

Geo. Bird Grinnell
238 East 15th Street
New York, N. Y.

July 10, 1929

Mr. W. S. Campbell,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Campbell:

I cannot give you any definite answer to your inquiry of June 30, 1929, as to the Indian idea toward wounds received in battle. My personal opinion is that they did not regard wounds as honorable, but that they painted up the scars and indicated places where wounds had been received merely as a matter of information to others -- news, in other words.

I suppose that a brave man who had been in the thick of the fighting, like Crazy Horse, whom you mention, or old Little Wolf, was considered fortunate, though this good fortune might have relation in the minds of others to some medicine that he possessed, or thought he had. It is my opinion that a skilful strategist would be followed to war, even though he had been wounded. Some of the bravest men and best leaders in war raids had often been wounded, and I do not think that that fact made people less willing to follow them. I have never made any inquiry as to this point, and am giving you only my impressions.

When Standing Bear said of Crazy Horse that he had never been wounded, I think he was merely commenting on the good luck of the warrior. Of course, men who appeared to be constantly lucky would be more likely to be followed to war than those who were often not lucky. This, I repeat, is merely my impression, and you must take it for what it is worth.

Yours sincerely,
Geo. Bird Grinnell