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Commissioner's Open Letter.

The following letter from the Honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs was received during the week and is published in its entirety:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
WASHINGTON.

April 4, 1908.

The Editor of THE ARROW,

Care U. S. I. I. S., Carlisle, Pa.

DEAR SIR:—I send this letter to you directly, without the usual formality of passing it through the Superintendent, because it deals partly with the Superintendent's personality, and his modesty might, and probably would, prevent its ever seeing light. I feel that by addressing it to you I can be sure of making it public.

If I had cared to go further into the subject, while I was speaking the other day at Carlisle, I should have said that the presence of a man like Mr. Friedman on the stage at that moment, performing the functions of Superintendent, was a living refutation of any lies which may have been told about my treatment of Carlisle School. I have, as I said, opposed for some years the extension of

the system of non-reservation schools, and no new one has been established during my administration. Several of those which were already established had seen their best days and were running down the hill. My purpose in proposing to Congress the elimination of those, and the gradual shrinkage of the system as fast as one and another school could be spared, was on the same basis as the effort I have been steadily making to diminish the scope and importance of the Indian Office itself; and from the time that I became Commissioner I have worked steadily to that end certainly. I leave it for any honest champion of Carlisle to say whether, when the superintendency of the school fell vacant and I placed therein the very best expert I could find in the Service in the domain of the industrial arts, I did not do all that the strongest friend of the institution could possibly ask. Mr. Friedman's position in the Service has long been recognized with such cordiality among his fellow workers that my private mail has contained a mass of congratulations and thanks for the step I have taken. My purpose was to give the industrial end of the school the best impetus that I could. As long as Carlisle continues to