

and his good wife in their grand work instead of permitting anyone to try to pull them down. If I had the opportunity of seeing commissioner Morgan and talking to him I would take special delight in informing him fully as to my high opinion of Major McLaughlin as an Indian agent and a gentleman. No greater wrong can be done to the Indians Service to the progress of the Indians than to impair in any way the influence of such an agent as Major McLaughlin is well known to be it is nothing less than an outrage. I will say frankly that in my opinion no flimsy charges would be entertained against Major McLaughlin were it not for the fact that he is a Catholic and in harmonious relations with army officers. These are, I believe regarded as suspicious circumstances in the mind of such a man as Morgan. I would write a letter to the Commissioner Indian affairs in behalf of Major McLaughlin but I fear that anything from me would be regarded as presumptuous and might increase the prejudice. My inclination is to write to the department but my Judgment restrains me lest my commendations might do harm. Do you know that at almost every Indian agency there are some persons who make private and confidential accusations against good officials? And it seems that the Indian Bureau rather encourages such contemptible proceedings. I believe the accusations against Major McLaughlin had their origin in this way. I saw Doctor Dorchester at Fort Bennett. I think I told him my opinion of Major McLaughlin. If he visited Standing Rock he saw for himself the splendid state of agency affairs there. I hope Doctor Dorchester will do Major McLaughlin Justice. You are at liberty to read this to Major McLaughlin and can make any use of it or any part of it which either of you may deem proper. I shall probably not be in Washington for some time. Please remember me to all the officers whom I may know. With best regards to Mrs. Drum yourself and Son.

Most truly Yours,

J. M. Lee.

P. S. Remember me most kindly to Major McLaughlin. I regret very much that I did not meet Mrs. McLaughlin while there.

J. M. Lee.