little
kitchen not much larger than Grand

mother's. The stove is up in it & Mary has to play her tune on it before & after school hours which makes it awkward for baking, washing & driers. Use the walls for Blackboards & do the best I can with three first reading books & some slate & pencils. The attendance at first was satisfactory enough but has dwindled away since Curiosity was satisfied. They are a spoiled set. Some of the Teachers have gotten themselves into serious trouble with the Government & Merchants in giving supplies. Mr. McKeon & the Agent told me plainly to be firm & not be soft with them. These the boys resent my refusal to give them biscuits when they demand it. We have no well & I carry our water up a steep 40 ft. hill & over 150 yards of prairie. They boys demand

water + told them to go
to the river + get a drink as
I couldn't carry water for them.
They got very angry; Their last
teacher was a kind hearted man
+ hugged + kissed them, really I
can't do that. It isn't very
much wonder that these people
cling to the old ways that nature
has taught them. These magnificent
prairies, cool streams, + lonely
spots are enough to make any
one a child of nature. We have
had one unbroken stretch of
fair weather since we left
Lake Superior. The Indians having
plenty of horses, have every facility for
moving camp quickly over any
distance. These Western Indians
do roam indeed for they can tell
you the land marks from the
Missouri to the Saskatchewan +
from the Rockies East hundreds

of miles but this must cease.

This Reserve of 600 sq. miles must soon be reduced to the tenth of that and then as the land is filled with people & rail-ways the Indian has got to become as good an English citizen as he can be. To talk a little Evolution, Our surroundings or environment is what determines our character, is what makes us physically & mentally. Considering the Indian in this way, is it a wonder that he is a savage, & that it is hard to change his ways, & think how soon he is likely to be a different creature, His surroundings will change so that of necessity he must change & adapt himself to them. Imagine what a difference it will make when another railway is built from the E through the Rockies

+ another from Calgary South to
the U.S. Northern Pacific. Both
these lines are planned + will
be built in 15 years. As long as
the whiteman is in the minority
the Indian will despise him, + scorn
to adopt his ways. Just now they
act as if they owned the whole earth
+ the whiteman's business was to
feed them + give them tea. But
you must be sick of all this
rant about Indians.

Fast Sunday Morning

I went over to the Belley Butte or
Hills + had a splendid view of
the mountains + prairies. The
grandest view I ever had in my
life. I walked along the top of
one hill about 3 or 4 hundred ft
above the river, + parallel with it, the
top was so sharp that some places
I could not step on it but crawled

along the sides, at the highest part. I found some branches, put there probably by the Indians to make a signal light in the rebellion of '85 because from that point 2,000 Indians could have been alarmed.

This is a discovery + guess of my own, no white man ever climbed over that hill before.

I was glad to hear of your continued success at your work hope you + grandma received your cash all right. I've been homesick for our dear old place St. Clair + envy you your trip to Detroit. I think I'll take that trip the first thing if I ever get back.

Over Yours,
Ed