

The displacement and movements of the tribes of the northern plains is a phase of history which has never been touched, and it all turns on the Sioux wars. So does the settlement of the Dakotas and Montana and Wyoming, yet nothing has been done here. I have this affair within my grasp, if funds can be found. I know the places where the fights took place, the men who were in them, the times as well. I know that country. After three years work on this unexplored field, I feel it is a pity to lose the second harvest. It is solely and simply a matter of finance.

Moe was sympathetic when I saw him in New York. He thought an individual might be found, perhaps, willing to make such a gift. I am willing to attempt any source, but foundations commonly take a long time to make up their minds, and time presses. Moe thought that Cronkrite might be interested, and offered to ask him, but said he thought you would have more influence. Perhaps he has communicated with you. If you are willing to do anything for me, or can do anything in any direction, I shall be eternally grateful. I do not think that a direct attack would be likely to get results, and in any case my contacts with rich men of scholarly interests have not been numerous.

You may freely say, I think, that Mr. F.W.Hodge of the Museum of the American Indian and the Heye Foundation, New York, heartily approves my project. Had the foundation been in better case, I feel sure he would have managed an appropriation. I am quite willing to have him consulted as to the value of my plan. There is not a more distinguished authority on the American Indian living.

Two thousand dollars, with what I can raise myself, will do the trick. Somewhere there must be a man to whom that sum is as nothing compared with the satisfaction of contributing to the record of a most colorful and important phase of history, which can only be garnered from living eye-witnesses--all of them over 80.

If you can help me, please do. I am sure that Moe and the Guggenheim committee which granted my Fellowship will back up my plea, insofar as the qualifications for doing the work are concerned.

I may add that I shall be happy to offer the dedication of my book to the donor, and in addition, if he wishes it, a soldier's saddle-bag from the Custer Battle--the only one in captivity, so far as I know. It was given me by Sitting Bull's nephew.

Yours truly,

W.S.CAMPBELL