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The foreign artist Cronau, who visited the captive chief, reports his anxiety to see the President and present his case in person. Cronau (called Iron Eyes because of the spectacles he wore) quotes the chief as follows: "I never was afraid of my enemies and did my best. My successes I owe ^{to} the Great Spirit. Iron Eyes, when you go to the Great Father (President of the Union), I beg you speak in my interest, for I am of the opinion, that up to now no one has brought my wishes before the Great Father. Tell him, that he may allow me to visit to speak with him personally, tell him that I should like to live like a white man and own a farm that could feed me (Would make a living), for I do not want to live on the rations given to us daily. I like to help myself. I should like to live on the Cannon Ball or Grand River. There is good land, water and wood. There also is the place where I was born. I wished that teachers might live there who would teach my children and those of my warriors; further I should like that blacksmiths and traders would settle there with whom I could establish connections. Tell the Great Father that I do not speak, only to speak; my heart is just and wants what I say."

So day followed day at Fort Randall, until in September of '82, Lieutenant Colonel George P. Ahern, then a young lieutenant fresh from West Point, came to join his regiment, the Twenty-Fifth Infantry. Colonel George Andrews, commanding, found that Ahern was something of a linguist, and asked him to take charge of Sitting Bull's fan mail, which was becoming abundant. Letters addressed to Sitting Bull were being received not only from people in the United States, but from many foreign lands. They were, for the most part, requests for his pipe, knife, tomahawk, and especially for his autograph! By that time someone had taught him to write his name in English, with a large dot over the "i" and the "t" crossed at the very top of the vertical line. But Sitting Bull would not answer a letter or send an autograph unless a dollar was sent in advance. The money he received from