

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INDIAN FIELD SERVICE

Standing Rock Agency School,
Fort Yates, N. Dak.
March 21, 1929.

MR. W. S. Campbell,
University of Oklahoma.
Norman, Oklahoma.
My dear Mr. Campbell:

Referring to your letter of the 13^{inst.} and also to one of previous date which I failed to answer, I will say that I much appreciate your inquiry and that I often thought of your first letter; also I much appreciate your motive in writing the book you refer to-

I came to the Standing Rock Reservation to take charge of the Cannon Ball Indian Day School on about October 1, 1890. This was about eleven weeks before the battle at Grand River which resulted in the death of Sitting Bull as you know on December 15, 1890. During these eleven weeks I met Sitting Bull near the Agency Office one day and was introduced to him by my wife who was part Sioux and spoke the Sioux language fluently. Sitting Bull seemed to be pleased to be introduced to me and he and my wife had a social chat for a few minutes. This is about all the personal contact I had with Sitting Bull. I had some of his grandchildren at school here during a part of my forty-three years in the Indian Service. I do not know of any stories showing what Sitting Bull said or did aside from such stories as you no doubt are familiar with.

The matter of his influence over his followers impressed me and aroused my curiosity, so some years before Sitting Bull died I had a conversation with a missionary priest (Father Jerome Hunt now dead) who knew Sitting Bull intimately and worked among his people here and Pine Ridge over forty-five years ago. It was his view that the influence of Sitting Bull over his followers was not from any personal magnetism or any prestige from his character as a man or leader, but rather from his determined opposition to the White race and his unwillingness to submit at any time to government control. He wanted the lands for the Indians and for them alone. In this way he was the centre of attraction for all Indians who were dissatisfied with government control and his camp was for that reason also the rendezvous for Indians who had committed themselves and were fugitives from justice. His band of immediate followers was not large, being less than two hundred. He had little use for schools but seemed friendly with missionaries and churches of all denominations.

Regretting that I can not give you more information and with sincere regards, I remain

Very respectfully,

E. C. Stephens

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