

September 25, 1929.

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Colonel Wm. H. C. Bowen,  
1020 Fairview Boulevard,  
Portland, Oregon.

My dear Colonel Bowen:

I have your kind letter of September 20 and wish to thank you for your kind cooperation. I was much interested to get your impressions of Sitting Bull on the two occasions when you met him. I am going to take advantage of your kind invitation to ask more questions. I would like to have you tell me all that you can recollect of these two meetings, even to the details of Sitting Bull's costume and appearance. What did he say? What did he do? Your statement as to his fine appearance in '76 and broken appearance on his surrender is extremely interesting. I am trying to get everything I can of firsthand information about this man, for as you know many of the books about him were written at a time when feeling was strong against the Indians and very often by men who had very slight contact with them. It may be too late to get all the truth, but I want every crumb of it I can find and officers of the old army are always reliable informants. There is a copy of General Miles personal recollections in the library here. I will run through it again. He seems to have been more fair to the Indians than many other writers of those days.

Do you know any other of the Indians with Sitting Bull when he surrendered? How was he armed? What is your impression as to the qualities of the Indian as a fighter? Do you think the Indians had as many guns as some people let on? Were you with General Miles in 1879 when he fought with Sitting Bull on Beaver Creek? What kind of a fight was that - at close quarters or long distance?

I shall be very grateful to you for any recollections with regard to the Indian wars of those days, particularly any information as to how the Indians and the soldiers did their fighting, etc. The army records are so condensed that it is difficult to form much of a picture from them and for my purposes the picture is essential. How the Indians and soldiers were clothed and armed, their horse equipment, how they fought, etc. is of great interest to me. I shall be happy to give you full credit for any information you can give me. Please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. Campbell.