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Crumrine  
Re Sitting Bull

February 15, 1954

Mr. Homer Crumrine  
Hotel Boulderado  
Boulder, Colorado

Dear Mr. Crumrine:

I have your inquiry about the correct translation of the Sioux name of Chief Sitting Bull.

The Sioux thought of life as having four divides to be crossed, as follows:

Infancy--Sitting Bull, the new born calf which cannot rise.

Youth--Jumping or frisking Bull

Manhood--Bull Standing With Calf

Old Age--Lone Bull--the animal cast out of the herd.

The Sioux for these four divides is as follows:

Ta tanka Iyotake. Ta literally means "eater" or ruminant; tanka means big and Iyotake means literally "sitting", so Buffalo Bull Sitting, or Sitting Bull.

Ta Tanka Psica, literally Buffalo Bull Jumping.

Ta Tanka Win Yuka najin, Buffalo Bull Woman Owning Standing.

Ta tanka Wanjila, Lone Bull, or Buffalo Bull Alone.

I haven't seen Mr. Howard's book but since I was adopted into Sitting Bull's family by his nephew Chief White Bull, I think you may rely on this translation.

If you will read my book, SITTING BULL, CHAMPION OF THE SIOUX, published by the Houghton Mifflin Company in 1932, you will find an account of how Sitting Bull happened to be given that name. I have no doubt the book is to be found in your city or University Library in Boulder. The book is out of print and can only be purchased at a premium. However I am hoping that it will be reprinted before long.

Cordially yours,

W. S. CAMPBELL  
(Stanley Vestal)