

Sitting Bull

The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

June 26, 1931.

Pub.

Mr. Ferris Greenslet,
Houghton Mifflin Company,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Greenslet:

Finishing *SITTING BULL* proved a longer job than I had expected, but now the manuscript is in your hands. I venture to say that no biography on such a famous figure has appeared in recent years which contains so much fresh matter, or shoots so many holes in the legend. It should have a wide appeal, on the name alone, judging by the number of publishers who have asked me for the book. As you may recall, Plains Indians have been my keenest interest for more than thirty years, and I have topped this off with three years of the hardest concentration, labor, and expense.

Most writers of an Indian book think they have rung the bell when they find a single old Indian to tell them a dozen stories. They call that history. My informants number close upon a hundred, of half a dozen tribes, not to mention white men and the records. I have motored some 20,000 miles through the States and Canada to gather this data, hired interpreters at \$4.00 a day, and made substantial presents to the old men who helped me. But I got the stuff. Parkman and George Bird Grinnell are the only men who wrote of Indians, whose thoroughness may be compared with mine. Of *Sitting Bull's* two living nephews, one, Chief White Bull, fought in fifteen battles shoulder to shoulder with his famous uncle; he has given me all he knows. The other, Chief One Bull, is on the dreamy side; he has told me all about the religious and mystical life of his uncle. Every book on Indians claims to throw fresh light upon the Custer fight. My book does so. It throws light upon a good many things, including the author of your book *MY FRIEND THE INDIAN*, which, incidentally, it calls much attention to. His private papers dealing with *Sitting Bull's* last years are brought forward for the first time in my story.

All this research cost a pile of money, and I have had to scrape to pay the bill, even assigning my royalties on books already out. I have no work until the opening of the University of Oklahoma in September, and ~~for~~ the new Governor there is death on sabbatical leaves, and no sabbatical pay will be forthcoming this summer. The Guggenheim stipend will not suffice. Therefore I am compelled to ask you to help me with an advance of \$400.00 to be deducted from the money received from serializing *SITTING BULL*, or from the book sales. This is imperative. I have no other recourse. I count upon you not to let me down.

Please cable the money to me here.

Yours faithfully,

Pension Ste. Valerie
Rue de l'Oratoire
Juan-les-Pins, France.

W.S.CAMPBELL