

# THE FREDONIA CENSOR.

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W. McKinstry

L. McKinstry.

FREDONIA, N. Y. Oct 10 1889

Hon. A. W. Sawyer

My dear Sir

Your of 7th received. The U. G. R. R. sketches were sent to you during your absence & were acknowledged by Mrs. T. The sketches were written by my suggestion, for the purpose of having preserved the Experiences of an early & faithful agent of the U. G. R. R. line. Dr. E. M. Pettitt, the author, was an old friend of mine & had done remarkable service in assisting fugitives from slavery. I had invited him to my 70th birthday party, May 9, 1885, but he was on account of illness, unable to attend. He died two days after, aged 83 years. He was one of the purest, best, most philanthropic men I ever knew & went to his grave honored & loved by every one who ever knew him. He related his experiences in a modest way & told many anecdotes not mentioned in his book. I was personally acquainted with many of the persons mentioned in his sketches, the initials only being given. He lived for several years at Versailles, on the borders of the Seneca Indian Reservation, was a state master of the Indian

Orphan Asylum, & also Supt. of Indian Schools on the reservation. He was the Indians' friend as well as the refuge from Slavery. At his funeral a representative of the Indian Chiefs attended. He was a neighbor of mine in this village, some 25 or 30 years before his death, but made frequent visits to the reservation, where he was received with every mark of esteem. I accompanied him on one of these visits, & was greatly pleased with the demonstrations of the dusky boys & girls in the Asylum, & by all the other Indians whom we met.

The publication of the U. G. Sketches was not a financial success, as of the 1,000 printed some 500 are still on hand. If you are in a condition to smash them off, I will allow you a liberal Commission on them. If you can put them on your list, it is possible that some demand may be found for public libraries.

Dr. Pettit was the Manufacturer of "Pettit's Eye Salve" from which he derived a considerable income, but it was all absorbed in doing good. His only daughter died some years before & his wife a few months before him, leaving him alone in the world. He sent all his worldly treasures before him, & doubtless entered upon the re-possesion when his pure humanitarian spirit left its fleshy abode. Thanks for your kindly interest in my venerable & esteemed departed friend, & pardon this postive reply.  
Sincerely Yours, W. L. Garrison