

February 21. 1857. Paid John Lancy

Forty dollars

\$40 00

August 6th. Paid W^mille Court Seven dollars 7 00

Dec 1864
William Pettijohn

Dr

To one of eight dollars \$ 8.00

Thursday mo[rning] January 18, 183⁸[9?] Lac Qui
Parle

My dear Brother I am about to send you a letter written by Wamdiokiya,
a Dakota and although it is in an unknown tongue it may be interesting
to you I have written Mr. G. H. Ponds translation which may need a word
of explanation. Where he says ~~let~~ no one ^{will} be offended at them he means
at us not at the truths I suppose the translation of this letter is very
litteral This Wamediokeya has learned to read & write mostly by himself
Dr W. learned him his letters & how to spell in two letters after this
he had but little help. Now I suppose he can write any thing that he
can speak & write it plainly and if he had a bible printed I suppose he
would try to read the whole of it. He cannot read fast as you or I would
but if he has a thing plainly written he can read it correctly I have
no doubt but this man has felt a pretty strong desire to know what is in
the bible It seems very desirable that some part of the scriptures be
printed soon Mr. R. has been translating the Gospel of Mark this winter
but has not got through yet I think something more than half through
Dr. W. has been talking of comeing or going into the U. S. next summer
to superintend the printing of some thing ~~of something~~ in the Dakota lan-
guage if he can have any thing worth comeing with in readiness but I
fear he will have to wait another year. The way Mr. R translates Dr. W.
reads a verse in the french then Mr R speaks it in Sioux and the Dr.
Mr Riggs & Mr Stone all write it down then the Dr reads another verse
One Chap is as much as they get in one day after they get a Chap. they
read & compere it to see if they all wrote the same thing

One man last winter came to [torn] & listens [torn] another
for some days till he learned all the letters so that the first day he
began to say letters he could say the names of all the letters These

no acc no

Dakota men are proud fellows they would hate for any one to think they could not learn fast This pride I think keeps some from trying to learn They fear if they try they shall not get along so fast as others so they will not come Some I think would like to learn in the night when the others would know nothing of it One man was in our house to night till after supper he wanted to know who I was going to send the book too ~~said~~ said he wanted to know the book very much if he could write he would write to his brother says he is brother to the man that learned to write at Lake Calhoun I asked if they had one father he said their fathers were brothers This I believe is true This man lately came up from below his father has been here a year but he is too old to learn This man is intent to learn to write he has been to school 2 or three days this week says he must soon start to hunt as he has no corn here

In school we write on slates we have a black board I write on with chalk sometimes for a copy then the whole school can see it at once For learning to read we have some doz old news papers printed with a brush through copper plates. The letters are so large as to be seen from any part of the room We have also some lessons written with a pen & stuck up on the partition wall The Indians here have had no strong drink since we came here but now they have sold their land all that lies east of the Mississippi and I fear there will be a great change for the worse in this respect Wherever strong drink comes among a savage people it proves very fatal

Mr R's oldest daughter married on the 11th of this month to his clerk a little french man [e ^{clutter} got illegible] A pleasant little man but a Roman Catholic

We got our mill started and have ground three or 4 barrels of corn We are 10 grown ones besides 5 children to eat corn and two suckling children all dependent on our stock of corn 17 persons & but about ten

bushels of corn[& very] little flour You may see we have not much bread to spare the Indians. some days ago one woman came to the Dr's said they were starving one man she said was past sitting up the Dr gave the woman some turnips & potatoes & went to see the man he was far gone the Dr thought with the consumption I believe he is still living We can hardly eat a meal but some poor savages are looking on and their mouth watering We have had cold weather lately some of the Indians say they cannot sleep for the cold. Mrs W & Lydia have given nearly all the clothing they can spare to the old women. One woman came here last fall & took the small pocks Dr W gave her medicine and as soon as she was able to go she was started off there were 7 or 8 in all with her ~~she~~ was told to go up stream but she went down a little way & they all took it and as many as 3 died She came back & set up her lodge & came calling for something to eat She has been living all winter on what is taken to her as none will let her come to their house She said that 2 of the children starved to death & one man died of the Small pox. They are talking of sending her away again before the warm weather Mrs Riggs has a son they call him Alfred Longley 6 or 7 weeks old we are all well

A. G. Huggins

March 17 The Mail did not go at the set time if they had they might have been froze it has been 30 below zero more than once this winter

Mrs W. has another son I think he was boen about the last of Jan 1838 They call him Andrew Woods

Feb 18th Dr W. baptized Katharines children her eldest son is called Lorenzo Lawrence for Dr L. of Cincinnati Their Joseph Elisabeth & sarah the father of Lorenzo is dead the father of the other three is brother to Mrs Renville

Feb 25 Dr w. baptized 3 women the widow Jeffries is called betsy the others Rachel & Din[ah?]

