

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 than 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 not, 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.