



[Return I. Holcombe Papers.](#)

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From old Harry Proctor
to Uncle Bob, the old
rascal, Merry Tomas.
May he never take any-
thing stronger
"Annie"

Mr. Halcomb

ME COURT
COUNTY OF RAMSEY
Please drop me
a line & want to see you.

I forgotten your number
& thought I could see
you here. tomorrow

If not write me
add - to 890 St Anthony
Aves & Obispo
Theresa O'H -

Miss Agnes C. Davis

Apartment 44
609 West 114th St.
New York N. Y.

I did not forget
my promise
although it took a
long time to fulfill
it

Agnes C Davis

Ninton, Gallia County Dec. 3, 1859-

Mar. Tappena Madison

Should you take a retrospect through a long vista of fifty years, you might see a brown eyed boy of some six summers, with rosy cheeks, and a period subsequent seated by your side on a hard bench with one eye on the pedagogue and the other upon Webster's "easy standard of pronunciation", spelling out "cru-ci-fix", "cru-el-ty", "de-cim-ey", "di-a-dem". Or at a still subsequent period, standing by your side reading from the third chapter of the gospel of St. Matthew, "In those days came John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand;" under the watchful eye of Master Sargent. And should your remembrance not extend so far into antiquity, perhaps you can remember that same brown eyed lad at the age of eighteen or twenty years, at the little social parties, handing round, or guessing who had the "button", and for a wrong guess paying a pawn and redeeming it with a willingness and alacrity, or leading the merry dance; or seated at the happy fireside joining in the general hilarity; that boy, that lad and that gay young man, is the identical sedate, portly old gentleman who is now penning these lines at his fire side, and amid the earliest associations of his childhood, but with a mind as vivid as at twenty. And now, what shall I say to one I have so long and so kindly remembered. My family, which consists of myself, and good wife "Nelly", is as well and have as little reason to complain of the dispensations of Providence, as

any other (perhaps) who have sojourned as long
"in this vale of tears." My good mother died nine years
ago lost a limb, of which you have been informed, long
since. My father, now nearly four score and three years
is in the enjoyment of unusual health for one of his
age. He is still in the enjoyment of all his mental faculties and is
indeed a happy old gentleman. He does not now
keep house but resides or stops with his children, as
best suits him; he has a full competence of this world's
goods for any want. Our Cousin, Dr. In, is in a deli-
cate state of health, he has a seated cough and is
declining; I fear much he has consumption of the lungs.
He still practices medicine, some, and in my opinion
is the best physician in the country. I am not without
hope of his recovery. I would next say that my ^{beautiful} Cousin
Ann Holcomb (your niece) is at my house, and is a wel-
come guest. She came here about two weeks since or per-
haps a little more, since she came she was taken violent-
ly sick, ^{and} for a few days was quite distressed, Dr. In attend-
ed her and with good nursing she is now nearly restored
to health again. I cannot say how she likes the country
or people, I leave that to herself to write. I think this
climate more congenial to those of tender lungs than
any windy country. If she stays here a year I believe
she will be healthy and sound. I know not what she
will do, but presume she will grow homesick and try
to go back to Iowa; but such sickness is never danger-
ous. I should like much to see her brother Robert
Virgel, and hope he will make us a visit in the spring.
If he is a smart young man, and I presume he is, I sh^d.
be pleased to have him come to Ohio and pursue his
education and study a profession. If I was ac-
quainted with him I could tell better what he is suited for.

in our country, near a good
round, an Academy where
longer ages to. I understand
is an intelligent gentleman
I should be pleased to see
and that class only, can be
moxim is true than that "Ker"
I should be pleased to see you
would be beyond description; but
which I am proud or by which
are such as to deny the hope,
to Ohio. It were, perhaps, not
these circumstances to you, for
which is enough for any one

any other (perhaps) who have sojourned as long
"in this vale of tears." My good mother died nine years
ago lost a limb, of which you have been informed, long
since. My father, now nearly four score and three years
is in the enjoyment of unusual health for one of his
age and is at present in the
the enjoyment of all his mental faculties and is
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ly sick, ^{and} for a few days was quite distressed, Dr. Ira attend-
ed her and with good success she will soon be brought into
to health again. I cannot consent or knowlege, that
or people, I leave that to just God who will reward
climate more congenial and at this we ought not
any windy country. If not -

She will be healthy and sure and say to Mr. Modis or
will do, but presume now to receive a letter from him -
to go back to Iowa, and to your nephews & nieces
and - I should like much to see him & his family
Vergel, and hope he will be

If he is a smart yo
be pleased to have his
education and
acquainted with his

Anseline S. Holcomb

advisable for him to come
will (perhaps) remember the
confidence in myself. I would
to me for direction. If the
fession would best suit, I could
If he should choose the middle
be of no great service to him.
prefer the study of Theology, the
education; for according to the
doctrines of the day, "the foolish
Confound the great;" in dis-
turb the great fishermen
the Gent mother, (Paul) of the
System of Common Schools.

leave my printing office and
operations in an hour.
convenient times. Send me
in the west.

ends this long epistle if it is
me without apologizing for its
Ann and good wife Betty
string it out and I have done
its permission to say that we are
ing of life and cannot promise
of pleasure it were best perhaps
we be spent in doing good to
and whether that
ends of the day

1415
Morris Min June 16th

Dear Mr. Holcombe.

Mr Bevan says you
must write to Bob and
tell him that I am
elated over the political
prospects of this town
and that we will not
get back to dine with
you until the last
of the week. well
Mr Holcombe I think
you and I have the
laugh on him this
time for he was awful
sick Sunday morning
vomiting and purging
with sick headache

ed felt very badly
all day Sunday and
Monday he is feeling
all right today I
escaped my head-
ache just barely it was
sink or swim with
me all day Sunday
but I did not perish
but survived and
came out all right
so that I could say
that I arrived here
without a sign of
a headache I laughed
to myself but I felt
so sorry for Mr Bevan
for he got so sick and
weak for you know
he is so dear to me that
I do not want to have
him sick.

Well I do not think this
letter will interest you
very much but I thought
we would write to let
you know we thought
about you. Well now
I will tell you how I
~~have~~ enjoyed myself
since I have been here
Saturday evening Mr B
hired a livery and took
me out for a drive
which I enjoyed very
much showed me the
town it is very pretty
here Sunday evening we
went to church it was
Children's Day and
the services were very
nice Monday Mr Bevan's
second cousin invited
us over to spend the day

we had a very pleasant
day. today a Mr Stone
another cousin called and
asked me to take a

drive with her and three
other ladies making six ladies
in all now is the part you
will be interested in we
visited the Indian school
which was very interesting
to me they played and
sang for us. Well I will
close for this time and
tell you more when
we see you hoping you
are well and don't get
the headache.

I will close by saying
good bye

Abbie J Bevans.

Benjamin Lewis Co. Mo.

Dear Brother:

I received your letter a few days ago it came to Labadie and was sent on here I am staying at Franks brothers now.

My Fatherinlaw lives 3 miles from here they wrote for ^{me} to come here and they ^{would do} the best they could to help me. & my motherinlaw has poor health she is confined to her bed nearly all the time they are both getting old. I am talking of house keeping again after a while Frank had not been well

all Winter but he was
sick only a week I made up
his bed at ten in the morning
he sat up while I did it and
he died at One in the afternoon
he had been having the chills
We had no idea he was so
bad he talked to me just a
few minutes before he died
about taking some oil I
don't think he thought of
dying at all he never
mentioned such a thing. It
was a very sudden shock to
all of us. I hardly need
tell you that I am left
in very straitened circumstances
Frank was a good worker
but he never laid any thing
by for a rainy day against
his burial expenses were
paid and some other little
debts and I paid my

way. here. I have not
much left. of course his
father and brother will
help me all they can his
brother has a family of his
own. about I don't like to
separate the children if I
can help it. I am not
well this morning I will
try and write more next
time I wrote to
Jennette this morning.
Return is past 14 and
can work well on a farm
Livonia is ten Maudie
died last September just
after we left St. Louis. I
came from St Louis the
18th of last August. Livia
was three years old last
Jan and Frankie the
baby was born last New
Years day. it is a girl

too I have but one boy
I came through Hannibal
but did not know you had
ever been there untill Sarah
wrote you was in Hannibal
Give my love to your
wife and Maudie too

Write Soon and direct
to as you see at the
heading of this
your sister

Esther Billups

Excuse this writing
I have neuralgia
in my head so
bad.

