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Dec. 4, 1928

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# 3

Mr. W. S. Campbell,  
University of Oklahoma,  
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

~~Mr. A. McG. Beede lives at Fort Yates, N. D.~~  
The edition of "Sitting Bull and Custer" was a small one and has, I think, been exhausted for some time, although Mr. Beede may be able to find a copy for you. Our Historical Society library is for reference students only and our regulations do not permit us to send any of our books out on loan.

I note from your previous letter that you wish information on Sitting Bull. Much has been written concerning him, most of it by people not competent to write on the subject. In "Rekindling Camp Fires" I have expressed my opinion of Sitting Bull. I have since made a good many investigations from Indian sources and think I know a good deal that has never been published concerning him. I hesitate in putting anything into print, however, because there has been too much written on him already and I think he should be allowed to rest in peace for a while, at least.

We must remember that Sitting Bull always lived many, many miles from the general routes of travel and that he was with a "wild" band for a number of years preceding the Battle of the Little Big Horn. After his surrender in 1881 he lived on the Grand River a hundred miles from the nearest railway in an unroaded and unsettled country. Most of the people who claim to have known Sitting Bull are talking or writing for publication. There are few people living who ever saw Sitting Bull except the Indians who were associated with him. He never spoke English and few white men of the day spoke the Indian language well enough to get anything of historical value from him. None of his people read English and consequently the things written were allowed to go unquestioned, until now they have almost taken on the halo of truth. The only drawback is that no two stories are alike except those copied from the same source!

I want to warn you that most of these old