Mr R has got through Mark On the 18th of March Mr R got a letter from Lake Traverse The Indians at that place have had the Small pox this winter Mr Brown the trader writes there is one hundred of them dead One half breed who was educated at Mackinaw went last year to Lake Traverse to assist in trading he was killed this winter by an Indian His father is a trader at Traverse de Sioux & has a Dakota wife He was not killed at Lake Traverse but far off where he had went for buffaloes or something else Mr Brown got shot in the neck at Lake T so that the ball went two finger breadth under the skin April 2 We got some news yesterday Dr W. got 3 letters & Mr Riggs 2 we also got some papers & Missionary Heralds we expect to start letter today Wamdiokiya has been inae few days Mr G. H. Pond started with him this morning to hunt rats he will probably be gone 2, 3, or 4 weeks The are better off for corn at this place than the were years past a great part of them were gone all winter have all their corn yet their prospect for next year looks dark the water is now over their fields & is still rising the water is not to our field yet I think likely it will be over part of it The water has never been [seen] so high but once as it is now by any one living here.

We have one printed spelling book or perhaps 100 but they are not very correct they are of some use

Michael Spurbail did not see 30 below zero more than once this winter
at the bottom of the bay it has been frozen it has
seen 30 below zero more than once this winter
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Dr. W. has another son I think he was born about the last of Jan 1838 they call him Andrew Woods
his father's name is Dr. W. he was a doctor in the French War
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the winter Mr. Bueben the trader writes there is one hundred of them dead One half
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breed who was educated at Mackinac went last year to Lake Superior to assist in trading he was
killed at Lake Superior but for off where he had went for buffalo or something else Mr. Bueben got shot in
the neck at Lake Superior the ball went two finger breadth under the skin April 2 he got some news yesterday
Dr. W. got 3 letters & Mr. Dist 2 we also got some papers & missionary heralds we expect to start after today

Wandioquia has been in a few days Mr. G. S. Bone started with him this morning to hunt rats he will probably
be gone 2, 3, or 4 weeks
the water is now melted yet I think likely it will be out part of it
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but water came to
the letters so that to
these Dakota men all
this side I think keep
others so they will not
One man was in our
said he wanted to know
brother to the man that
with brothers this I believe is true
near but he is too old to learn
week says he must soon start to hunt
son-in-law says he has no corn here
school we write on slates we have a black board

the first day he began to
proud fellows they
some from trying to learn
Some I think would like to learn
the book very much if he could write
to write at Lake batherson I asked if they had one father
This man lately came up from below his father has been here a
This man is intent to learn to write he has been to school
as he has no corn here

then after some days till he learned all
the names of all the letters
they don't not learn fast
a long so far as
know nothing of
he took to
he is
he has been here a
on three days this
he has no corn here

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a copy then the whole of school can see it at once
old news papers printed with ink through copier plates
various of the room we have also some lessons written with a pen & stick up on the partition wall
The Indians here have had no strong drink since we came but now they have sold their land all
that lies east of the Mississippi and I fear there will be a great change for the worse on this
part West ever strong drink comes among a savage people it proves very fatal

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We got under sail started and have passed three miles
much bread to feed the Indians some days ago one woman came to
one man she was just sitting up the 3rd gave the woman some turnips & potatoes & went to see
the man he was far gone he thought with his consumption I believe he is still living
the meal but some poor stragglers looking on and their mouths watering
later some of the Indians say they can't sleep for the cold
they can spare to the old women One woman came here last fall & took the small pox
Davy caught her measles and as soon as she was able to go she was started off
and as many as died she came back with her
thing to eat & she has
the children refused to death & one man died
mean with a

pleasant little man but a Roman Catholic
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Letter by Alexander G. Huggins, January 18,
18[38], describing Renville's method of
translation.

The letter was turned upside down and
the writing inserted between the lines.

My dear brother I am about to send you a letter written by Wam-
tichika, a Dakota. I have written it although it is in an unknown tongue it may be interesting to you. I have written
it in French which may need a good deal of explanation. I have written it in
French because I suppose the translation of the
letter is very literal. This Wam-
tichika has learned to read & write mostly by
himself. He learned how to spell in two letters after this he had
little help. Now I suppose he can write any thing that he can speak & write it plainly
and if he had a bible printed I suppose he would try to read the whole of it. The
read last as you do I would but if he has a thing plainly written he can read it
I have no doubt but the man has felt a pretty strong desire to know what
it means very desirable that some part of the scriptures be printed
in the Dakota language. I have been talking of coming to you in the
fall of some kind of something in the Dakota language
if he can have any thing worth coming with in reading that I feel he will have to wait
another year. The way the translator Dr. W. reads and in the French then he speaks it in
Dakota and the Dr. W. reads it all written down then the Dr. reads another word. One that
is as much as the rest in a day after they get a copy of the book he can be
of use if they all write



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