

Berkeley Cal, April 16th. 1929

W.S. Spbell.

Dear Sir:

I am much pleased to receive your letter of 4th, inst,  
As regards holding their annual Sundance, the Blains  
Indians held the same on their respective reservations, and in the  
old days, in such region as they occupied by mutual allotment in their  
old subdivisions, the Sioux originally as a nation holding 32,000 sq,  
miles of country.

However should they be out on the warpath in war, and several  
bands united, they would hold the dance in common wherever they hap-  
pened to be. or the dance time overtake them.

As regards to my referring to Red Cloud as "an old fraud"  
it had bearing on his visits to Washington and posing as the friend of  
white people, being a christian, and a lover of peace, etc, a pose entirely  
out of keeping with his actual position as a great war chief, and opponent  
of the white man and civilization,

why in the world should he have any love for the white man  
civilization, a combination that was despoiling his people of their lands  
and game, and in the name of christianity endeavoring to force on the free  
born indian, who loved freedom and hunting, a life of labor and responsibil-  
ities, in fact I admitted to Red Cloud many a time in council, that if I  
were in his place as a leader of his people, I would have less use for the  
white man and civilization, than he evinced, and that personally my sym-  
pathies were with him and his people, but that officially as his agent, it  
was my duty to break up his authority and force that civilization on him  
and his people as a matter of future survival".

As between Red Cloud and his people, and myself as agent, we  
tried not to be hypocrites, and I succeeded, and there was mutual confi-  
dence,

when old Red used to appear in Washington on his periodical  
trips to tell his tale of woe, and what a bad man I was, the pseudo-philan-  
thropists, schemers, and others, used to garb the old man in a semiclerical  
costume, hair nicely combed, and a benign expression, appearing as a Metho-  
dist parson in disguise, and I was depicted as a very bad man,

I give Red Cloud credit as having been one of the greatest,  
if not the greatest war chiefs of his people, he never forgot his love for  
his people, and his opposition to the white man and his ways.

No, Sitting Bull was never on our reservation, the reserva-  
tion of the Uncpapas was four or five hundred miles to the North.

I met him in North Dakota in 1874, when I was an engineer  
on the 49° Par, or British American Boundary, and again at Ft. Randall in  
the Southeast corner of Dakota on the Missouri River in 1880 where was  
a prisoner succeeding his surrender in the Fall of 1881 to Gen Miles. on  
the Yellowstone.

Sitting Bull was not at the "Wagon Box Fight" or Ft. Phil-  
Karney Massacre, on Dec. 21st 1866, where Capt. Fetterman, Lieut. Brown  
and eighty one privates were killed, the Indians were led that day by Red  
Cloud, and Old Man of whose Horses they were afraid, the hereditary chief.

However about that time Sitting Bull attained great prom-  
inence in leading his Uncpapas in repeated attacks on Ft. Buford at the  
mouth of the Yellowstone on the Missouri.

Those were the days of "The Chiefs" now passed.

I notice we now have a new Indian Commissioner, in the per-  
son of Banker Rhodes of Philadelphia, I knew him as a boy, as his father  
Dr. Rhodes as President of the Indian Rights Association, was a strong  
supporter of mine, and one of the Oklahoma Senators wants to know, what  
the new man knows about Indians. I fear that he will have much to learn

Yours truly.

U. P. M. G. Reynolds