

Louisville, Ky. Jan. 6th 25.
Deer Park, 1970

Dear Professor:

Many thanks for your photographs of Iron Horse. These old weather-beaten Indians are without a doubt the most picturesque thing we have in this country. The ermine-fringed shirt looks as if it were of Crow or Blackfoot origin, more likely Crow. I have sometimes seen Sioux wear Crow moccasins which had been given to them on the Crow reservation.

The photo I gave you years ago of Mato Tope's robe ~~was~~ represented the one at Bern, Switzerland, which was probably given by that chief to Carl Bodmer, the artist who accompanied the Prince.

The abuses in Oklahoma against the Indians are, according to recent accounts, still very great but mostly in the form of graft because the Indians have more money in that state. On other reservations it takes more the form of criminal neglect.

The desire of the American people to spread their high moral influence seems to work more in an easterly than in a westerly direction.

I suppose Brown finds it very hard to give up the hope of publishing your book. He probably has literary judgment enough to know that it has considerable literary interest and merit (as probably all the other publishers who read it realized) but he also knows that it hardly fits in with the usual literature of a similar kind, that is to say of a similar subject, in that it is too serious an effort for the conventional boy's book or the "popular" books dealing with Indians. Coming to think of it, there seems to be hardly any serious effort in American literature to utilize Indian subjects (with the exception of Longfellow and Cooper, neither of whom knew much about the Indian). This is probably due to the fact that American literary men of the better type are aware that a successful treatment of that subject presupposes a much greater knowledge than they have or can possibly get without years of intense study and observation.

I still am much inclined to believe that your attempt is the first one to introduce the Indian as he actually was into literature. Brown probably is aware of the fact but cannot afford the risk to publish a book that is much too original and novel to find popular favor readily.

Our consolation, of course, is - and I think that ought to be a very real consolation- that we have done a good job which, like all really good jobs, will ultimately be appreciated.

Wishing you a very happy new year, I remain yours,
as always,



Frederick Weygold