

Washington, D.C., January 28, 1890.

To Indian Agents and

Superintendents of Indian Schools:

Referring to circular letter of the 10th of December last in regard to inculcating patriotism in Indian schools, your attention is called to the suggestion therein made, that Washington's Birthday be observed in the various schools with appropriate exercises.

Although the interval between this celebration and that of "Franchise Day", the 8th of February, is short, yet no such opportunity should be lost by which Indian youth may be imbued with ideas distinctively national as distinguished from those that are tribal. Moreover there will be a natural sequence in the exercises of the two days. The Indian heroes of the camp fire need not be disparaged, but gradually and unobtrusively the heroes of American homes and history may be substituted as models and ideals.

Indian youth can be made acquainted with, interested in, and eventually proud of the great events and persons, the hardships, dangers, and heroisms, by which the country of which they are now to be a part has reached such a position that the highest privilege which it can confer upon an Indian is that of American citizenship. It will be no difficult matter to find in the incidents of Washington's life and times, as well as in his personal character and experiences, abundant material for exercises which will be full of interest to the pupils as well as profitable to them.

I shall be gratified to learn the way in which these suggestions have been carried out in the schools under your charge.

Respectfully,

J. J. Morgan
Commissioner.

J. Morgan Leon
January 28, 1890

Relating to Celebration of
Washington's Birthday

J. J. Morgan Leon