From



OLD CAPITOL BUILDING

R J

Dear

GEO. H. HAZZARD,

SECRETARY,

St. Paul, Minn.

Minnesota Territorial Pioneer Association

wants historical pictures, relics, biographical sketches, death notices, change of address, etc.

Husband, wife or children of pioneers become honorary members on payment of regular fee.

Membership admission \$1. Annual meeting, Old Capitol, May 11th. Annual dues \$1.

State admitted 1858. Society organized May 11, 1897.
Members have been in Minnesota prior to her admission.

13. A. 1897 50c



Have your father's and mother's picture in before we move to our new quarters in the State Historical Building.

The Minnesota Territorial Pioneer Women's Club will hold an all-day meeting in the club rooms of the North Central Commercial Club (University at St. Peter, just east of Rice Street), Tuesday, April 11th. A banquet dinner will be served at 12:30, followed by an afternoon program of special interest. Special effort is being made for a large attendance, that plans may be completed for a joint meeting of the Club with the Minnesota Territorial Pioneer Association, Thursday, May 11th, at the Old Capitol.

Pioneer families are invited to tomorrow's program and you are urged to be present if possible.

January 14,

Dear Major

When the war was over and we let the rascals off without punishment did we not do violence to the memory of those patriotic men who suffered such hardships and endured such trials? - After 30 years I feel that a great wrong was done in allowing so many arch traitors to escape the gallows

Very truly

WM Johnson

Jan 14

Mr. Mayah Holcomb
Gillfalle Bank.

 YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED.

PLEASE DO SO

Tuesday, April 22.

Polls Open Until 9 p. m.



Dear Mr. Sturcombe.
Sorry you got me. Received
a letter from Miss Peoples
& she wishes to be remembered
you've got a case on hand now
She is desperately in love with
you I cannot understand why
the girls like you I don't see one
a burning flame but you must go
-mer on

with no talk.
The Doctor.

Holcombe Papers

Letter Joseph R. Brown to Bishop

Whipple - Sam J. Brown,

Reminiscences of Sioux War.

Fort Kuerowbie Jan'y. 20. 1864

Rh. Rev^d Bishop Whipple,

Sir - I have just read with much satisfaction Your able appeal for a reform in our present Indian system. Before our settlements can advance with that security necessary to their prosperity ~~of the settled~~ Government must make a radical reform in this system, or be at the expense of keeping a large military force constantly in advance of the settlements to drive forward the Indians and keep them away from all intercourse with the advancing tide of civilization.

There is no doubt that to our present system may be attributed all the Indian troubles which have occurred since its adoption, and it may be by some thought strange that experience has not suggested and secured a reform long since, but look at the editorial in the St Paul Press noticing Your appeal and finding an opposition to ~~it~~ ^{it enforced by} ~~your appeal~~ characterizing it as the result of partiality for the Indian which has led to "sweeping aspersions of the character of the men who happen to be connected with the Indian system in this State." The wrongs to which the Indians are subjected, and the blood that has been spilt upon our frontiers at various times under this system are not noticed, and the Editor refuses to acknowledge the existence of any necessity for reform. He tacitly admits that frauds may have crept into the Indian Department, but thinks that in "this wretched age of shoddy and rascality and dander" no complaints should be made against these evils ^{He thinks that no} ~~of the present Indian~~ ~~system.~~ ~~It~~ are branch of our governmental operations, and especially our intercourse with the Indians should be reformed alone. That would be an instance of partiality which the Editor's idea of "Equal privileges to all" could not tolerate.

Now I admit that I am not endowed with the

clear perceptive qualifications for which the Editor of the Press is proverbial, hence I cannot see in your "Appeal" any language that can be distorted into a sweeping aspersion of the character of any "of the men who happen to be connected with the Indian System in this State." Your quarrel is with a system and not with men connected with it.

When we charge that the present Indian System is responsible for the existing Sioux war which has deluged our frontier with blood, depopulated a vast portion of our State and exhausted the expenditure of millions of dollars do we thereby asperse the character of the Superintendent and Agent who were acting under that system? God forbid, for I am satisfied that they are both faithful and capable efficient officers.

But the Editor of the Press is opposed to a reform of the system and as he cannot refute ^{by argument} your appeal ^{he seeks the same object by other means} he endeavors to make it appear as "loose generalities of invective" dictated by "an illusion common to the sanguine benevolence of inexperience" which causes you to hope to "restone the Red man to the blissful Eden from which the White man was long ago expelled for his sins." The Editor is an influential member of a class who have and who will oppose the necessary reform from personal or political motives, regardless of all consequences.

There is another and still more numerous class who fail to see and realize the evils of our present system. They attribute all irregularities in its working, not to the system as it is, but to man's incapacity to frame any system of any kind that will be free from imperfections. They know little and care less about the principles of the system or its details, but they know that under it and within a short period of time the Indians have been removed from and the government has opened to settlement a territory that contributes sev-

eral states of the Union, that have already become rich in agricultural, mechanical, commercial and mineral resources. The several Indian wars that have accompanied the attainment of this victory they regard as entirely incidental and in no way chargeable to the system ^{under which they arose} ~~but rather as~~ ^{an} ~~intercourse with the Indians.~~

There is a third and very small class, composed of those who have watched the workings and are familiar with all the features of the system. They too, know that the Indians have been removed from a vast territory that has been made rich and prosperous through the agricultural, mechanical, commercial and mineral resources it possessed, and they know what has become of the many numerous tribes that have given place to the approaching tide of civilization. They know that there is still an immense country in the occupancy of Indian tribes upon which "the two advancing waves of civilization from the Atlantic and Pacific are soon to meet," and they desire to rescue the Indians that are in front of us from the horrible fate of those who have been removed from the land that is behind us. In this desire they are not "the dupe of their own feelings," but are actuated by a knowledge of the responsibilities of the Government and a national pride that would avert from the nation the shame of having wilfully caused the extinction of a people, who might by a slight national exertion have been made useful members of community. But although

Although the injustice and homicidal tendencies of the present system is clear and although Indian murders and Indian wars have attended it through out, I have but little hope that it will be replaced by a just and wise policy under which the ultimate civilization of our western tribes may be attained.

Among the many obstacles in the way of ^{such} a reform

a disbelief in the ⁱⁿ capacity of the Indian to assume and pursue the habits and life of civilization is not the least formidable. And unfortunately the late Sioux outbreak has strengthened that belief in the minds of many, owing to the fact that ^{some} many of the Indians who were supposed to be advancing rapidly in civilization were among the most active among the Sioux in their attacks upon the Whites. For this was the result of our present Indian system, far more than the fault of the Indians.

The Indian department had exerted itself to the utmost extent of its capacity under our present laws, for the ~~agricultural improvement of the Sioux~~ and had it been able to secure the co-operation of the War department to the extent necessary to meet its obligations, the tragedies of 1862 would never have ~~been repeated~~ occurred.

~~The most formidable obstacle that had to be overcome in starting an agricultural policy among the Sioux was the fear of ridicule, taunts and personal violence from the other Indians.~~

Before an Indian can progress in civilization, he must be released from the burdens and as far as possible be detached from a savage life. The Department realized this fact and to attain the object required every Indian to part with his scalplock, his weapons to receiving the dress of the white man, and the necessary agricultural assistance.

When an Indian parts with his scalplock he in the estimation of ^{his tribe} the Indians, unfit himself for the duties of a warrior. And if he abandons the chase and relies solely upon labor as a means of subsistence he degrades himself to the level of a woman, and ceases to command respect and consideration among his tribe.

The dangers and difficulties the Farmer Indians had to encounter they realized fully, but they had

the solemn promise of the Department that they should be protected in the possession and security of their ~~property~~ ^{their rights} and from all violence or interference from the Indians opposed to civilization. But the War Department under our present system is separate from the Indian Department and the location of troops upon the reservations for the protection and security of those who had adopted, and were desirous of pursuing an agricultural life could not be obtained. The Indians looked in vain for that protection they had been ^{most solemnly} promised.

This the Indians feared from the first but their anxiety to change their habits and mode of life induced them to risk the result, but it was with fear and trembling.

White Leg was the first among the Sioux that parted with his scalp lock. I assisted in that ceremony and I subsequently adjusted the fatal white cap upon his head preparatory to his execution at Mankato, and I have no hesitation in saying that he exhibited more fear and anxiety at the first than at the subsequent ceremony. Let the candidate of this man (and others similarly situated) who had endured the insults and submitted to the pilferings and other depredations of the tribal Indians for four years without any departure from the habits and mode of life which led to these insults and depredations is now regarded as an evidence of the want of the elements of civilization in the Indian character.

