

THE WILD WEST

Visit of Colonel Offley and Officers to Sitting Bull Yesterday.

The noted guide and scout, Buffalo Bill, and his large troupe of Indians, cowboys, buffalo, etc., arrived in the city Saturday night, and went to the Fair grounds to camp, though Mr. Cody and his agents took quarters at the American house. Sitting Bull, of course, could never be content in the narrow limits of a hotel, so he took his quarters with his chiefs at the Fair grounds. Full 5000 people went out to see the party yesterday. Among them were Lieutenant Colonel Offley, commandant at the Barracks and a number of his officers. Mr. Cody had had the toughest kind of experience on the plains in company with some of the officers now at the Barracks, and he was overjoyed to meet them again. Sitting Bull had also been with some of them as a prisoner of war, and he also recognized them. Going up to Lieutenant McMartin, he said to his interpreter something which was translated: "This is the young man who rolled cigarettes for me at Fort Randall," which was quite interesting to the bystanders, although it was not exactly the kind of speech which was expected from a child of nature and a ferocious barbarian, inasmuch as cigarettes are considered as being an institution exclusive to effete civilization. The following letter was written by Commandant Offley, and will settle in the minds of all any doubt as to the genuineness of the great chief:

Hon. W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill)

I take great pleasure in stating that I visited your camp at the Fair grounds, together with some of my officers, and we one and all recognize Sitting Bull as the original and only "Bull" that was in the Custer fight. I had a good talk with him. Two of my officers had "Bull" in charge when a prisoner at Forts Yates and Randall.

R. H. Offley,  
Lt. Col. 17th Inf't Commanding Columbus Barracks.