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Professor W.W. Campbell.
University of Oklahoma.
Norman, Oklahoma.

My dear Professor Campbell:

I wrote to the Smithsonian for information and they referred me to you. Will you help me?

I am writing a boy's book. In it I describe the two tipis of Sitting Bull, at the time of the Custer Fight on The Little Big Horn River. I suppose, but I may be mistaken, that he and his numerous family lived in one tipi and that he practiced his medicine in the other. I may be wrong about this but it seems logical. I do know that he had several members of his family with him, just how many I have never been able to discover, so it is possible he used both tipis for family life. Do you know about this point? And would there be any way I could find out what children he had with him? I feel sure he had his two boys as he left one behind when he hurried off to the hills. I have often wondered if his little daughter Standing Holy was there or if she was born at that time?

But I am especially anxious to describe the tipis correctly. If he used one for his medicine I have thought he would have the sacred circle, round and pegged out with little sticks painted red. Then back of that I think there would have been the sacred fire, a heap of stones. I believe no one ever steps between these two spots. Also I suppose he had bags of his medicine hanging about one tipi and probably his best medicine bag hanging on a tall stick outside. Being a Sioux I presume the bag would be made of buffalo or doe skin decorated with beads or porcupine quills dyed. Or perhaps made of the ears or paws or heads of animals. Am I right?

Now if there were the two lodges or tipis belonging to Sitting Bull would he, in the one with the sacred fire, have used that fire to make a steam bath while he anointed the warriors? Or would they have taken the steam bath in a larger lodge used for the whole tribe? Or in a camp as temporary as that one would there have been a steam lodge at all? I am asking many questions. Perhaps you can refer me to a book that will answer all these many things. I hope to make this a good book. A very excellent publisher in Boston is interested and I am eager to have it correct in all details.

With the most sincere thanks to you for any help you can give me I am

Very truly yours

Zoa Grace Hawley.

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