

WHY SITTING BULL WEARS A RED FEATHER AS A HEAD ORNAMENT

by One Bull

When the Teton Sioux were camping round the Musselshell River Country, they were still at war with all other Tribes except the Cheyennes, Utes, and Arapahoes were their Allies, hence they were prepared to meet them at any time.

One day, the standing scouts reported that a war party of some unknown Tribe had been seen sneaking round behind the high places near the camp. Several young warriors volunteered to look up this party. Sitting Bull was then fifteen years of age (1845) -- just a year after he was decorated as a hero in a battle with the Crows. He did not ask any one to join these volunteers, simply saddled up his pony, took what he really needed and started off without any fuss of any kind.

When the war party, consisting of about fifteen warriors, was out some distance they were suddenly attacked from a deep ravine. They were Flatheaded Indians -- about twenty of them. The leader of the Sioux, Strikes the Kettle immediately commanded their defense. They met the enemy. A bitter fight was on. The Flatheads, dismounted and behind their horses were shooting away at the Sioux. Young Sitting Bull told the leader he was going to make a dash on horse back along the enemy's line. They rather applauded him for his daring offer. He galloped up, then made his horse run on a full speed and dashed along the enemy's line in the thickest of bullets fixed on him. He succeeded getting through. He was wounded on the right foot.

Both sides lost about half their number though the Sioux were mostly wounded. The Flatheads were driven off toward North.

When the Sioux warrior got back to the Camp a big victory celebration was given and Sitting Bull was decorated again, but this time, with a red feather indicating wounded on battle field. He was again declared a young