

Third. As to Rain-in-the-Face, I would refer you to the article on page 353, Part 2, of the Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico, Bulletin 30 of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution. You can find it in almost any good library. There you will find his own statement that he and his father and grandfather were never chiefs. Under the Sioux system it was impossible for one man to plan a battle, and under any circumstances it would have been impossible for an Indian to have planned Custer's attack on his own village. The battle of the Little Big Horn was a defensive action. Custer was destroyed because he bit off more than he could chew and was outnumbered. The Indians had no plan. Custer's attack was a surprise to them. Rain-in-the-Face was a good warrior, but in his later years developed a taste for whiskey. When he was drunk he would talk. Because of this, a number of white men, at different times, supplied him with liquor and recorded what he told them when under its influence. Needless to say, Rain-in-the-Face made a good story of it. In getting the truth from Indians it is essential that you ask no leading questions and give them no idea what you expect them to say. For the Indian is a "Yes Man" and will very likely tell a stranger whatever he thinks the stranger wishes to be told. It is necessary to become a friend of an Indian before one can have confidence in his statements. Indians are shy and dislike strangers and will say anything in order to get rid of them. It must also be remembered that interpreters will sometimes make things up in order to earn their pay. They will talk to some old chief about the weather and then turn to their employer and tell him a bloodcurdling yarn. I do not believe that any worthwhile historian attaches much importance to Rain-in-the-Face for his yarns. So far as I know, Sitting Bull and Rain-in-the-Face had no disagreement, as Sitting Bull was a great chief and Rain-in-the-Face merely one of many warriors. The information in my book on Sitting Bull was given me by the leading chiefs of the Sioux Nation. Not one of them considered Rain-in-the-Face as a man of any particular importance. Therefore I did not trouble to mention him in my book.

My next book will be entitled WARPETH, a biography of Chief Joseph White Bull, Sitting Bull's nephew, now living. Chapters from this book appeared in the Blue Book Magazine, August and September of this year. The book will be out next Spring. If you like Sitting Bull you will probably like it.

Perhaps I should explain that though my legal name is that of my stepfather Campbell, I write under that of my own father, Vestal. I am,

Yours very truly,

W. S. Campbell.