

United States Post Office

CLASS

Mandan, North Dakota,
October first, 1932.

Mr. Walter S. Campbell,
Norman, Oklahoma.

My Dear Campbell :

I have just run over your "Sitting Bull" the first time. Quite naturally I was greatly interested in finding out just what your conclusions would be. From a former article by Stanley Vestal in Adventure, I surmised that you would place him in heroic mein and felt that, provided your conversations with Old Bull, One Bull, Grey Whirlwind, Black Prairie Dog, Fool Bear and others of his immediate personal band, were accepted in-toto - it would not be otherwise. No doubt he was a great influence among his people and allied tribesmen. He was mishandled while alive and most of that which has been in print regarding him since his death, is, as you say, misleading and incorrect, certainly he should have a champion and I am glad that he has found one of such a facile pen as your own. I have myself, defended him so often that I am almost unpopular. No one may successfully try to brand him as a coward. As to his peaceful, "please-let-us-alone" attitude which seems to run through the book - that may be the subject of some contradiction among reviewers. I feel honored and am glad that you remembered me in your Preface and am proud to be numbered among your informants. But as this is not a review, but a friendly compliment to you, I feel that I may be excused if I mention that I was somewhat disappointed in your attitude toward Chief Grass. The very things which finally were brought to bear upon Sitting Bull, were foreseen by Grass so far in advance of Sitting Bulls thought, that it created enmity between those two great men. Grass first visited President Lincoln, then President Grant. I believe that the prophetic sensings of Grass were at least equal to those of Sitting Bull, and he had the experience of his Washington visits to guide, yes, and influence him. No doubt much influence was exerted upon him by the Department when in Washington, too. The Little Eagle people, while hating Grass, never despised him, rather honored him for standing up to his own convictions and "going against" the strong Hunkpapa followers of Sitting Bulls camp in the treaty of 1889. I could tell you much about that meeting in Cadotte's barn, and certainly not a thing is to the discredit of Grass and his refusal to be a mouthpiece is evidence of his honesty in acting as he did in that parley and as the duly selected spokesman for the Sioux. No, Grass was a great man, a powerful and intelligent thinker, and I believe that a vote of the living Sioux would name him as one of the three greatest men of Sioux history. So much for that - I crave your pardon "Brother", if what I say does not please you, but I could not allow it to pass without a word, for I have known the men of the Sioux for just 50 years and know the jealousies of the Chiefs, the bands and the tribes. I feel that one man has been unintentionally traduced in order that another might be made great.