The Sioux farmers had done all they could do and much more than the most sanguine friends of Indian reform had expected, while the government had failed in its obligations, owing to a defect in our present system. The farmers, owing to a want of protection, were frequently subjected to insults and personal

violence in addition to the money depredations upon their property. Four men were killed and several severely wounded while I was agent, because they had parted with the scalp lock and adapted the habits and life of civilized man.

The farmers knew themselves to be hated and despised by the other Indians, and they had frequently heard the threat ^{openly made} that when troubles did occur between the whites and the Sioux ^{the former Indians} they would be the first sacrificed.

The Massacres of 1862 burst upon the Farmer Indians as unexpectedly as upon the whites. They knew themselves to be ^{indirectly} the cause of the ^{dissatisfaction of the tribes} ~~break~~ and their families were in the midst of the murdering Indians. ^{and} escape was impossible. Under these circumstances it is strange that many should seek safety by joining the murderers with apparent sincerity, but as I firmly believe with a determination to do no damage to the whites. This is apparent from the fact that ^{during} the attack at Fort Ridgely many balls were fired into the roofs of the buildings and during the battle at Birch Cooley the tops of the Sibley tents were riddled with bullets. I am too well aware of the precision with which an Indian uses his gun to believe they would have shot so wildly at the short range they fired, unless it was done intentionally.

I said the Farmers knew themselves to be the cause of the ^{dissatisfaction of the tribes} ~~break~~ and there is no doubt of it. Let others attribute the dissatisfaction of the ^{former} ~~tribes~~ ^{Indians} to what source they deem proper but I am satisfied that it ^{had its source and was nourished} ~~was~~ ^{and as a result of} ~~was~~ ^{caused} by the introduction of a system of civilization on the reservations.

The policy previously pursued, consisted in the expenditure of the Agricultural and School funds

partly in the cultivation of land, the products of which after securing sufficient for the support of the employees was given to the Indians. At the employees houses at both Agencies a great quantity of provisions were cooked daily for distribution among the Indians. Under this arrangement a large number of the most worthless Indians on the reservations were supported at the general expense of the tribe. Still all this did not absorb the Agricultural and School funds, and when a large amount had accumulated the Indians demanded and the Department acceded to the distribution of the surplus pro rata.

When the improvement system was commenced in 1858 it was deemed necessary for the success of the system that the Indians should be induced to labor for themselves instead of having white ^{employed} men to labor for them. The support of Indians at a public table was discontinued, and those who worked were paid ^{liberally} in provisions and other necessaries for the work they performed. As the number of Indian farmers increased the number of white employees were decreased, and as the Indians progressed in the cultivation of their ^{individual} farms the public farms were discontinued. Under this system the white employees were reduced from one hundred and eighty-three employed when I entered upon the duties of Agent ^{in 1858} to nineteen when I was superseded in May 1861.

The Agricultural fund was devoted to its legitimate object, the promotion of Agriculture among the Indians, which never can be effected by the employment of white men to do the work.

The ^{working} Indians being paid for ^{labor} the work they performed, they were enabled to subsist themselves and families comfortably without resorting to the chase. They were provided with houses, cattle, Agricultural tools, &c. and most

was believed by the officers of the Indian Department, to be the only means
the Farmer Indians. And in 1861 after I was superseded
I made such representations to the Secretary of the In-
terior of the ^{imminent} danger of an outbreak among the Sioux
and the extent to which it would ^{most probably} be carried if once
inaugurated, that he made a ^{formal} requisition upon the
War Department for a regiment of Cavalry to be
located upon the Sioux reservations. But he was
informed that the War Department had no Cavalry
or other troops to spare for that purpose.

But although the Farmers were subjected to the dangers and losses consequent to a want of protection, prosperity smiled upon the system, and their numbers were steadily increasing. The Tribal Indians saw their influence and power rapidly departing, and ^{realized} ~~determined~~ the necessity of prompt action, to ^{ensure} ~~enable~~ them to ~~proceed successfully~~. The parliament in 1862 was ^{finally fixed upon, as} ~~to be~~ the time and the ^{and Upper Meruety Sign} ~~the instruments~~ for putting a ^{quietus upon} ~~individual farming among the Sioux~~ for a period of the battle. The ~~admiral~~ ^{admiral} were the operators intending to use the Pontonais, Sissetons, and Warpations in the capacity of helipierants, reserving to themselves the position of peace makers, ~~upon being guaranteed the abolition of the Furrow system on the reservations.~~

The war for the Seneca, they believed, had so far depopulated the Western States, that troops could not be obtained promptly in numbers sufficient to overcome the outbreak, and the services of the Lower Indians would be ^{necessary and so} highly appreciated ^{by the whites} as to secure to them any terms they might demand.

I do not believe an open outbreak before the whites was intended.
Under this programme the first attack was to be made
about R. New Medicine.

* The origin and existence of this dissatisfaction was known to the Indian Department, and it was urging upon the War Department from time to time the necessity of locating at Gilaum Medicine a force sufficient to overcome the Tribal Indians, protect the former Indians and preserve the dignity of the Government. Unfortunately these applications were disregarded by the War Department, and the opposition to Agricultural reform was allowed to progress to open hostilities.

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the time and the Government ^{and Upper Missouri Sioux as} the instruments
for putting a quietus upon ^{individual farming among the Sioux} the old
for a part of the battle. The adverse Sioux were the operators
intending to use the Ojibwa, Assinibou, and Marquette in
the capacity of beligerents, reserving to themselves the posi-
tion of peace makers, upon being guaranteed the abolition
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ly in numbers sufficient to overcome the outbreak and the
services of the lower Indians would be ^{necessary and} so highly appreciated ^{by the whites}
to secure to them any terms they might demand.

Under this programme ^{I do not believe an open outbreak upon the whites was intended} the first attack was to be made
upon the ^{about Yellow Medicine} Farmer Indians and if extended to the ^{only} ~~whites~~ ^{Sioux}
it would be through their protection of the Farmer ^{Sioux}.
The conduct of a few bandsters at Ketow, however, precip-
itated the outbreak and changed its character. The goods
and ammunition necessary to their success, which they at
one time intended to buy with their summer furs, they deter-
mined ~~to~~ take by force and the massacre of the traders be-
came a necessary preliminary to the accomplishment of that object.

tribes, will meet with the same opposition from the same classes of Indians. But the establishment of a government for the protection of the persons and property of the farmers and the prompt punishment of all depredations, ~~and thus~~ ^{would soon relieve} ~~afford~~ the farmers from all danger and thus prosperity would eventually lead the most bitter opponents of the policy to become partakers of its benefits.

I have noticed the deceptive promises made the Sioux to induce them to sign the treaty of 1857. - It is simply the history of all Indian treaties. To make a good bargain is a Yankee virtue and it has been the object of the heads of departments and bureaus, as well as of the Commissioners sent to negotiate treaties to obtain a large quantity of land for a small compensation. This is ~~unworthy~~ ^{dishonorable} as well as dishonest, where it is the act of a government regarding the Indians as wards incapable of self protection. -

As long as the treaty system is continued so long will the Indians continue to be coerced and defrauded in their negotiations. To remedy this evil let Congress do at once and openly what ~~it~~ has been doing in detail and covertly, assume the control and disposition of all Indian lands regardless of the claims of Indians to it. Let suitable reservations be at once set apart for each tribe, keeping the reservations for the different tribes as far apart as possible. Have the reserves divided into suitable farms of eighty acres each to be secured to each head of a family under certain restrictions. But let the patent by which this cession is made be as irrevocable and binding as any patent by which the government cedes land to a white man, under the pre-emption, or any other law of Congress.

Upon each reservation place a military force adequate to overcome the surrounding roving bands, and to protect the Indian settlers from all depredations.

14
as well as to enforce the laws and regulations for the Indian settlers themselves. Let this military force be subject to the call of the Agent at all times, holding him responsible for the necessity or propriety of the call.

I would ^{as a compromise} not burden the Indian system with a Governor for each reserve. I would have all offences promptly tried by a military tribunal to be composed of one or more officers of the force located on the reservation, and I would have the offence as promptly punished through the same military power. I would direct the tribunal to try Indians of all stripes, arguments and quibbles, attending our civil courts, by which an offender may escape punishment. Nothing promotes crime among Indians more than for an offender to ^{who feels himself} escape punishment of punishment.

