

I would like to call Mr. Clover's attention to the fact that I am an Oklahoman, and that in Oklahoma whatever else may be our limitations, ignorance of Indians is not among them. Since I was a boy ten years old I have been intimately associated with Plains Indians and have made their history, characteristics and customs my hobby and study. My uncle, on whose ranch I lived, adopted a full-blood Arapaho boy from a nearby camp, and I have many close friends among the Plains tribes from Canada to Texas. In Oklahoma we consider that Indians are people, many of them very fine people. Our Will Rogers is an Indian, our governor is an Indian, and a great number of our leading men in every walk of life have Indian blood. To accuse a whole race of deliberate falsehood to a friend of years standing is a gross slander and in print a libel which any editor should hesitate to publish. Moreover, I would call attention to the fact that in gathering the Indian's side of Sitting Bull's story, I interviewed more than a hundred old men who had known him personally, not only those of his own family, tribe, and nation, but of all the Indian nations both in the States and Canada (both friends and foes) with which he had contact. These interviews were necessarily through different interpreters at times and places far apart. What a conspiracy it must have been which led these men to tell the same story, ignorant as they are of each other's language and separated by thousands of miles! It is true enough that a stranger who goes into a camp with a kodak, bent on gathering information quickly, and asking leading questions, will be deceived nine times out of ten, and this, it appears, is what happened to Mr. Clover. It did not happen to me, for the reason that I was a friend of years standing with the Sioux and Cheyenne men who gave me information. They honored me with Indian titles, and in one case named a child after my wife. These compliments were not bought or sought, but arose out of a real understanding and liking between the parties concerned. When Mr. Clover declares in print that these men are liars he inevitably arouses my resentment.

Mr. Clover implies that I gathered my information from the second and third generations of the Sioux relatives of those participating in the Custer fight