

Hotel Claremont. Berkeley Cal, March 30th, 1920

W.S.Campbell.

Dear Sir.

In reply to yours of 13th, as you surmise yours of Dec, 24th, must have gone astray.

Sitting Bulls knowledge of English was very limited, and without education of the white man, and very little in civilization, until after his surrender in the Fall of 1881, he was an Indian, by birth, standards, ethics, and had no use for the white man.

He must have danced, and gone through the tortures of the Sun Dance, as no Indian of any standing among his people, after coming fully of age, but must show on his body the scars of that ordeal, it was their "graduating exercise, otherwise they were no better than squaws.

I witnessed the annual Sundance for fifteen years, from 1874 down, among the Plains Indians, including the Sioux and Cheyennes, and had enrolled at Pine Ridge one thousand of the Northern Cheyennes of Chief Bull Knives, and Little Chiefs bands, and never saw a case of sacrifice of the fingers, in fact under their religion, mutilation to the extent of loosing any part of their body barred them from entry into the happy hunting grounds on their death.

There were very old traditions that in the ancient days there were offered up human sacrifices, if so the same was probably not voluntary, but some prisoner.

I suppressed the Sun Dance in 1882, on the grounds that while it was a ritualistic religious ceremony, the continuance of the same was retarding their civilization, and was not compatible with their life in the future,

The progressive Indians under the Hereditary Chief, "Man of Whose Horses they were Afraid," backed me, Red Cloud the reactionary War Chief, opposed, and it was nip and tuck for several days, the nearest troops were located at Ft. Robinson sixty three miles away, and were under marching orders, but I declined their assistance, and backed by my fifty mounted Indian Police, won out by arresting Red Cloud and deposing him Head Chief,

In this connection I would invite attention to the fact, that before the coming of the "Piee Man the Indians of the Plains had a well organized and maintained Civil-Military system of government.

They had their Hereditary Chiefs, blue blooded, in hereditary running back for generations, and of such "Young Man of whose horses they are afraid" i.e, the enemy, he was known for short as "Man Afraid".

They had the Head War Chief, often of plebian origin, and such was Red Cloud the great war chief.

In times of peace the hereditary chief held absolute sway, if however a war or a mutiny sprung up, the hereditary chief in general council, declare martial law, and turn the control over to the council, and the council would select from among the war chiefs some one of them to take charge of affairs as head War Chief, and the military or soldier bands were called into service, and trouble was on.

When later on peace was declared, the War Chief stepped aside, and by act of Council the Hereditary Chief resumed charge.

Red Cloud was a plebian, had risen from the masses by his superior fighting ability, rose from the position of dog soldier, to head soldier, to sub war chief, and finally at one of the wars with the Crows became Head War Chief,

He was a wonderful war leader, was ambitious, and when peace was declared, he held over as military dictator,

Man Afraid who was a man of peace, to avoid internecine strife, acquiesced, but came to the crucial test, as a rule controlled in council.