Each head of a family or single man who would exchange the savage for civilized habits, I would locate upon a farm, and I would furnish him with such material as he could not procure and such labor as he could not perform for the erection of buildings and the opening of land for cultivation. All labor that he could perform I would require from him, and pay him liberally for it in provisions or such other articles as were necessary to his comfort. An Indian cannot abandon the chase and devote his time to labor unless by that labor he can subsist and clothe himself and family. All goods and provisions should be furnished the Indian farmer at its actual cost at the Agency, and all the surplus products of his farm should be purchased at a fair and liberal compensation. Farmers cannot prosper unless they have a market and the government should provide a market for the Indian farmers located far in the interior where all other markets are beyond their reach. The produce of the Indian farms would be necessary for the support

15
of a military organization on the reservations. No trader should be permitted to locate on any reserve. Experience teaches that the trade in furs cannot promote Indian civilization.

There should be no money or other annuity payments to the Indians. ^{The} appropriations for the Indian tribes should be expended in the compensation of the Indians for ^{their} labor, performance and the supply of agricultural and building material and the support of an educational system. The merit alone should reap the advantages resulting from Governmental appropriations. And if these appropriations are properly directed they will in a comparatively short period of time change a numerous body of human beings from roving savages to enlightened, useful and prosperous members of community.

Those Indians who might at first refuse to join, or fully oppose, the improvement of Indians, should be allowed to roam over the unoccupied lands, dependent wholly upon their own resources, until the success and prosperity of the farmers, the decrease of game for their subsistence in the approaching tide of civilization, should ^{induce or} drive them to join the farmers of their tribe in a permanent location upon their reservation. The roving Indians should be promptly punished for all depredations upon the property or persons of the whites and Farmer Indians. They should understand that the land they occupy belongs to the whites who must not be interrupted in their locations upon, or their passage over or into it. Under this system there is no doubt that the roving bands would rapidly decrease in numbers, while the Farmer Indians would as rapidly increase, and ultimately all would become permanent settlers upon the reservations. ^{The} great impediment to Indian civilization is the ^{not} courage, ^{not} to a roving and lazy life under the present annuity system.

In Your plan for an Educational system I observe that You subscribe (rather under protest I admit) to the plan of instructing only in the English language. To this I have always been, and still am, opposed. I believe that every Indian tongue is susceptible of being written, and I know that Scholars will advance a thousand fold more rapidly if taught in their own language, and I would be just as well satisfied with a good citizen in Sioux, Chippeway or Winnebago, as in German, Norwegian or English.

I do not wish to be understood as being opposed to giving an Indian an English Education, but I do not deem that a necessary ^{the necessary} step in their advance to civilization, and I do not ~~propose to put~~ ^{I would not} ~~bootstrap~~ ^{upon} ~~the Caterpillar~~ ^{but await the transformation} ~~when by a series of steps~~ ^{into} ~~properly~~ the ugly worm ~~will become~~ a beautiful butterfly through the operation of natural laws. Let the Indians be educated first in their own language and while You are teaching them to read, teach them the arts ^{Customs} and duties of civilization. A well organized and properly conducted Manual labor school is the good land upon which the seed of Indian civilization should be dropped.

I like Your proposition for a Board of Visitors to examine into the affairs of each Agency but I am opposed to their exercising any control ^{over the} appointment or operations of the Employers, for the faithful performance of whose duties the Agent ^{alone} is responsible. Take from the Agent the appointing and discharging power over the Employers, and You strike a fatal blow at ^{his} ~~the~~ effective control over their duties and operations. The facility afforded the Agent in the successful discharge of his duties, by the employment of competent and faithful subordinates, is the best guarantee for proper direction of those subordinates.

I cannot close, but my letter has become, without

referring to a very important subject in connection with our intercourse with Indian tribes, whether under our present or any other system. I refer to the employment of Indian Interpreters. The salary at present allowed that officer is four hundred ^{per annum} dollars, out of which he is expected to feed and clothe himself (and family if he has one) far remote from markets, and where he must pay exorbitant prices for all the necessaries of the table or the wardrobe.

This salary is entirely inadequate to the responsibilities of the position. Where the Agent does not speak the language of the Indians of his Agency (which is the case in nine cases out of every ten) his ears must be on the head and his tongue in the mouth of the Interpreter, and in all his intercourse with the Indians, he is at the mercy of his interpreter. Therefore again the integrity and ability of the Interpreter depends the success of all negotiations or other intercourse between the Agent and the Indians, and in a great measure the peaceful relations between the Indians and the Whites.

A man possessing the integrity of character and the knowledge of both languages necessary to qualify him for the responsible position of Government Interpreter can readily obtain from 600. to 1,000. dollars ^{and board} per annum from any trading firm in the country, and hence the honest, faithful and influential interpreters are employed in the trade and the Agent can only secure the services of such as the traders will not employ, ^{therefore} ~~and~~ whenever the duties ^{of the Agent} ~~are~~ ^{are} in conflict with the interests of the traders he is invariably circumvented in all his plans. ^{This accounts for the fact that} The traders wield a controlling influence over the Indians.

The government should provide a compensation that would secure the best men in the country for interpreters, and the Agent himself should be able to converse

freely with the Indians around him, as in no other way can any man become acquainted with the peculiarities of the Indian Character. I agree with you fully that no agent should be removed except for cause. His position should put him entirely outside of all political influences. It is a mistaken idea that the president's commission in itself endows a man with the necessary knowledge and experience to enable him to understand and properly control the Indian Character. To obtain that knowledge and experience requires years of close study of their partialities, habits and customs, with which the agent must be acquainted if he hopes to prosper in the overthrow of those partialities and effect a change in their habits and mode of life.

Under the present system, just as an agent becomes familiar with his duties and responsibilities and becomes capable of their performance, the administration changes, a new man is appointed, and the Indians find themselves without an agent of experience in whom they can confide. Consequently our Indian tribes are three years out of every four under the control and guidance of inexperienced agents.

There is nothing that will promote the success of the operations of an agent to a greater degree than for the Indians to be able to communicate directly in person with the agent. They have a greater regard for the same words falling from the lips of the agent in their own language than if they reached them through the medium of an interpreter. Then again when an agent is conversant with the language of his Indians, he gets hold of many of the ideas, wants and aspirations among the Indians that is not likely to reach him through an interpreter.

I have written at much more at length than I at the outset contemplated, but the subject is one

in which I have for many years felt a deep interest, and as I proposed details, present themselves which I could not well pass over. Today I am as well satisfied of the capacity of the Indian for all the duties and requirements of civilization as I was twelve years ago when I wrote a series of articles for the Pioneer upon the subject. In fact the experience of the past few years has confirmed me in the position I originally held upon the subject. Yet I am writing without hope that a proper change will be made in our system to secure the object we both so anxiously desire.

I have been conversant with the many outbreaks of the Indians and the massacre of our settlers during the progress of civilization along the Upper Mississippi Valley. All these outbreaks and massacres may be traced directly to dissatisfactions caused by the operations of government under ^{the peculiar features of} our present Indian system. Yet no radical change has been made to avert these evils, and the government has steadfastly adhered to the policy of expending millions in the punishment of offenders instead of preventing them by the expenditure of thousands under a civilization policy.

Look at the Inkpaduta and Lake Massacres in the Minnesota that have occurred within a very few years upon our own immediate border. Had the government acted with proper wisdom and promptitude, we would not now have to lament the barbarous murders of our friends and neighbors, and deplore the depopulation of a vast ^{portion} of our young state. And our frontier would have continued to advance prosperously and securely, and the Indians would have been progressing in civilization with a rapidity and prosperity that would in a few short years have left no wild and savage ^{bands} within our state.

Truly Yours Joseph R. Brown

Copy
To Bishop Whipple
June 20/64

1874

This letter was
published in a
paper called
"Bishop Leabury
Mission" print-
ed by Bishop
Whipple at Tari-
sauct, Wimm.

