

DEERING
COPY
W.S.

Deering - Jan. 7 - 1913

Mr. H. C. Shields.

Esteemed Friend,

We were truly glad to get your letter written at Candia - Thank you! You are looking forward with pleasure to your stop at Deering. If providence so orders we shall be glad to have your stop over Sabbath with us.

There are some things I would like to speak to you about. I have had it on my mind for months the thought of two Eskimo boys, along in better part of their teens, going outside and spend 3 or 4 years in a training school, preparing themselves for teaching and missionary work among their own people. There are two splendid, capable young boys here that I should be glad to take home with me & assist in any way I could, but I could not meet their transportation & some other heavier expenses that

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Their being in school would involve.

Do you know of any fund that could be used for a thing like that?

The Mission must have another reindeer apprentices soon, and these two boys are the only available ones here that would seem to be suitable, but I regret to see them go into that work when I know so well their capabilities & the need of the above mentioned plan. I don't wish to speak to either of them about apprentices if there is any probability of this other. I wish I could see you & you could see them & we could talk it all over.

There is reindeer ownership connected with every Eskimo family in Deering. If you would so advise I will try & work up the enterpriser & get the Eskimos to make up a purse and send those boys out with the probabilities the Govt would, in a few years send them back as teachers. What have you to say?

I should not be willing to have one boy go. It would be too lonely for him. I think I know a boy who must pretty well there are times when they are so hungry to open their heart to some one as a girl is but it is harder for them to do it. I don't think an Eskimo boy could ever tell out his heart in English - he must have some one who can understand Eskimo language or they can never understand his Eskimo heart. But if two conjugal boys could go together with some mother friend, would be, to kind of shelter them I believe the blessing of the Lord would attend them & they might return and be a great blessing to their people. Now you may think I have gotten into an airplane with a fat idea. Say what you think.

I am so sorry for brother & sister White in their situation here at Kestobur.
 Your friend Fred R. [initials]

P.B. I spoke to Oke about going with you on your way from here. He seemed pleased & is, I think, planning to do so. His head is not ^{far} away from here; go one day & return the next, or in case of pressing need the round trip can be made in one day, but it is not in the direction of any other head. Going from & returning via Decaying.

Wheeler Douglas & wife had a dear little boy born to them in the early Autumn, whom they named Walter in your honor, but it only remained to give light & joy in their hearts, and somewhat when it flitted away to be forever with Jesus. A few weeks later his wife came down in a hard sickness, continuing very ill a number of weeks, is hardly recovered yet. So Wheeler has had a series of troubles but has shown himself in noble Christian man through it all. Several of the natives sick with cold. Dr. Smith of Cayolle has just been here & we are favorably impressed with him.

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