

Indian Languages

The following are selected transcriptions from the Indian Languages collection held at the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Folder 2:

he has not come yet
I do not know the reason
he said he would come
some time ago
perhaps he is sick
or something hinders him
will anyone come with him
perhaps the doctor will
w[h]at will they do when the[y] come
they will talk to the Indians
and perhaps give the Indians
oxen & plows and men to work
have the Indians heard
that he is coming
will they be glad to see him
they will be glad to talk
and to get something
[for] they want to make big fields
and to do like white people
will you tell me when he comes
yes I will send for you
how long will he stay
will he return by land
no he will return by water

will you go with him
no he will go with him
perhaps the boat will
turn over and they [will] be drowned
no the bole [boat] does not rock
it is steady
they will meet some white men
and get whiskey and get drunk
they have nothing to b[u]y whiskey
the Indian is always poor
does your friend give
you good advice

why do you not
listen to him
if he gave you
bad advice
you would listen to him
Indians do not know
who their friends are
they think the man
that gives them whiskey
is their friend
but it is not so
he is not their friend

Are the Indians to have a dance
when---tonight
where will they dance
no at Topiniba's [?]--at my house
who hunts
when did he kill the deer
is he a good hunter
not very good
will they have whiskey
do they like white people
to see them dance--
yes if they be quiet and
dont laugh at them
you lived at [...] [...]
where do you live now
ar[e] there many Indians
going to live with you--
what is we [are] doing now
will he plant corn soon
hav[e] you any potatoes to plant
no I would plant some
if I had them
I will give you some

I heard that an Indian killed
his brother at Bartrands'--
did you hear of it
It is bad for the Indians
to drink so much whiskey--
before they drank whiskey
they were a strong people--
If they keep on drinking

they will soon all be dead--
When they are drunk they
layout in the cold--
they get sick and die
It would be good if
all the Indians were in
a place wher[e] there was no whiskey
then there would be more
and would soon be a great people
again
some white men get
rich by cheating the Indians

when will you hunt next fall
I will hunt on the [....]
is that a good place to hunt
what makes it bad now
they have killed all the deer
is there many muskrat
do they hunt them for their
meat or for their skins
we kill them to eat
do you like to hunt
yes that is very good sport
when we kill elk we have
plenty of meat to eat
I like to shoot pigeons
I dont like to shoot doves
where did you hunt last winter
did you kill plenty of every thing
I did not kill any thing
did you see nothing
no I saw nothing
when will the Indians return
I will tell you

[Page of accounts:]

...

To A[?] Somerwell[?] Dr [Debtor]
To one gun \$8.00
To beef [?] 1.50
To flour 1.00

\$10.50

Paid [?] 2.00

[To] Mr Drinkwater Dr
 To sharp plow 40.
 To [Do] with clamp & cutter 90.00

By pack [?]

To three chains [...] 75
 To sharp plow and other work 80
 To [...] 75

 3.60
 2.40

 1.20

Folder 6. Hall to Dunbar, June 5, 1878:

Dear Friend:

If I wait much longer to answer your questions you will think I have given it up. It requires a good deal of preparation & time to be able to write a new language when we have to get at an alphabet tentatively; & find out forms from mind[?] destitute of all analytical prowess.

I am interested in the Arickaree or Ree people a tribe very friendly to the white & though perhaps less quick then the Gros Ventre, they are plodding, both in work & in endeavor to learn.

A Gros Ventre or Mandan has more knack with tools & will see anything quicker generally, but he gives up sooner than the Ree, and so the snail beats the fox again.

Physically I do not thin that man o women are superior to any other Indians. Their physical condition is greatly injured, & their number diminished (& this is true of all here) by illegitimate connections with whites, for the sake of money, & abortion, chiefly by mechanical means, is I fear prevalent. Whether they are incestuous among themselves or note, I could not say. Indian relationships in all the tribes, including Dakota, seem very much mixed.

I will send you part of the words you desired, as best I can. I do not find any L or v or f sound in Ree by & bye I may be able to get more light on the language.

I use the same letters for vowel sounds as you do in writing the Pawnee

...

[A postscript, apparently:]

I hesitate to send these words as they are no doubt badly spelled, & some perhaps are incorrect in meaning.

I hope to do better by & by, and send you more grammar. This will give you some points of comparison.

If you can help me in any difficulties you perceive, or give me further points on resemblance to the Pawnee, I should be greatly obliged.

I am

Your friend

C. L. Hall

I sent some words last week, I hope you have received them safely,

C. L. H.