Brown's Valley, Minn.
April 16, 1906

NE

At home Monday eve Dec 30th
1.67

My dear Cousin

After a long
rept.

period I will endeavor to, ^{rept.} your
kind answer, which was receiv-
ed in due season, and deserv-

ed a more prompt answer, But

the truth is we have been so

busy that I have hardly found

time answer all my correspond-

ents as soon as I should like

to. I am staying at home this

winter my health will not

permit me to either teach

or go to school in the winter

season. Susan has been living

with us ever since her mother's

death. She appears to be very

well satisfied. She has seen

hard times. She is attending

John and Virginia are both teaching this winter

school now, and seems very anxious
to try to improve the time. Sliding
Cousins Cicero & Longo were
here one Christmas day, as happy
day it was for them, Longo
makes his home at his Uncle
Stephen's. They are all
well contented. By the
way I suppose you are edu-
cating yourself for a teacher.
I would advise you to go on
it is a noble work to engage
in, one to be proud of. Yet still
it is a hard life to live.
Are teachers plenty in Iowa, they
are too numerous here. You
spoke about mine and Susan's
picture I would like to
send them to you much
but I will have no oppor-
tunity of getting them
taken this winter, as it
is too early to take to the

nearest artist. I would love
to have your eyes & your
understand that we looked
alike, that may be, but I hard-
ly expect that you are as
large as I and I weigh one
hundred and forty nine pounds
that is doing pretty well is it?
I forgot to tell you where Cicero
made his home he is living at
Peng Leoid in Jackson co.
he was at Uncle William's &
Uncle Levi's just before he
came down the river all
well. Mother sends her love
to all the family please
excuse poor writing for I
am in a hurry or I will be
too late to the office your true
friend and cousin

Femine Bartlett

Phase will soon and I will
try and write you a better letter ^{very} soon

Headquarters Department of Dakota,

St. Paul, Minn. Sept 17th 1877

My dear Guil -

I have made my
deposition for Douglass - stronger
longer & I believe better than the
one proposed by you & it will
lean in the next mail.

I told Gene Halleck that you
& I should take along our guns & dogs
for a shoot at Morris while the train
went on beyond & returned - He seemed
to think it would be a pleasant episode
in the general plan of amusement & I
sincerely hope you will not disappoint
me in the matter. Gilman, too

as I understand him, intends
to take day & you - At all
events I shall do so even if
I am alone with it -

Yours Most Truly
O. D. Murray

St Peter July 5th 1875

Am H. H. Sibley
Dear Sir.

You will doubtless
be surprised to hear from me - but
I am compelled to write you and
ask for aid of some kind - My
circumstances are as follows - Last
year the grasshoppers destroyed
every thing which I raised - and
now my whole family is sick
including my wife, and I am
not well myself so that I cannot
go out west trapping as I usually
do winter - I have sold everything
that I had that would bring a
dollar and I now am actually
suffering and do not know
what to do - If my family were
well I might get along - but as
they are I am compelled to stay
with them night & day - now if
you could help me a little in
some way it would do me a great
deal of good - Also I understand
that you have money to distribute to
the "Grasshopper sufferers" - if so I
surely am one of them. Please

writi me and let me know if
you cannot do something for
me -

Yours truly
Joseph Connell

28.

OFFICE OF

County Superintendent,
PAGE COUNTY,

Clarinda, Iowa, June 4th 1877

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that I have
been acquainted with Mr. P. J.
Holcombe for several years, and
that I have not known nor heard
any thing disreputable against him.

That he holds a high grade
certificate from this office and
that he has always been regard-
ed by us as a gentleman.

E. Miller
County Sept.



St. Paul July 19th 1878.

H. H. Sibley Esq.
St. Paul Minn.

Dear Sir

I have come to ask you for a favor, but before stating what I am after, it will perhaps be necessary to make a few remarks in regard to myself.

Some years ago, as you may probably remember, my Brother Maurice Murphy and I, lived on a farm near Mendota.

It happened at the time, that I went to see you about having a certain Bill carried through the Legislature, in regard to some School land in which I was interested.

You very kindly consented to try and do so, but as circumstances were against its passage into a Law, the whole plan had to

be subsequently abandoned. On the same occasion you very generously promised, favor! that if ever again I needed a favor from you, it would, if possible, be granted.

I am now on my way to Blounts^x (formerly Randall Station) Swift County to live on a piece of land which I calculate to make my home. My daughter (in Religious Sister Anatolia) is in the Convent at Shakopee, and as I would feel most anxious to visit her and a few friends occasionally, I thought I would come and ask you to procure me a Railroad pass between there and my future home. I could not, I know, for some years afford the money necessary to pay my fare on the cars when I wished to come down, and if you be kind enough to obtain for me this one request, I shall never cease to forget so great a favor. If the pass could be made out so as to allow Sister Anatolia to travel on it also, when coming up to make me a visit, it would

Most Respectfully
Mrs Ellen Langford

M'CORMICK
HARVESTING MACHINE
COMPANY,
OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.



FRANK CRAYCROFT,
GENERAL AGENT,

SEDALIA, MO.....188.....

In reply to yours of.....
R. I. Holcomb, "2"

and we want to unload and get rid of it. It may run on as it is for months and there be no change either in the directors or those engaged on the paper and still some unforeseen event might cause a change to-morrow, so I would like to keep track of you and if there is any change made, in either the management or editorial department, I will do my best to put you to the front.

Yours truly,

Frank Craycroft

By direction of the governor I have
the honor to state in response to the within requisition that there
are now one or more indictments pending against Frank James in
Jackson county Mo., where he is now confined in jail awaiting his
trial, and that there is an indictment for murder pending against him
in Daviess county Mo. He directs me to say that he will not surrender
him to the authorities of any other state while charges are pending
against him in Mo.. The within requisition is therefore respectfully
returned with the information that the governor of Mo., for the reasons
above given, declines to accede to the demand for his requisition.
Jefferson City, Mo

Feb 7th 1883.

F C Farr

Private secy

*Done
Jan 17-1883
L. F. Hubbard*

*2. F. Anderson
Jan 15 1893*

W. O. Burr

Private copy

Feb 15th 1893

Refers to No.

above given, declines to accept the demand for his extradition
 returned with the intention that the Governor of Mo. for the reasons
 against him in Mo. the extradition is therefore respectfully
 him to the authorities of any other state while charges are pending
 in Kansas against him. He directs me to say that he will not surrender
 him and that there is an indictment for murder pending against him
 in Kansas against him where he was arrested in 1891. In addition his
 are not one charge and cannot pending against Frank James in
 the honor to state in response to the within requisition that there
 By direction of the Governor I have

March 15, 1883



R. J. Hulcomb Esq.
Springfield
Green County,
Missouri.

Sanct Paul March 15th 1883

R. S. Holcomb Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your favor
of the 24th all came while I was in
the east.

Enclosed find the order re-
quested.

The files of orders for 1863 + 1864
were misplaced and lost while
campaigning on the plains
in 1865, and hence I am un-
able to give precise dates and
facts. My recollection is
that I assumed command
on Dec. 24th 1863. Hubbard
was adjutant of the adju-
tant who had acted under
Meade till Capt Wm
H. Hittidge came and was
assigned Capt Hubbard

who is still at Springfield can
give you a great deal of infor-
mation on all these points.

I took from Springfield to
measured Price. The 6th & 8th
Regiments of Cavalry, S. M.,
the 15th and 18th regiments
Cavalry, Volunteers (formerly
Emancipated Men and Militia in
active service) and the 2nd Ark.
Arkansas Cavalry. I left
behind to garrison the posts
a few special details from
the above regiments and
the whole militia of that
region which I call out
and placed in active duty
by authority from the War
and Department
Commander. General
Holland was the ranking
officer and Gov Phelps
commanded a Regiment

March 15, 1883

3.

of this militia as I remember.

It was a time of great excitement and anxiety and seemed to be the last time the great waves of the rebellion broke over the State.

I was not wounded as the people at Jefferson City. My official report of that campaign is full and precisely accurate.

With high regard
I remain truly yours
John B. Safford.

Morrisania New York City Aug. 6 1883

R. J. Holcombe Esq

Dear Sir

I suppose that by this time you have become aware that the statement in the Rebellion Record in regard to the losses which my command sustained is incorrect. In the copy of my report, which was made after the battle, I find the total loss stated as 292. In the official statement of the losses of all the troops engaged in the battle of Wilson's Creek, those of my command are given as 15 killed, 20 wounded and 231 missing, a discrepancy of 24 men, who were either killed ~~or~~ or wounded on the retreat, at the recrossing of the creek, or came back after my report was written. I shall

take the liberty of writing to you more
in particular in a few days and
remain

Very respectfully

Yours

F. Bailey

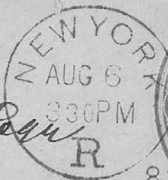
R. J. Holcombe Esq

Go F. S. Pratt,

Palmyra

~~Springfield~~

Misrauni





NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS CAN BE PLACED ON THIS SIDE.

