

Sitting Bull has been represented as uncompromisingly hostile to the whites. But I cannot find that he ever left Sioux country to attack settlements, and his pals show far more interest in his wars with Indians than with whites. As a rule, I find, he was generally present in the battles where the books say he was not present, and far away from the fights in which he was said to have taken part, against the troops. So far as one can judge, the troops were seldom sure what Indians they were attacking, and the Indians always resented the presence of white war parties in their country.

For the book I am planning now, I think the territory between the Platte and the Canadian line, and between the Missouri on the East and the Big Horn Mts. on the West would be right. If you will let me see a map of that region, marked with the Indian engagements (with troops) I will see if the publisher can use it in my next book. I think that, if I can get to Dakota again this summer, and get some more data on the location of the Indian battles (inter-tribal) I am seeking the story of, we could make up a map between us that would be the best in existence. Also, I would like to make a study of Indian geographic names. I have the names of the main streams now, and with a good map to show the old men, I could readily get the Indian names of smaller features. These Indian names could then be printed in the margin of the map, or in a separate place, so as to parallel the present names, and thus solve some problems of history.

In my life of Sitting Bull, so far as possible, I put in dates and places all the time. I like to know where I am at, as you say. I hope the readers will feel as you and I do.

I was interested in the mention of certain Indians in Baldwin's diary--especially Little Assiniboin (or Jumping Bull, as the Sioux remember him; he was also called Stays-Back and Killed-Plenty). Up in Canada, I had quite a talk with his cousin, Big Darkness, on the Reserve at Sintaluta. All the Indians, both Sioux and shot Assiniboin, speak very highly of Jumping B. He was a bold man, and had a ~~great~~ horse ~~fixing~~ under him in the skirmishon the Beaver with Miles (W.P.Clark's scouts) in '79. It was he who lingered behind to take a shot as the Indians went up the bluffs. I have a number of pictures made by Sitting Bull's uncle of JB's exploits, and hope to get the full story of these next summer. In that fight with Miles, JB/~~s~~ was hit in the leg himself, but was up and riding within ten days. The story of how Sitting Bull captured and adopted him is one of the best in my book.

The Assiniboin never seem to have been very loyal to the Sioux. White Dog, their chief, mentioned in the Diary you sent me, sought peace with SB in '75, and that same year some of those Indians attacked him when on a raid against another tribe, and passing thru their country. I wonder if any of them fought against SB for Baldwin and Miles; apparently not, as they could get no Ammunition. Silas Adam, one of the Ass. scouts (in Canada), told me the peace held until '79.

I believe that SB was sincere in his desire for peace after '68, and that he rallied the agency Indians in self-defence. All he asked was to be let alone to go on with his hunting. But of course, there was no chance of his being let alone. And having won his spurs as a war chief, he was always ready to do battle. Speaking of maps, I went to the trouble of tracing all his movements (of his camp, I mean) for months both before and after the Custer fight. Someday that data might make an interesting map of itself.

I am always happy to hear from you, and to see anything you care to show me.

Yours faithfully,

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