

W.S. Campbell :

Beede

I have heard Indians say that Sitting Bull used to tell to that rather limited circle of men who were his intimates the following story entitled

"The Mysterious Animal Covered with a Mysterious Blanket."  
(Indians)

"Ten young men, where out riding horseback for pleasure, and they came upon a mysterious animal covered head and all with a mysterious blanket. Five of the men thought the animal belonged to the Fox people although its movements were much slower than the movements of a Fox, and five of them thought it belonged to the Wolf people though its movements were slower than the movements of a Wolf.

After riding around the animal and studying it for a while they agreed to catch the animal and take off the mysterious blanket so as to find out what sort of an animal it was.

And when they had taken off the mysterious blanket, no one of <sup>them</sup> ~~they men~~ knew what the animal was, for the animal was more mysterious than the mysterious blanket that it had on. All they knew was that the animal was unlike any animal that the people of this island had ever known or

heard of. They did find out that the animal was a female and was slow in its movements <sup>heavy with young and</sup> because, about to be delivered of a brood of ten pups.

So it is with the White people, the more they come, the more <sup>countless</sup> numerous others come. And the more the mysterious blanket they wear is removed <sup>also</sup> the less we know what they are or what they want. We only know that they are unlike any creatures that any of the people in this island have ever known, and that they may be dangerous to us and to our children."

A person inclined to be philosophical might coin a general statement, that the more the mysterious blanket <sup>much</sup> is removed from anything whatever, the less we seem to actually know about it.

A. McG. Beede A. McG. Beede

Am so much like an Indian that things come to my mind when they happen to come, and as this Sitting Bull story just came to my mind, I write it and send it.

*The word "happen" in the sense it is used by Arabs, Russians, and Indians, who believe in a sort of mystery - causal connection in everything, and have not much idea of what we Whitemen call "chance" or "the law of chance".*

*A. McG. B.*