R. J. Holcomb
Marion City
Liberty, Clay Co., Mo

St Louis

Jan'y 10/85.

The incident alluded
to in the account
of Major Rollins &
myself in 1860 is
not correctly stated
in the memorandum
sent me.

If you will send
it to Major R. &
get his version
then send his version
to me, I will en-
dorse it or correct
it - Maj. R. and I are
good friends and I
prefer he should take
the initiative of J. B. Henderson

A Happy New Year!



CHAS. M. WHITNEY, SURVEYOR

HERMAN KLEY, Chief Deputy, L. C. HAYNES, Cashier,
NELSON YOUNG, Chief of Marine Dept., JOHN McNEIL, Chief Inspector.

St. Louis, Jan 2nd 1884

Friend Comrade

Jon Obliquins Ctug of 30th Came to
home this morning.

In the Extracts from Shachans trial (offered to the
hands of Mr Heywood) is all I know of Mrs Humphreys
testimony before that Court. I don't know who made
the charges to Shachan as I was at that time in
Command of the Army of the Frontier at Fort Smith
Ark. I was called to St Louis as a witness, but knew
nothing of the Humphreys Charge, as the thing was
said to have happened on a day that I was in St Louis
(Monday) having left Palmers the Saturday before.

As to what Mrs Humphreys says about an order
to Shachan not to substitute another for Humphreys.
I don't think there was any order, what I did
say is not clear to me now. But this I will
say that I shall never willingly appear to dodge
any responsibility by putting it on a dead man.
The substitute as I remember it had violated some

The press nonsense of the Lib enclosed I
 never mind. got so used to it long ago that
 I should miss it if it stopped. Never knew
 Col Sney or his paper at Palmyra. Old Ben
 Davis was enough of that sort of Rot for my use.
 I have enclosed your letter to Miller to "show
 the sides of his intent" & hope that in a few days
 his matter may be at your disposal.

Yours in F&Y
 R. H. Holcomb Esq
 Palmyra Mo
 Shummeire



St. Louis Jan. 2, 1884.

*Cowdrey

twice. The name of the officer who made
the charge at Palmyra was ⁺Leut Cowdrey of
'Merrills horse'. He now lives at Brunswick &
is an insurance Agent & father of a family.
The Challenge of Porter is the Coinage of the Brain
of some enthusiastic Cuss. No truth in it.
The Volume of transactions in Missouri in 1842
was to have been out a year ago. I have never
seen it. If you have Porter's marches & fights
in the summer of 1842 - excepting for Lipscomb's
fiased at Cherry Grove you have more for I
staid with him and I never would ask a better
report than he would have made of my part of
the business. He was a born leader and altogether
the best partisan soldier I ever met. I believe
that he was a good man & know that he was a hero
even in a bad cause. I readily acquit him now
of the death of Allman. If his orders had been
carried out I would have been to give a painful duty.

SENATE CHAMBER
WASHINGTON

RECEIVED
Searfir. Jan'y. 13. 1885.

The report you refer
to was made on the 2nd of
July 1856, and was printed
in a large volume then pretty
freely distributed, but now
only to be found in public
libraries or with members of
Congress. No doubt Hon.
Woodruff Oliver has a copy.
I think you will find in
it much that will be of
interest to you in compiling
your history. Very truly yours.
R. J. Holcombe Esq. Wm Sherman

House of Representatives U. S.,

Washington, D. C., Jan'y 12, 1885.

R. L. Holcomb Esq
Liberty Mo

My dear Sir: I am in receipt of yours of the 9th. I regret that I cannot furnish you with the copy of the Rebellion record that you ask for for the reason that the 1st & 2nd vols of the work were furnished to the 46th Congress and were distributed by my predecessor the Hon. William Fletcher Sapp. I have hitherto tried to get copies of this volume but failed.

I would suggest however that you write to the "Supt of Folding Room H of R." he sometimes is able to get hold of a stray copy.

Thanks for your personal communication. When I can serve you I will be glad to do so I am always glad to hear from you
Yours truly
W. P. Stephens

House of Representatives U. S.



R L Holcomb Dog

Liberty
Mo.

St. Louis, February 8th 1885

R. I. Holcombe

Liberty, Mo.

Dear Sir: I have no papers relating to the capture of the Liberty Arsenal, or other military events in Missouri during the late civil war. I am quite sure that I did not issue any orders to Col. Routt, or to any one else, concerning the Arsenal. I cannot now recall any circumstance that would lead me to conclude that Gov. Jackson directed its seizure. I have an indistinct recollection, however, that Gen. M. Jeff. Thompson made some written report in regard to the seizure of the Arsenal which may possibly be found among the military records of Missouri which were captured at Montgomery, Ala. by the U. S. troops, and are now, I understand, with the Confederate archives in Washington City. I regret that I cannot give you the information you desire - Your letter would have been sooner answered, had I not been so much engaged in changing my residence from Jefferson City to this City and in arranging to begin the practice here.

Very Respectfully
Warwick Hough

If not called for in Ten Days, return to

WARWICK HOUGH,

Jefferson City, Mo.

417. Olive St. St. Louis.



R. J. Holcombe, Esq.

Liberty-

Clay County-
Mo.



EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
THE CENTURY MAGAZINE
UNION SQUARE NEW YORK

March 12/85.

Mr R. I. Holcombe

Liberty, Mo.

Dear Sir,

We thank
you for your valued
and obliging suggestion
of the second instant,
regarding a paper on
the Campaign in Mis-
souri in 1861.

We have already
some plans on foot

concerning this campaign, and hope to be able to cover the ground satisfactorily.

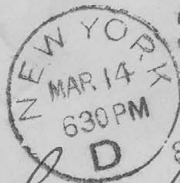
We are, indeed,

Very respectfully yours,

Ed. C. M.
Rm.



EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
THE CENTURY MAGAZINE
UNION SQUARE NEW YORK



Mr R. I. Holcombe,
Liberty,
Mo.

At Home

March 2^d / 1885-

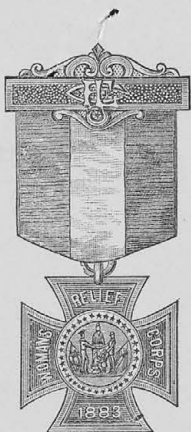
R. J. Holcombe

Dear Sir

The two Companies in
the Vetterly war were
commanded by Col. Allen.
my recollection as to who
commanded the Companies.
I fail to recollect whether
the Blues were out or not

Yours

D. P. Atchison



NATIONAL SECRETARY,
EMMA D. SIBLEY,
NATIONAL SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
SARAH E. FULLER,
NATIONAL JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
LIZZIE ANDERSON,
TREASURER,
LIZBETH A. TURNER,

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SARAH C. NICHOLS,
CONDUCTOR,
MAGGIE J. SIAS,
GUARD,
JENNIE E. G. MAISH.

HEADQUARTERS

WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS,

—AUXILIARY TO THE—
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Toledo, O. April 11th 1885

R. I. Holcomb, Monroe City, Mo.
My dear Comrade

I take up a letter of yours dated March 31st 1884 in absolute terror. I think that a whole year has slipped away since it was written! It is scarcely possible. And yet to a "poor miserable creature" who has to work unceasingly fifteen out of the twenty four hours a year ought to seem a good long time. And now let me thank you — you at this late day — for "Poor Mike Mahon". It is one of the best things that has appeared in the ^{Lilburn} ~~Journal~~ for a long time. And before I go further let me say that Joe Lilburn has never done anything for his namesake — the Stedman's son.

The Stedman family did not secure a large sum through the Stedman Relief fund but enough to satisfy their moderate wants. The little

grandchildren - Jennie and Emma -
are in the Orphan's Home (Soldiers
and Sailors) at Xenia, O. The pension
of \$50 per month, owing to some red
tape in the Pension Office, was
stopped but recently began to draw.

And now to the main point -
which is that the book, whose pub-
lication you saw among those who
kindly advised will soon be out
from the press of Jansen, M^cClurg
& Co Chicago, to be entitled "Camp
Fire Memorial Day and Other Verses".
It will be made up of recitations,
chiff, with some short poems -
and will I think be issued in
two styles, \$1. and \$1.50 respectively.
I am hoping it will be in demand
by Post and People for reunions,
camp fire, etc and if you
find an opportunity for saying
a good word for it here and
then will you kindly do so?

