

July 21, 1929.

Prof. J. Fred Rippy,
Duke University,
Durham, N.C.

Dear Sir:

May I introduce myself and ask a favor?

I am working on the life of Sitting Bull, the Dakota Indian leader, and wish to ask your advice and help. As you know, Sitting Bull found the States too hot for him following the Custer debacle in June 1876. Troops were thrown into the Dakota country and the Indians were chivvied around at a lively rate. Early in 1877, Sitting Bull fled to Canada, where he remained until 1881. During the negotiations to induce him to return and surrender, Sitting Bull stated that he had choice of two refuges- Canada and Mexico. It would appear that he had considered going south to Mexico, rather than north. If so, it is possible that he entered into negotiations with the Mexican Government, or with one of the provincial governors with that in view.

Can you suggest where and how I might find record of such negotiations, in case there is a record?

I am also under the necessity of studying the foreign relations of Canada and the United States with regard to Sitting Bull and his allies 1862-1881. Can you refer me to the proper officer, and suggest the best means of getting access to these documents?

I shall greatly appreciate your assistance.

Perhaps I should introduce myself, also. Though known by the name of my step-father Campbell since childhood, I prefer to write under the name of my own father, Stanley Vestal. You may have seen my life of KIT CARSON, published last year.

Cordially yours,

W S Campbell