

Walter Lourie Esq, Grand Traverse May 1<sup>st</sup> 1849  
dear Sir,

Miss Morrison has just closed her school and is waiting an opportunity of returning to her friends. She has taught eight months. She has on her list twenty eight names, few of which are names of white children. The attendance has been pretty regular. The largest number of Indian children present at one time was twenty two, the average on ordinary days about 12. On sewing days which were Tuesday & Friday after noons the attendance was larger. On those days some of the women attended who are not reported as scholars. Their ages were from 5 to 20 years of age. They have been attending to reading writing & Spelling, to knitting sewing & making. Five read & write, seven spell in 2 & three syllables, three <sup>are</sup> learning their letters, the others are beginning to spell in easy lessons.

Twenty one have attended to knitting. Nine have finished or in part finished a pair of stockings for themselves, and three have knit two pairs each. One of the scholars has pieced and quilted a quilt. Four other quilts have been put in the frames and quilted for and with the aid of women who were not regular attendants on the school. Five of the scholars have pieced quilts and have

had them about ready to quilt some time but they have no batting and none could be got. Six others have blocks ready to put together. Some others have made a beginning. The sewing has all been done over hand. There has been but a limited supply of materials for sewing days. Three have attended to marking one of which has completed a small sampler. This embraces the principle objects to which they have attended and will show what they have accomplished. Those who know the practical difficulties of instructing children under the circumstances, in which the Indians children are found; left to do very much as they please, to attend school or not as they may choose, will know that progress will be slow. The improvement of those who have attended with any good degree of regularity has been gratifying. The behavior has been uniformly good. Isabella says she has not had more or but little more trouble to keep the school in order than she has had in white schools of the same number of children. The white inhabitants here regret very much the school has closed. From the experiment which has been made, and it has only been an experiment, I feel a stronger conviction that a good female teacher whose heart was in the work is very desirable and would be of great use to the people. The male school has just opened after 6 weeks vacation the people having been away to their sugar plantations.

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The school is very small and will probably have to be suspended again, as they all expect to leave tomorrow or next day for the Pigeon nesting to kill young pigeons. They will be away 10 days or 2 weeks. The attendance during the winter has been pretty good. Three of <sup>the</sup> boys have died this winter, and one female scholar. Three of them from diseases of the brain. I regret to say, but feel it to be my duty to inform you, that the white inhabitants here are complaining very much of the way in which W. Porter conducts the boys school. My own impression is there is some just ground of complaint. He has failed very much to secure the respect and good order of the scholars. It is the general impression here the rude habits of insubordination <sup>in</sup> which the boys are suffered to indulge is doing them more injury than what they learn will do them good. He does not seem to have the faculty of managing children. I have consulted with some of the most judicious members of the church who thought it was my duty to say so much to you on this subject. I have just read it to Mr. Porter and he thinks the statement correct. I feel grieved and some times disheartened, and the question is some times in my mind whether I had not better resign my place to wiser and better hands. May the Lord direct.

We are all well. Our best wishes to yourself & Mrs. Louie  
Yours with great respect  
J. B. B. B.