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Densmore Hotel,
Kansas City, Missouri,
February 3, 1933.

Mr. Stanley Vestal,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.

My dear Mr. Vestal:-

In the morning Kansas City Star (Times) I read with interest an excerpt from your biography of Sitting Bull. I should like to have the book but the publisher was not indicated.

My interest in Sitting Bull---in any authentic account of him---arises from the fact that I have spent a good deal of time in The Sioux country and last summer painted some portraits of the survivors of the Custer battle among which were some relatives and members of the Sitting Bull faction. I talked at length with some of these Sioux, through the official interpreter at Fort Yates, about the Custer 'massacre' and about Sitting Bull and other leaders. There is and likely always will be controversy about some details of the Custer battle, since no active participant survived; but I found a remarkable unanimity regarding the status of Sitting Bull and his part in the battle. He was not---it is agreed---an active participant in the battle of the Little Big Horn or in any other battle of any note. Gall, Two Moons and Crazy Horse were the real leaders and Gall was the greatest tactician of them all. Sitting Bull, so far as I could learn, was an agitator and a seer, and a leader in those fields. I was, by the way, on the spot where his cabin stood and where he was killed by Indian police under the direction of Red Tomahawk who is said to have fired the fatal shot. I have some stones from Sitting Bull's sweat lodge.

I am planning to have my Indian portraiture on exhibit at the Chicago Exposition, and I may go back to the Indian country this Spring to finish the group of known survivors of the Custer battle. There are some twenty-five or thirty yet living, including the Northern Cheyennes. The last of the Southern Cheyennes who took part in the conflict died recently in Oklahoma.

While painting among the Indians I became greatly interested in the famous mount of Captain Keogh (Comanche) who was killed with Custer and which was the only living thing left on the battlefield. Comanche, as you may know, was wounded seven times,---so badly, indeed, that the Indians left him to die and the rescuing troops under Terry who were the first to arrive at the scene two days