

11-16-28

Dear Mr. Campbell-

Glad to give you any information I can, now or any time. Being a writer, I naturally appreciate the credit when my work, from either private or public sources, is used by others. But we are all working for the same end--"The West"--so call on me for anything I can do--

You ask about Sitting Bull. Yes, he was with Cody's show but Sitting Bull was not only a great man but, in both private and public life, a wise man--and both battle and racial defeat made him a silent one. Also Cody himself was not given to speaking all he knew, or thought, about the Indian, due to public prejudice, which translated to cold fact, meant "Kill the Indian for his land". By the way "Sitting Bull" was only the incorrect name the white, probably due to the sign talk, gave the leading man of all the Sioux tribes, past and present. As near as English will express the red thought the name was "Crouching Buffalo", or perhaps better "Couchant Buffalo", with all that the term "couchant" in white heraldry implies. Of course you know that ~~"Eagle"~~ "Eagle" and "Buffalo" were the highest Indian terms--much like the white "King" or "Czar" in standing--but that "Eagle" had a war implication, and "Buffalo" a sacred connotation (something like the white "Emperor" compared to "Pope") and as Sitting Bull was not a warrior but a "Medicine Man"--which means all-in-one what the white means by such words as priest, statesman, doctor, scholar, minister, diplomat, etc-- he had "Buffalo" in his name. If he had been a warrior it would have been "Eagle", under certain conditions. One thing that helped mislead, also to rivet the error in translation, are the several picture-talk signatures of S.B. himself, that to white eyes suggest a sitting, or squatting, buffalo bull.