

1020 Fairview Boulevard
Portland Oregon
October 28, 1929

~~13~~ ✓ (C) Bowen

My dear Doctor:

Yours of the 19th at hand. I will answer to the best of my ability. In doing this, have taken your letter section by section, and here are my answers.

"You say you saw him in October, 1876. I take it you were with General Miles at the time. I have read his memoirs and understand that he had a council or two with Sitting Bull about that time. Were you within ear-shot of these councils? I would be glad to have you tell me more of this first sight of Sitting Bull, and of the movements of his people and the Army. The Indians' story of that meeting is somewhat at variance with that of his book, and I am anxious to get things straightened out. Very often, I find that, if I can get all the details together, what seemed like contradiction is simply elaboration. So I shall be grateful if you will give me your recollections of that meeting."

① Early in October, 1876, one of our wagon-trains used in hauling supplies from down the Yellowstone at Glendive to our cantonment on the Yellowstone just above the Tongue, known as "cantonment at Tongue River," was much delayed and we soon learned that near a small stream, a tributary of the Yellowstone on the left bank, called Cedar Creek, it had been attacked by Indians and driven back. General Miles, Colonel 5th Infantry, organized a relief force of between 400 and 500 officers and men of that regiment to move forward at once, engage the Indians wherever they might be found and open the road all the way to the mouth of the Yellowstone which empties into the Missouri nearly opposite Fort Buford.

I was one of the officers of this command, and on the day in question, was in charge of the advance guard of 30 enlisted men. Just before noon, Indians were discovered on our left flank. The command was halted, the wagons parked and the troops placed in skirmish line. Soon an Indian appeared with a white piece of material used as a "white-flag" and with a message that Sitting Bull desired a conference. The General consented to meet him between the lines, each to be accompanied by not to exceed five persons.

This was agreed to. I saw Sitting Bull and the Indians with him, but was not close enough to hear a word. As to the interview, I refer to Miles' Book, "Recollections Etc." This interview was not satisfactory and next morning there was another one, also of no avail, and a long range fight followed, which lasted all day. Next day we followed the trail, but as it divided, and not having a force large enough to follow both, we followed the larger trail south, and two days later found that Sitting Bull and his immediate following had gone north, following the other trail.