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FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SECOND CONGRESS,

BEGUN AND HELD

AT THE CITY OF WASHINGTON,

DECEMBER 7, 1831;

AND IN THE FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN SEVEN VOLUMES.

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VOLUME V.

CONTAINING DOCUMENTS FROM No. 186 to No. 234, inclusive.

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WASHINGTON;

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1832.

A.

Letter from the Reverend Mr. Kingsbury to the Honorable William H. Crawford, Secretary of War, dated Washington, May 4, 1816.

SIR: Perhaps I have already intruded too much upon your time. The probability that I shall not see you before the sum appropriated to the instruction of the Indians is specified, is my apology for troubling you with this communication.

I have no doubt of the disposition of the Secretary of War, or of the President, to favor my object, so far as their acquaintance with it will enable them to confide in the wisdom of the design, and in the skill and fidelity with which it will be executed. I only regret that I have not been able to state more fully the motives which induced the very respectable society, which I have the honor to serve, to direct their attention to the instruction of the Indians, and which have influenced my own mind to engage in the service. I designed to have made the statement when I called on the President, but no convenient opportunity offered.

The settlement of this country by our forefathers, has, in various ways, proved disastrous to the natives, notwithstanding the laudable exertions, both by the Government and individuals, to counteract such results. Very different have been the consequences to ourselves.

Considering, therefore, the relation in which we stand to these people, it has appeared no less an act of justice than a dictate of humanity, and a duty enjoined by the Gospel, to extend to them, so far as is practicable, the distinguishing advantages which we enjoy. This duty is incumbent on individuals and on societies, as well as on the Government. And it was supposed that the exertions which Government are making to accomplish this object, could not be better aided than by instructing the rising generation. It is no less the dictate of sound reason, than the result of past experience, that exertions of this kind are the most effectual means to secure the confidence of the Indians, and to give security to our frontier settlements.

These are some of the motives which have led to the present undertaking, and to an application to Government. It was supposed that, when the views of the Board of Foreign Missions should be understood, that the object would be approved, and so far patronized by the Executive, as the existing provisions of Congress, and the present state of the undertaking, would authorize. I do not ask for any appropriation for myself, or for any persons who may be employed in the schools, but merely for the erection of suitable buildings, and for providing those implements of husbandry and of the mechanical arts, which may render the establishment respectable and useful. Nor is it wished that any money should be appropriated otherwise than through the Government agent residing in the tribe.

With these brief and hasty remarks, I cheerfully submit the subject to your decision.

With sentiments of sincere respect and esteem,

Your obedient, and

Very humble servant,

CYRUS KINGSBURY.