With sincere regards

Yours in W. R. C.

Elizabeth Sherman

National President

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U. S.,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

July 17, 1885

Mr R. J. Holcombe,
Kingston Mo.
Nebraska.

Your favor of
July 1st is recd.
My father always
spelled his name
Buckinridge instead
of Buckenridge.
The error is quite com-
mon. His children
continue the spelling
he preferred.

Yours Truly,
C. R. Buckinridge.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS,

Dec 24th

188

R

Dear Sir

Your letter of 3rd inst
Came duly. About the 13th of June
1861, a federal force of infantry &
Cavalry were encamped at Kansas
City, Commanded by Capt M. E. Prince
1st U.S. Infantry. This force have
a few days previous made an
expedition to Liberty Mo surprising
and capturing a body of men
claiming to belong to Price's
Army. (or rather were going
to join Price) This party was
paroled, and promised to return
to their homes. They violated
their paroles, and on the date

before to by the 15th of June
Prine was informed they were
in camp at Rock Creek near
Independence, Prine was
very cautious about bringing on fighting,
and ordered Major in command
of Troop "E" 1st Cavalry to carry
a flag of truce to the command
of the force at Rock Creek, to
demand an answer, "whether they
were there as enemies of the United
States". Sent Newbold 3rd Cavalry
accompanied me, When about
half way from Kansas City
to Independence, we met Mr
Reed known as Captain Reed,
(who was then, or had lately been
a member of Congress) on his
way to Kansas City. I had a
talk with him, and he said
there ^{were} ^{men} in camp at

Rock Creek, that Capt Ed Hollway
8th U.S. Infantry, ^{U.S. Army} was in command,
that they were having a picnic,
(I think he said barbecue) and
they had been drinking, and
begged me not to go down as they
would fire on me. I went
on, as my orders required me to
do, but carrying a white flag,
Arriving within half a mile of
Rock Creek, I saw a picket in
the road, I halted the troop
of Cavalry (about forty men)
and sent Lt. Newbold forward
with a message that I wished
to see the commanding officer,
After some delay Capt Hollway
whose resignation from the regular
Army had not at that date been
accepted, came out on the place
with five or six gentlemen

mountain, he said to Lt Newbold
that he desired to see myself.
Newbold rode back perhaps 100 yds,
and informed me of the desire of
Capt Holloway. I turned over
the command of the troops to him
and rode to Capt Holloway's
party. We had some friendly
greeting, and then I stated my
demand. Capt H. seemed to be
-told about a proper answer,
then I called his attention to
the fact that his troops were
advancing on us. Infantry in line
of battle were marching forward
on both sides of the cave, and road,
while in the road and pointing toward us
a company of men were moving a piece
of artillery by hand to the front.
Capt. H. turned his horse to look
at this proceeding (It is said he raised
his hand, I cannot say) but at this
very instant the whole line let drive
a volley at us. Holloway and
another of his party fell. I turned my

Dec. 24, 1885. J

Have rode at a gallop to my troop,
ordered four right about, and
galloped until we passed out of
range. Holloway was mortally
wounded, and died that night,
exonerating me from blame,
and only blaming the foolish
conduct of his command, which
was no doubt the result of
want of any discipline, and possibly whiskey,
but this latter is only hearsay, my
men fired no shot. I have two
men wounded, one seriously,
all the time the flag of truce
was conspicuously flying,
I have no idea of fighting them
or of murdering men with my
party. Your & Confederates who
insists that there was an engagement,
is greatly mistaken, and probably
wants to impress the world that

He amounted to something more,
I am very glad to furnish you
with this human sketch,
Holloway never thought of his mortal
wound & captivity as being inflicted
by his own men. Yours truly
D. H. Stacey
R. F. Holcombe,

Committee on Judiciary,

House of Representatives,

Washington, D. C., Feb 24, 1886.

R L Holcomb Esq
Chillicothe Mo

Dear Sir: The eulogies in V P Hendricks
Eulogues I am not yet got into print, but
in 30 days hence, so that I cannot forget
that you want it. I may forget. I will
send you all of that kind of literature that I
have.

I am very much pleased with my
position as a member of the Judiciary
Com. It is in my judgment the the most
desirable of the Commission.

I will be glad to send you whatever I
can do so.

Yours faithfully

W P Hendricks

The
Hbitt:

C. C. WILLARD, PROP.

Washington, D. C., March 3 1886

R. I. Holcombe Esq,

Chillicothe Ohio [Mo.]

My dear Sir,

I am just in receipt
of your favor of the 26th Feb. and
I regret that I am far away
from the few records of the war
which may yet remain among
my papers - nor am I certain

The 2 Ebbitt:

Washington, D. C.,

that I have retained any thing per-
taining to my march from
Hudson city to Lexington - How-
ever the salient points of that Cam-
paign are vividly in my mind -
I had just reached Hudson, on the
Hannibal & S. Jo. R. Road, when
I rec^d. orders from Genl. Fremont
to march to the relief of Mulligan

3
The
Hbitt:

C. C. WILLARD, PROP.

Washington, D. C.,

with my "whole force". Whilst I was
out at Mexico Mo, my force had
been diminished by six Companies
of the 39th Ohio, and all my Artil-
lery, which I had sent forward to
report to Genl. Pope - so that my
"whole force" for the relief of Col.
Mulligan, consisted of the 27th
Ohio, and four Companies of the

The 4
Ebbitt:

C. C. WILLARD, PROP.

Washington, D. C.,

39th Ohio - all Infantry, and all
new men who had never heard a
hostile gun. I disembarked at
Leticia, a small place on the R. Road,
just north of Lexington, and about
day light ~~we~~ on the morning, I then
of the 18th Sept. 1861, and marched
at once toward Lexington. Where
we occupied one or two days in this

5
The
Hbitt:

C. C. WILLARD, PROP.

Washington, D. C.,

March I am not quite certain, but
he marched by night and day - &
reached the river-bottoms opposite
Lexington just at day light on, I
think, the morning of the 20th.
During the march of that night
Supt. Col. Gilbert of the 39th Ohio
Came forward to me and re-
ported that the wagons could not

The
Abbitt:

C. C. WILLARD, PROP.

Washington, D. C.,

Keep up - that we were marching
too rapidly - I directed him therefore
to unload them in part and put
the contents in a ~~the~~ the yard of a
baron house close by, and make
up the owner & tell him to take
care of the property for us until
we should call for it on pain of
having his place laid waste.

The
Hibbitt:

Washington, D. C.,

On reaching the river-bottom, the
firing on the other side the river
which had been kept up at intervals
all night - had ceased & I began
to apprehend that the place might
have surrendered or been captured.
Whilst issuing ammunition to the
troops, I learned from a colored
man, that my messenger (to Mulligan)

The
Hibbitt:

Washington, D. C.,

had been Captured & that the Enemy
had seized upon the Steamers and
had crossed three thousand men
and a battery, under Gen. Davis,
who were then awaiting me at
a little bridge about a mile distant.
Having ascertained the truth of this
statement, by inquiring of another
reputed man, I resolved not to be

The 9

C. C. WILLARD, PROP.

Ebbitt:

Washington, D. C.,

ture into the wood with my small
& undisciplined force in all about 1100
men. I then marched around to a small
town named Richmond - where I re-
mained some two hours endeavoring
to learn something of the enemy -
failing in this, I continued around
to the river at Camden - where we
encamped - and where from a high

The 10

C. C. WILLARD, PROP.

Hbitt:

Washington, D. C.,

ground, I could look over, with my
glass, into Lexington. When I became
thoroughly satisfied that all was quiet
there, I realized that my little force
was in a precarious situation - and
during the night, I fell back toward
Liberty - hoping to fall in with a
Command under Col. Smith, who,
I had been informed, I would find on

The
Hbitt:

Washington, D. C.,

that was. The sequel, however, showed
that Col. Smith had had a fight and
had been driven back - and indeed
on reaching Liberty I found his
wounded & had them conveyed to
Kansas City. This ended the episode
of the march to Lexington. If at
any time, I can furnish you with
any specific information regarding

The 12

C. C. WILLARD, PROP.

Ebbitt:

Washington, D. C.,

that March, I will be glad to do so
if you will address me at Fort
Meade Dakota, for which point
I will leave this city, about the
10th or 11th inst.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Yours S. D.

