

April 27, 1929

Mr. George Bird Grinnell,  
238 East Fifteenth Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Grinnell:

I shall be very grateful if you will give me further aid in the research I am doing on the wars of the Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapahoes. In reading the memoris of white men who took part in that warfare I have found constant evidence of fear that the Indians would torture captives. So far, however, I have found very few authentic instances of such atrocities. Of course, I realize that the Indians in later times would not care to talk of such things and that probably few white men can have witnessed them. On the face of it, however, it would seem that there was a great smoke for so littlefire. I shall be grateful if you will give me your opinion on this matter. What basis, if any, was there for the white men's fear? If such atrocities were perpetrated were they due to savage custom or deliberate policy of frightfulness, or were they, like atrocities in modern warfare, mere outbreaks of revengeful feelings? Was there any difference among these tribes as regards such practices?

Yours faithfully,

W. S. Campbell.

C O P Y