

SITTING BULL'S KINDNESS TO BIRDS

By Two Bulls

Sitting Bull was at one time invited out to a feast with a number of old men. The feast was to be given in the camp hence they walked over and as they went along they sang songs in honor of the giver of the feast and between singing they would crack jokes at each other showing that they were in the best of mood.

Suddenly Sitting Bull slipped away and was busily engaged in trying to catch a little bird. It was a wounded young meadow-lark limping round. At last he succeeded catching the little suffering creature and was holding it in his hand.

The rest of the old men stopped and waited for the chief and Grayeagle, brother-in-law of Sitting Bull, jokingly remarked "What is he doing again. He is getting to be childish — chasing a mouse or a bird." The rest of the men, likewise, made similar jokes. They called the old chief to stop his childish pranks, as they were anxious to go on and perhaps they were waiting for them. But the chief did not listen to their jokes. He called them over where he was and holding out the little wounded meadow-lark before their eyes said, "My dear Comrads, the meadow-lark branch of the Bird Tribe was intended a friend to us Dakotas. What do these birds mean when they say plainly "Eeana waniyetu ktelo. "— "Twill soon be winter." "Ptehincala pi napin." "Calves liver is nutritious." "Hoksila tehannonke." "Boy, you slept too long." "Kicizapisni po." "Do you fight"? To me they are for us our meadow-lark friends. Some very cruel boy may have wounded this little bird. Let us teach our boys to be kind to all the birds especially to our meadow-lark friends that speak to us in our language."

He could not do anything to relieve the bird's suffering as it was not very badly hurt. He quickly turned it loose saying. "Go now, my friend. The Great Spirit shall take care of you and heal your wound — so that you may continue to talk to us more."