

W.S. Applebell.

Dear Sir:

I am much pleased to receive your letter of 4th, inst.
As regards holding their annual Sundance, the Blaine Indians held the same on their respective reservations, and in the old days, in such region as they occupied by mutual allotment in their old subdivisions, the Sioux originally as a nation holding 32,000 sq. miles of country.

However should they be out on the warpath in war, and several bands united, they would hold the dance in common wherever they happened to be. or the dance time overtake them.

As regards to my referring to Red Cloud as "an old fraud" it had bearing on his visits to Washington and posing as the friend of white people, being a christian, and a lover of peace, etc, a pose entirely out of keeping with his actual position as a great war chief, and opponent of the white man and civilization,

why in the world should he have any love for the white man civilization, a combination that was despoiling his people of their lands and game, and in the name of christianity endeavoring to force on the free born indian, who loved freedom and hunting, a life of labor and responsibilities, in fact I admitted to Red Cloud many a time in council, that if I were in his place as a leader of his people, I would have less use for the white man and civilization, than he evinced, and that personally my sympathies were with him and his people, but that officially as his agent, it was my duty to break up his authority and force that civilization on him and his people as a matter of future survival".

As between Red Cloud and his people, and myself as agent, we tried not to be hypocrites, and I succeeded, and there was mutual confidence,

when old Red used to appear in Washington on his periodical trips to tell his tale of woe, and what a bad man I was, the pseudo-philanthropists, schemers, and others, used to garb the old man in a semiclerical costume, hair nicely combed, and a beaming expression, appearing as a Methodist parson in disguise, and I was depicted as a very bad man,

I give Red Cloud credit as having been one of the greatest, if not the greatest war chiefs of his people, he never forgot his love for his people, and his opposition to the white man and his ways.

No, Sitting Bull was never on our reservation, the reservation of the Uncpapas was four or five hundred miles to the North.

I met him in North Dakota in 1874, when I was an engineer on the 49° Par, or British American Boundary, and again at Ft. Randall in the Southeast corner of Dakota on the Missouri River in 1880 where was a prisoner succeeding his surrender in the Fall of 1881 to Gen Miles on the Yellowstone.

Sitting Bull was not at the "Wagon Box Fight" or Ft. Phil Kearney Massacre, on Dec. 21st 1866, where Capt. Fetterman, Lieut. Brown and eighty one privates were killed, the Indians were led that day by Red Cloud, and Old Man of whose horses they were afraid, the hereditary chief.

However about that time Sitting Bull attained great prominence in leading his Uncpapas in repeated attacks on Ft. Buford at the mouth of the Yellowstone on the Missouri.

Those were the days of "The Chiefs" now passed.

I notice we now have a new Indian Commissioner, in the person of Banker Rhodes of Philadelphia, I knew him as a boy, as his father Dr. Rhodes as President of the Indian Rights Association, was a strong supporter of mine, and one of the Oklahoma Senators wants to know, what the new man knows about Indians. I fear that he will have much to learn

Yours truly.

U. P. M. G. Reynolds