

CATHARINE AND SOPHIA GERMAIN.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

PRESENTING

A further communication from the War Department upon the subject of the destitute condition of Catharine and Sophia Germain, two Cheyenne captives.

JANUARY 12, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 5, 1876.

SIR: Referring to letter from this Department, dated the 20th ultimo addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, upon the subject of the destitute condition of Catharine and Sophia Germain, and inclosing certain papers from the Indian Bureau in relation thereto, I now have the honor to present a further communication from the honorable the Secretary of War upon the same subject, together with copies of the papers referred to by him, and, in accordance with his request, earnestly recommend the subject to the favorable consideration of Congress.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
Z. CHANDLER,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER *House of Representatives.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, December 22; 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the inclosed copy of letter from Col. Nelson A. Miles, of the Fifth Infantry, requesting that the Government make the same provision for Catharine and Sophia Germain, captured by the Cheyenne Indians, and rescued by the military authorities, as was made for their sisters by the last Congress, (18 Stat., part 3, page 424.)

Inviting your attention to the indorsements upon the said letter, I beg to request that you will earnestly recommend this matter to the favorable consideration of Congress.

The issue of one ration a day to each of the children has been authorized until Congress makes some provision for their support.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH INFANTRY,
Fort Leavenworth, Kans., December 1, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to bring to your attention the case of Catharine and Sophia Germain, the eldest two of the four children who were rescued from captivity among the Cheyennes by the operations of the troops in the Indian campaign of 1874-'75 in the Southwest.

As they were left orphans and destitute by the action of the hostile Indians, I would respectfully submit that the General Government may properly make some provision for their support, and that as they were rescued during active operations, it would seem that they are entitled to the same considerations as prisoners of war pending action of the Government in their case. I would therefore earnestly in their behalf request that rations be issued to them until the necessary legislation be had in their case.

The honorable Secretary of War will remember that this case was brought to his personal attention at Des Moines, Iowa, when the above request seemed to meet with his favorable consideration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

NELSON A. MILES,
Colonel Fifth Infantry.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

(Through office of Assistant Adjutant-General, Department Missouri, Division of the Missouri, and of the Army.)

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH INFANTRY,
Fort Leavenworth, Kans., December 2, 1875.

SIR: In behalf of two most unfortunate and helpless orphans, Catharine and Sophia Germain, who have suffered everything but death at the hands of the hostile Cheyennes, and who were recovered by the force of military operations in the Department of the Missouri, I would earnestly request that the Government make the same provisions that were made by the last Congress for their sisters, in the act a copy of which is herewith inclosed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

NELSON A. MILES,
Colonel Fifth Infantry.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

(Through office of Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the Missouri, Division and of the Army.)

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
Fort Leavenworth, Kans., December 9, 1875.

These papers are respectfully forwarded and are fully concurred in.

Attention is invited to my communication of November 30, 1874, on which and the indorsements on it the appropriation for the two younger Germain children was made.

At the time, the two elder children were still in the hands of the Indians, and it was not known whether they would be recovered alive.

They were fortunately surrendered alive, but in a terrible condition, and they have needed constant care and attention ever since. They were rendered destitute and their natural supporters and guardians

were murdered by the Cheyenne Indians, and it seems only proper that a moderate provision be made for them out of the money appropriated for the subsistence of the Indians who reduced them to such a state.

I hope, therefore, that the application will be urgently presented to Congress.

Colonel Miles has accepted the guardianship of these children, but of course is without the funds needed for their actual support.

Until Congress acts upon the case, the War Department should authorize the issue of one ration to each of the elder children at least.

JOHN POPE,

Bvt. Major-General U. S. A., Commanding.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Adjutant-General's Office, Washington, December 14, 1875.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War with previous papers relative to the Germain girls, including General Pope's communication of November 30, 1874, referred to in preceding indorsement.

E. D. TOWNSEND,

Adjutant-General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

December 17, 1875.

Respectfully referred to the Commissary-General for remark.

By order of the Secretary of War.

H. P. CROSBY,

Chief Clerk.

OFFICE COMMISSARY-GENERAL SUBSISTENCE,

December 18, 1875.

Respectfully returned to the honorable Secretary of War, with the recommendation that authority be granted to issue one ration per day to each of the within-named children (Catharine and Sophia Germain) until some provision for their support be made by Congress.

R. MACFEELY,

Commissary-General Subsistence.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

December 22, 1875.

Recommendation of Commissary-General approved.

By order of the Secretary of War.

H. T. CROSBY,

Chief Clerk.