

Perennial Inkpa duta

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Mr. W. S. Campbell,  
Norman, Okla.

Dear Sir: Yours received. I feel that you are up against the same proposition that has confronted me. The lack of living witnesses is nearly fatal to recorded history--far from a tale of wandering experience the truth will peep through at some point.

Inkpa-duta's father killed a popular chief in early days and was an outlaw in disgrace with all Dakota's from this act. He died and his son, the infamous Inkpa-duta became chief. His band was small, about 20 men, pirate best describes the character of the band. Their great crime was the Spirit Lake massacre in 1857, but there are many mysterious murders of whites and Indians credited to this band. The attempt of the Indian Department to compel the Annuity Indians to destroy this band was largely to blame for the massacre of 1862. The annuity was held up to compel the decent Indians to commit these murders--and they did kill two or three of the band. The injustice of this act, and the apparent inability of the government to punish its offenders, was deep seated. Though dissolute and evil men, yet the members of this band were related to the peaceful Indians, and the feeling of wrong toward our mercurial government was and is still deeply felt by just men and Indians alike--in popular language--it was "rotten". Like a guerrilla band their doings while the outbreak of 1862 was on little is known, and there is no certain evidence of their undoubted participation, until Sibley's expedition in 1863, when a member of this band killed Dr. Weiser and started a battle in North Dakota. Following this the band