

Industrial School, Roanoke Island

The scholars of this school are most of them mothers, having the care and in many cases the maintenance of their families, consequently not as regular in attendance as we desire. They are willing, and show as much capacity and more patience than we expected, and work with more ease than I should think it possible, when it is taken into consideration that most of them are more accustomed to holding the plow and hoe, than handling the shears and needle. Their work is roughly put together, if left to themselves; but, with few exceptions, they seem anxious to be taught to do their work as Northern people do, and those of them who come steadily show marked improvement. The sickness, of which there has been a great deal, has taken some, and already one has died from our number.

I keep an account of the work done and give them orders on the store for their work, keeping a record of the same. It has been thought advisable to give all something for their work: for there are none that are able to give their time. They must have clothing and food; where the latter will come from after the *rations* are cut off, I do not dare to ask myself, and were it not that we *know* God can overrule all things for good, and will, in his own time and way succor the suffering and supply the needy, I should often yield to despairing thoughts that arise.

Yours most respectfully, etc.,

E. A. Williams

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