

Brooklyn April 5th 1890

Wire 80
Maj. Mc Laughlin

Dear Sir:

You will doubtless be surprised to receive a letter from me after our not very amicable conversations regarding my intended journey to Cheyenne. And indeed it is with reluctance that I humble myself to address you, knowing that you cannot feel friendly disposed towards me. I do so however out of love for my Indian friends and because you are probably the only person who can furnish me with some necessary information and possible permission. Even enemies can act magnanimous towards each other, and I hope that you will extend to me the courtesy of a gentleman, to a lady, and answer my questions with a frank yes or no. It had been my intention for years to spend the remainder of my life in Dakota among or near my Indian friends. Twice I have been there and returned disappointed. Especially last summer, when the most insulting libels were printed in a Bismarck and Sioux City Journal, and which were copied by nearly all eastern papers and given to the public with variations. I am not of a revengful disposition but I sincerely hope that the instigator of those falsehoods will meet with the reward he so richly merits. It is such a brave noble deed for a strong powerful man (created to protect woman) to trample upon, to annihilate woman. But I must beg pardon for digressing from the original subject. After last summer's disappointment had grown less keen I promised my Indian friends to return to them it had been my intention to take a claim on the "New Land" as called by the majority of Indians last year, to build a house upon it, and have certain days set apart for Indian women and girls to come to me for instruction in useful domestic accomplishments. My Indian friends however wish me to live upon the reservation and were willing to put up a house for me. They thought it would be alright, I however did not think it would be alright and declined to live upon the reservation; but would buy of the land ceded as the opening of the reservation seems doubtful at present, I would risk all I possessed if I took a claim built a house bought stock and then ~~dash~~ - fail. I probably would not be able to dispose of first class paintings or plush lambrequins or be able to teach modern languages on the prairies. I would like to live on the reservation perhaps a little while, until I looked about me, and selected land provided it can be bought. I suppose there will be no timber-culture claims. I would like to keep my promise to my old Indian friend I have never broken one to them, in my knowledge. I will not go to Dakota however without positively knowing that there will be no unpleasantness nor opposition about the matter; and that if I put my foot upon the reservation it will be with your full consent. I suppose it is needless for me to state that I have no intention to become either Sitting Bull's wife or squaw, as the sagacious newspapers editors surmised. I honor and respect S. Bull as if he was my own father and nothing can ever shake my faith in his good qualities and what I can do to make him famous I will certainly do and I will succeed, But I regret that at the present time he is so universally misjudged:- I would be under great obligations to you if you could conquer your dislike for me sufficiently to answer me regarding my intended removal to Dakota and possible short stay at the reservation if you approve or disapprove. It is a hazardous undertaking, and my boy is not quite ~~fourteen~~ fourteen years old; consequently but of little protection. Yet I would love to live in Dakota and imagine that I can be happy nowhere else.

Hoping for an early answer I am yours respectfully

Mrs. C. Weldon.

16 Liberty Str.

Brooklyn

New York