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M<sup>o</sup>N-24

SITTING BULL.

When the news was telegraphed from the Standing Rock Agency last winter that the great warrior and chieftain, Sitting Bull, was dead, instinctively I exclaimed, he has been murdered! I was then nearly two thousand miles from the wigwam where the famous chief of the Sioux nation met death at the hands of the Indian police. A few days ago I visited Ft. Yates and there, unsolicited, heard expressed the deliberate judgment of men who were familiar with all the circumstances, that the killing of Sitting Bull was nothing more or less than cold blooded, premeditated murder. Not satisfied with the life of the old patriarch himself, we were told that his son, a mere youth, was aroused from his innocent slumbers in his aged father's tepee, dragged from his bed and shot dead while the agonizing cries of his mother and sister were piercing the silent night air imploring mercy from the judgment seat of the Great Spirit. We were also told that the feeling of disgust among the Indians for a government that tolerates such atrocities is universal and enduring.

Blinded by prejudice, intensified by perjured reports, the popular feeling against this remarkable red man was that of intense hatred. In striking contrast let me quote the testimony of W. H. H. Murray of New York:

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Sitting Bull was the George Washington of the Sioux nation. Too intelligent to be hood winked and too honest to be corrupted by the influences that have been at work among the unlettered wards of our government, he stood firmly for the rights of his people. For a generation he had seen his people driven from the ancient possessions of their fathers, their morals corrupted by the vices of the white men, the race withering before the hardships of hunger and cold and disease. He was a standing protest against the barbarity so often practiced upon his people under cover of protecting and civilizing the Indian. He was a stumbling block in the way of the schemer and the despoiler of Indian

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