

"We continued our conversation with Sitting Bull, and we did not only find in him an eloquent and well informed speaker, but also a logician of no small merit. He was undoubtedly a man of unusual abilities and we did not wonder at his influence over his people.

"After having thanked him for his kind and courteous reception, we presented him and the other Indians of the camp with a special kind of tobacco raised and cured in Canada by the farmers and known as 'farmer's twist.' They were quite delighted with it, // Mé // because they had been used to it in the Northwest, where the half-breeds cultivate and smoke it.

"I have seen the 'Wild West' show since then, in Paris, but Sitting Bull was not in it. He had returned to his tepee and to his people in Dakota. Every one is familiar with the circumstances of his death.

"His followers, the Sioux, calling themselves Dacotahs, were originally known to the first French explorers as far back as 1640. DuLuth, Hennepin and Perrot first wrote of them as Sioux, which is a diminutive of the word Na-doues-sioux in the Ojibwa tongue, signifying enemies and being applied by the Ojibwas both to the Iroquois of the east and the Dacotahs of the west, with whom they were constantly at war. Lesueur visited them and lived with them (1688-99) and later on Varennes de la Verandrye, a French officer accompanied only by his four sons, crossed the entire Sioux country and planted the French flag on a peak of the eastern range of the Rocky Mountains, without having suffered at all from interference at the hands of the aborigines.