

## PREFACE

Indians are people.

they MADE THE frontier, and the frontier made America. It may be claimed without fear of contradiction that they have had a greater share in making the American character what it is than any other minority now living within our borders.

Other minorities have been faithfully represented and fairly understood but the Indian has been more persistently misrepresented and misunderstood than any other group, not expecting the negro (who had the advantage of ~~being~~ living in close contact with large numbers of observant and intelligent white men- an advantage the old-time Indian never knew)

Of all the Indians, the Plains Indians were the finest types physically and mentally, with characters which- in many instances- no man of humane sympathies can fail to admire and respect. Of the Indians of the plains, all competent authorities agree that the Dakota or Teton Sioux were the most admirable, with the possible exception of the Cheyennes, their friends and allies. And of these Plains Indians and these Sioux, no man has been so celebrated as Sitting Bull.

It is the purpose of this book to study his character, which is one of great interest- not only for its powerful influence upon American history, for the wealth of materials existing for study, and to the unparalleled influence of the man himself, but because in him we have a full length specimen of the primitive intellectual struggling to govern and maintain a savage culture in the face of overwhelming odds.

→ His merits

→ Tragic story

The misrepresentation of sentimentalists, of enemies, of grafters, of armed foes, of advertising men who made a living from exploitation of the Wild West, from sensational journalists, of Indians themselves- wther from motives of political bias, personal vainglory, or village minded prejudice.

Both his faults and his achievements have been misconceived and he is as falsely represented in our literature as any man can well be. No serious study of the man or his rare type of manhood in primitive life has ever been attempted (specifically)..Such a theme bristles with difficulties; and the result here offered is presented with a full realisation of the gaps and incompletenesses, the

→ No mere man of action could have done what he did

A bibliography and a statement of obligations will be found in the appendix.

Such a study is not only something not heretofore attempted in American biography, but an addition to American history, and an effort useful in itself. and an act of justice to a much abused man and a misunderstood people.

In this instance, the problem was not an exercise in debunking, nor a belated white-washing, but a wholly fresh alignment and re-valuation of the materials, as it were from the beginning.