

Fort Yates, S. D. Sep. 2, 1929
Mr. W. S. Campbell:

After you went, last eve, a letter corrects error in talk. Am going to aid you all possible, jotting down from time to time what comes to mind, & sending whenever enough to make sufficient. Have always wished some competent person might write a Life of Sitting Bull. Am not inclined to write, myself, and have declined to write many an article requested by some magazine, as for instance, articles on my tramping for about 2000 miles in Europe with tramps (Wanderer, somewhat different than American "tramps") & reporting to the nine faculty members in Berlin University with whom was familiar--and, up to time of the War, perhaps now, they labelled my conclusions "The Beede Theory", which was endorsed in part quite generally, and by some students almost entirely. I hardly see now how I ever came to write "Sitting Bull-Guster". It takes considerable to arouse me. I could not write it now. My mind is slow, inclined to learn rather than to write. Have written some isolated verses which I see quoted occasionally, sometimes with credit given--for which I care nothing. The late Dr. Jipson, Ohio, quotes too much, in his "Bird Psychology", it almost throws out of good balance. Her profet having any information used, what is helpful, without too much direct quoting. Dr. Grinnell, in "The Cheyenne Indians, a masterpiece, quotes more sparingly, on my suggestion, tho he had full access to my field notes, which enabled to unravel some perplexities. So when a youth by the name of Ford, in Washington, asks for data to aid in writing a sort of account of me, of course I have to refuse. His article might be disgusting, and I want no such article at all. A youth, recently, being informed that I was unable to state the author of a verse reading

The loveliest thing in all the earth,
Beyond the power of measured worth,
Is love, involuntary love
Which loves just simply 'cause 'tis love,

replied "Why, you are its author. You pencilled it in the margin of that manuscript I got you to read before publishing." And went on saying that he rewrote the article (for the Saturday Evening Post) eliminating some of the too strong causes of the love-scenes in his article. Mark Twain will live forever, because (1) charmingly describes, sometimes vividly pictures, the elementary facts, leaving the reader, largely, to make his own conclusions and (2) he was so careful that he never even describes a flower as blooming out of season; had had the aid of experts. My first important article, Thesis for Master's degree, was pencilled "Degree granted for the worth of the Thesis, though the Faculty do not endorse the position." It was in German, German script. Today the Faculty would fully endorse the position, which was ~~that-the-U.S.~~ in substance, that the U.S. is slowly and crudely creating a new style and kind of literature which must not be measured by European standards. My next, Doctor's Thesis, at a time when everything anti Trusts & Railroads &c. took the ground that Corporations and Trusts were vastly beneficial in the U.S., and were ~~not~~ germane to U.S. democracy. Degree granted, with protest against the position taken. And some 6 or 8 years ago the Wall Street Journal had an article in highest praise of the central chapter of the Thesis, saying that it could hardly be surpassed.

Now, one writing as you will, should have background clearly in mind. Western Sioux, from long, long time back, specialized in learning and knowing the history, location, claims and affairs of all peoples as far East as the Alleghenys and from the Gulf of Mexico to Puget Sound. They had a regular system of espionage, for learning such things. The grandfather of Martin Seewalker, Lay Reader in my Church, was of this superior espionage class. Though it is claimed, by Indians, that the Western Sioux furnished a contingent force to accompany Wanita (Wannatan, meaning He rushes to attack) made captain at the battle of Sandusky, in the 1912 war, I hardly credit it, though some individuals may have accompanied this second expedition which was too late for use. Nor do I credit the statement by one that Western Sioux sent a force, which got as far as the Red River, to aid the Eastern Sioux in the Minnesota War. In these times the Western Sioux did not at all affiliate with Eastern Sioux, and were specially incensed against Yartons for sending 500 men to aid in almost destroying the Arikara on Grand River, in 182--. The effort of the Western Sioux, the central imperial people, then, as for long time prior, was to unite peoples all around them, to fight out of the region all interlopers, and not to meddle in any way with affairs outside of the region. Of course the Arikara making peace with the Whites a couple years later, put the Arikara out of harmony with the Western Sioux. Red Hail's father (Red Hail born 1833) who lived to be 106 Yrs told Red Hail that when he was young he went up the Missouri to the Rockies on the west side of the river, and returned on the East side of the river, and that he counted 30 skeletons of white men, on both sides of the river. You see when whiteman dies with Indians they were given pious Indian burial. One must not get the notion that the few white men mentioned in books were the only ones up here in early times. This would contradict creditable evidence as well as the old habit of Whites to go wherever it is not