

Sitting Bull's Advice to the Indian Students at a Mission School

As told by E. D. White

As soon as Sitting Bull had settled down on the Standing Rock in 1884, after his release from Fort Randall, where he and his followers were held as prisoners of war, numerous invitations from different persons were extended to him.

Chief Bear Ribs invited him to come and spend a few days at his home with him. The invitation was cheerfully received and Sitting Bull at once proceeded to the Bear Ribs home about sixteen miles south of the Agency. Upon his arrival there, he was greeted by a number of Indians who had fought under him at the Custer Fight. Some of them sang praises in his honor. He was sure treated with all manner of respect and courtesy for while there of invitations was accorded him by the different members of the settlement.

A Black Robe, hearing of the chief's visit, called at Bear Ribs place and extended an invitation to Sitting Bull to come and visit the school which the Black Robes had started for the education of Indian Children. The chief accepted the invitation gladly and the next day a carriage driven by two Indian school boys came after him. He was well received by the head Black Robe -- Rev. Father Jerome Hunt.

After serving him a big feed, the chief was shown round the school plant. In the afternoon he was escorted to the class-rooms, where the learning process was in operation. The chief was very much impressed with everything he saw and asked the Black Robe, if he would allow him to speak a few words to the students. This was gladly granted and he said:

"My dear grand-children. All of your folks are my relatives because I am a Dakota and so are they. I was very glad to hear that the Black Robe has given you this school and give you a chance where you are to learn to read, write and count the way the White People do. You are also taught a new religion. You are shown how the Whites work and make things. You