UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

NAVAJO Agency,

Fort Defiance, A.T.

May 22, 1893.

Mr. Herbert Welsh,

Secretary Indian Rights Association,

1305 Arch St.

Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Sir:--

Please pardon apparent neglect in replying to your valued favor of April 14th. I was called away to the northern part of the Reservation where I remained four weeks, and have just returned.

You probably realize fully how much there is to be done for these Indians and how impossible it seems to secure the necessary means to accomplish the desired end. I am devoting all my time to the work, having left my family in Santa Fe so that I would be unhampered as far as possible.

In my opinion the great need of these people now is for ditches, (will be constructed by the Government), wire for fences, plows, wagons and alfalfa and potatoe seed. A cross breed of sheep is also very much needed as continued inbreeding has greatly reduced the yield of wool.

There is one thing in which you may be able to render me some assistance. There is a very strong prejudice among these people, and among some of them, against education and schools. I would like very

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much to have a large party(a car load) of the wildest of them visit a few large boarding and day schools in the east, and to have an opportunity to see something of the work of whites. There are many Indians on the northern part of the Reservation who have no idea of civilization at all. I believe that if a large party of those people could be shown something of what whites are doing and the immensity of the numbers of whites there would be a decided reaction in favor of sending children to school and an effective lesson taught as to the superiority of the whites, which would probably save much trouble that is sure to come soon unless there is a decided change in the present condition of affairs on and about this Reservation.

Ofcourse the objection to this trip would be the expense but the Association might possibly manage to arrange it so that there would be little or no expense incurred by the Government, that would come out of appropriations for the Indian service.

I hope to have a visit from Bishop Kendrick very soon and look forward to it with much pleasure.

I shall always be very glad to hear from you or to welcome you to the Reservation.

Very respectfully and truly yours,

E. H. Plummer
1st Lieut. 10th Infantry,
Acting Agent.

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