A. D. Sturges

B. Maj. Genl. U. S. A.

OFFICE OF THE

DEMOCRAT AND FARMER.

A News, Agricultural and Stock Journal,

Keosauqua, Iowa, March 6, 1886.

Frank Gracyoft, Esq.,
Sedalia, Mo.

Dear Sir: I have known Mr. R. L. Halcombe many years. Nearly seventeen years ago, when we were both very young men, he and myself were in partnership in the publication of the Van Buren Democrat, and he has been engaged in editorial and literary work ever since. Mr. Halcombe is a sterling and aggressive democrat, possesses a large fund of information, is an excellent writer, and, what, an honorable and agreeable gentleman.

Very truly,
Geo. F. Smith.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Montgomery City, Mo.,

March 15 1886

To whom it May Concern—

I understand that the bearer of this Mr. R. J. Holcombe is contemplating again entering the newspaper business. He is a vigorous writer, a careful collector of facts, a good Democrat, and from a personal acquaintance I can recommend him as a truthful gentleman & worthy of confidence, and who will be an honor to the profession in which we shall gladly welcome him again. I am confident he would make not only an able editor but an excellent manager, and the sooner he is again in the harness, the better for the community in which his lot may be cast.

Respy,

Jno. W. Jacks,
 Secy Mo. Press Association.

Clarinda Postoffice.

N. C. RIDENOUR, Postmaster.

Clarinda, Iowa, March 7 1886

Frank Gray Croft
Medalia
Mo.

Sir: This will introduce
to you my worthy friend R. J. Holcomb
who is a newspaper man of experience and
competent to take editorial charge
of any newspaper. I speak from
what I know, as he worked for
me for many years.

Truly Yours
N. C. Ridenour

(N. C. Ridenour, Ed & Pub. "Democrat," Clarinda,
Iowa. I conducted his paper for him three years. He
was proprietor.)

United States Post Office,

Ottumwa Iowa

March 8, 1886

To Whom It Concerns,

I have been personally acquainted with Mr. R. I. Halcombe for 18 years; he has been a democrat all his life, and is a very forcible as well as graceful writer. I believe him eminently qualified for a leading position on any democratic journal.

Respectfully

S. B. Evans

~~Edr. Democrat~~

S. B. Evans, Edr. Democrat, and Postmaster, Ottumwa, Iowa.

THE LEADER,

Daily and Weekly.

D. C. KENNEDY, PROP.

Springfield, Mo., *Mar 8* 1886
To The World -

I take pleasure
in commending Mr.
R. F. Holcombe to your
confidence as a gentle-
man, a scholar and
a writer. In various
walks of literature
he has demonstrated
his ability and I be-
lieve him worthy of
your confidence and
support -

D. Kennedy -

LAW OFFICE OF THOMAS C. REYNOLDS,

ROOM 28, LUCAS BUILDING, 506 OLIVE STREET,

ST. LOUIS, MO. 29th July 1886

R. I. Holcombe Esqr

Nevada Mo.

Dear Sir:

On my return to St Louis from a visit to the East, during which my mail could not be forwarded to me, I received your postal of 27th inst + letter of 18th inst.

I should be very happy to give you information on the points about which you inquire, but I really have none. I have read very little about the Spanish expeditions into Missouri. Dr Snyder has mistaken some other person for me. The only occasion on which I have published, or even written, anything about the early Spanish exploits in the Mississippi Valley, was in a controversy into which I was very unexpectedly drawn, some years ago, in the Mo. Republican, about Marquette + De Soto, Col. Switzler's references to them in his History of

Missouri, having been attacked in that journal.
But they had no reference to any events in
our State, except Marquette's exploration of
the Mississippi River. Perhaps Dr. Snyder,
on refreshing his memory, will find that
the opinion he attributes to me, was ex-
pressed by some other participant in that
discussion about De Soto.

Yours respectfully
Thos. C. Reynolds.

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to

ST LO.
JUL 29
2 PM



R. J. Holcombe Esqr

Nevada,

Vernon County
Missouri.



LAW OFFICE OF THOMAS C. REYNOLDS,

ROOM 28, LUCAS BUILDING, 506 OLIVE STREET,

ST. LOUIS, MO. 14th August 1886.

R. I. Holcombe Esqr.

Nevada Mo.

Dear Sir:

It would give me great pleasure to answer the inquiries in your letter of 9th inst, could I do so with any accuracy. But it is out of my power, especially as nearly 24 years have passed since the Confederate campaign in your county. I accompanied Gen. Price's army, but took very little notice of special localities, or particular actions: the few memoranda I made have been mislaid. The Confederate army was defeated, and Generals Marmaduke & Cabell were captured, at what we then called the battle of the Marais des Cygnes, but which now has some other name: the next ^{& night} day, we made a forced march of 62 miles. (as then stated,) to Carthage & there rested a short time, but soon resumed our retreat.

Your best sources of information about localities, losses &c. would be the official reports of the Federal and Confederate generals. I have seen none but that of Gen. Price, published in the Missouri Republican some years ago: I do not know where any other reports, if published, can be procured. Perhaps your member of Congress can tell you where to apply for them at Washington.

Yours respectfully
Thos. C. Reynolds.

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to

Thos. C. Reynolds, 576 Olive, St. Louis, Mo.



R. J. Holcombe Esqr
Nevada,
Missouri.



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Leavenworth, Kansas, Aug. 28th 1886

My dear Sir.

I have been away a part of the time and on the whole have been so busy as to find no time to give your letter a very satisfactory answer. I ought to say that my time is so much occupied at present in corresponding, and preparing for the campaign that I cannot write you out a history of the Dry Wood fight. I am answering about 20 letters each day and you know what it means. I have taken the trouble to examine all my old papers hoping to find something as I am sure I wrote a brief history of Dry Wood, and it was published in the "Conservative" of Leavenworth when Judge Theo. C. Sears was editing that paper. I think in 1866. Sears was afterwards Attorney for the Mo. & T. & F. road and was stationed at Sedalia. Where he is now I cannot say. He may have copies of the Conservative. Col. D. R. Anthony of this place will have copies on files as he owns the whole thing. I would advise you to write to him, and if he has got the files with the history I speak of in the papers: it will pay you to come and get what you want. I leave on the 1st Sep. for the Campaign. I wish it were in

my power to assist you, but it is not. The
battle of Dry Wood ~~is~~ was of more importance to
Kansas than has generally been considered, and
I wish the correct history was given. I remember
one thing the battle lasted one hour and a half
and we had 448 Cavalry & 1 Mountain howitzer
12th. with 9 men under my command, against
Pier's whole Army on the open prairie.
Be sure and write to Anthony.

Very Truly

Thomas M. Mooney

Mr. R. J. Holcombe
Cath. Hill Camp,
Okeechobee
Mo

When you write Anthony, ~~read~~ remember it was while
Deers was editing the paper, as I may be mistaken in the
year. There was quite a history of the Kansas troops Campaign.

Reaches in Five Days to

EDWARD CARROLL,

Chairman Democratic State Central Committee,

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.



Mr. R. A. Holcombe
Nat. Historical Company
Verada
Ma.



Minnesota—
Very truly Yours
A. P. Hasbrouck

West Park N.Y.

Nov 20, 1886

Dear Sir:

All that you write
me about - the Scud-
Tanager is very interesting.
We have them here, but -
they are quite rare. I have
never before heard of their
being caged. Do you
really mean the Tanager,
or the Summer Red Bird.
The Tanager you know, has
black wings & tail. In

Kentucky last-summer I
saw plenty of Red Birds, but
only few Tanagers. They are both
fine songsters. With us the
Tanager leave for the south
early in the fall. The
Summer Red Bird we
do not have. The Cardinals
red bird, you have also,
& they too probably stay
all winter. They do well
in captivity. But I cannot
understand why the Tanager
should winter so far north.

Very Respectfully
John Burroughs



EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
THE CENTURY MAGAZINE
UNION SQUARE NEW YORK

December 14, 1886.

R. I. Holcombe, Esq
Nevada, Mo.

Dear Sir: Many thanks for your letter concerning Black Hawk, which we have forwarded to the authors. It will doubtless be of assistance in revising the MS. for the book publication of the Life of Lincoln. Your statements are made, however, without any reference to authorities. We should like to lay before the authors something more definite and authoritative.

Yours sincerely,

Ed. C. M.



EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
THE CENTURY MAGAZINE
UNION SQUARE NEW YORK



R. L. Holcombe, Esq
Nevada
Mo.