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April 15, 1953

Editor  
LIFE  
9 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York 20, New York

Dear Sir:

I suppose you will be running a story about the transfer of Sitting Bull's bones from North to South Dakota. As Sitting Bull's biographer (Sitting Bull, Champion of the Sioux by Stanley Vestal, Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Mass., 1932) and an adopted member of his family (foster son of his elder nephew, Chief Joseph White Bull) perhaps I can add a word to your story.

About twenty-five years ago, as narrated in my biography, Sitting Bull's grave was opened secretly on a dark night. Thereafter, one of the local residents (now deceased) kept an arm bone, said to be Sitting Bull's. If this claim is true and the Indians who transferred the body failed to get possession of it, part of Sitting Bull probably remains in North Dakota.

It is about time South Dakota erected a monument to Sitting Bull. He is by far the most famous and remarkable man ever born within her borders.

Cordially yours,

Stanley Vestal

WSC:mhf

cc: Governor of North Dakota