

## **Robert Simerwell to Mrs. Mary T. Lyman**

In this letter to Mrs. Mary Lyman, Robert Simerwell responds to Lyman's query into the needs of the Carey Mission, Michigan Territory, by explaining that the possible removal of the Native Indians being educated there will likely hinder future efforts. In addition, Simerwell asserts that the growing presence of white settlers has hampered the efforts of the missionaries because it has helped open a "wide spread door to vice and immorality."

Creator: Simerwell, Robert, 1786-1868

Date: May 25, 1830

Callnumber: Robert Simerwell Coll. #500, Box 1 Correspondence and reports, 1829 May-June

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 219187

Item Identifier: 219187

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Simanuel, R.

Carey, May 25. 1830.

Very Dear Madam,  
~~Dear Sir~~

Very Dear Madam,  
~~Dear Madam~~  
According to <sup>your</sup> request of our worthy sister Mrs M. F.  
the Editor of the Baptist Register in Utica, but owing to  
~~my own I direct to you the following lines. From her, we have~~  
~~their unworthiness, I direct them to your self; they are therefore at your disposal.~~  
received that very valuable box of clothing, in good season and in good  
order, prepared by the Euclid (Cuyahoga Co.) Female Missionary  
Society, for which we return sincere thanks.

At present, we have nothing of a very interesting character to communicate. Our family is ~~at present~~ <sup>no, comparatively</sup> favoured with a good degree of health, and our school, which is <sup>small</sup>, is in a good state of improvement. Some of the children have recited, in our sabbath school, all the Gospel by John and are going over it a second time. Others have recited eight, ten, and fifteen chapters of the same book. I am sorry I can not inform you of some of them receiving the truth in the love of it, for this would be churing to you, to hear, as it would be for us to relate. The present situation of the Indians in this place, speaks but little favourable to their reform. Owing to their unsettled state, and the wide spread door to vice and <sup>m</sup>ingrality, which is continually opening wider before them, our ~~hope is in~~ usefulness is much retarded; but we hope ere long, ~~to see the mission place~~ through the Interposition of a kind providence, to see the mission placed where this impetuous current will not be allowed to beat against it. To this end, we look for a favourable result to the bill now pending before congress.

If the Indians are removed west of the Mississippi, we have some reason to hope their condition can be bettered; but without this, we have no reason to expect that any considerable change,



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for the better, can take place. If we are allowed to judge from the past, we must admit that what has been, may continue to be, under the same causes; but if the ~~causes~~ <sup>from this stage of their activity,</sup> are removed, by the removal of the Indians, ~~from the stage of their action,~~ we have some good reason to hope the effects will be removed also.

We rejoice at the good feeling, exercised by so many of the good people of our United States, toward the suffering tribes of the west, and hope that charity will ever continue to excite to action. ~~It is~~ <sup>is</sup> question ~~with me~~ if a Christian could look on the present state of these Indians, behold their misery, and look into their relation with the whites, without deploring their state. ~~and~~ I feel assured he would glory in an opportunity, to elevate their character and soothe their present sufferings.

We view no injustice in the removal of the Indians, so long as they are not compelled to go; neither do we think it unjust to encourage them to accept the offer proposed, no more so than ~~it would be~~ <sup>we would</sup> to advise that drunkard to take up his residence where the sale of liquor is prohibited. — ~~The present to the expected treaty~~ in Indiana, will dispossess between four and five thousand of a home. If they can have a friendly spot to retire to, under assurance of a ~~guarantee~~ <sup>guaranteed</sup> title, and under the auspices of our government, surely their state would be better than to let them wander abroad in an unfriendly world.

I am with much respect,

Your humble servt.

Mrs. M. T. Lyman

Robt. Simerwell

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*I. Mr. M. T. Lyman  
May 25. 1880  
Entered*