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

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of July 31st., and am much interested in your proposed work on Sitting Bull. I think I can help you and perhaps the cooperation and service may be mutual.

I have always believed that Crazy Horse was the greatest Indian of them all and Gaul also was a very great warrior. However, I repudiate the idea that Sitting Bull was a coward. I am certain that he could not have had the influence that he did had he not shown personal bravery in his early history. I believe he was an extraordinary man but Crazy Horse, a relative of Red Cloud's was a remarkable Indian. He had no one to advertise him the way James McLaughlin wrote Gaul up in "My Friend the Indian". I do not want to depreciate Gaul, but I suggest that possibly the group idea might be very effective in selecting a name for your book. Why not call your book, "Sitting Bull and his War Chiefs". Give him credit for being a great prophet and leader, a sort of an Aquinaldo around whom gathered the patriotic sentiment of millions of the Malay race, who almost to the last man, woman and child stood by him and would not betray his whereabouts for a long period of time. This title would be something like the familiar book on "Napoleon and his Marshals."

Dixon in the Vanishing Race has hit the nail on the head in a great many respects, but you have to be cautious about accepting some of the statements that he makes as the views of the Indian Chiefs. He has, however, come very near telling the truth about many things. He is, of course, a bit flowery, but it is a big subject and this whole period of history in which you and I are interested will be more read about and thought about fifty years from now than it is today. I am clearing up many things.

I will be glad to help you all I can. Lieut. Col. Joseph M. T. Partello, San Francisco, Cal., might be able to give you some data of value. You would have to address him Washington, D.C. Care of the Adjutant General, U.S. Army as I do not know his street number. Col. Partello was present at the Poplar Creek fight about 1881 when Gaul surrendered after a sharp engagement.

You should study James McLaughlin's "My Friend the Indian" but with great care because he can see no Indian on the Horizon except Gaul. Crazy Horse, the great Indian was never written up by anyone, but he can be put in his proper setting by anyone writing accurately of the history of that epoch, that is if he writes it up as a period of history and not as a glorification of any one Indian.

I will be glad to help you by suggestions or advice from time to time.

Very truly yours,

Charles Francis Bates.

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