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FROM:

COURTNEY RYLEY COOPER, ANNIE OAKLEY, Duffield and Company,
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..... In the effects which remained to be culled over by a biographer, were packet upon packet of letters, from every part of the world, which had gone forward to her in response to the appeal of the cowboy comedian. Most of these were genuine tributes, from persons who had known her in other days, from men and women who remembered the greatest thrill of childhood, that day in fact, when the Wild West Show had come to town and they had formed a part of the big audience which had gathered to witness the stalwart Buffalo Bill introduce his Congress of Rough Riders of the World, and see Annie Oakley, "Little Sure Shot" as the Indian warrior, Sitting Bull, had called her, perform the feats of marksmanship which had made her name world-wide.

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Sitting Bull, the Sioux warrior and the accredited destroyer of Custer and his army at the Little Big Horn, was the outstanding savage figure of the day. Following the battle in which the wily medicine man had outwitted the forces of the United States Army and engineered the massacre which followed, Sitting Bull and various of his followers had escaped into Canada, where they had remained until various overtures of peace had assured them that it would be safe and wise to return to the United States. Treaties had been talked of, there had been the usual palavering of white agents who had assured the old chieftain that practises of the past would be abandoned and that a new day was dawning for the Indian.

Baiting Poor Lo had been an exceedingly popular sport for years; that and a general harvest of graft with the redface as the recipient of the small end of proceedings. Every beef weighed out to the half starved recipient of government bounty had been accompanied by two men who also stood on the scales, thus reaping a small harvest, not for the government, but for contractors and agents who professed to love the poor Indian, and perhaps did, inasmuch as that Indian was the source of easily earned, even though illy gained, wealth. Sugar was served in what was known as half and half, the remaining portion being sand. Rotten hams, rottener bacon, all these things went forth to the Indian, to say nothing of counting steers twice and other favorite tricks with which the government itself had little to do, but for which it was held responsible in the eyes of the Indian. These happenings, together with the invasion of the Black Hills by the rush of gold miners in violation of existing Indian treaties, had brought about the rebellion which had carried its sequel with the Battle of the Little Big Horn and the annihilation of Custer. The usual result