

Rev. Franklin C. Smith,
Church of the Epiphany,
South Haven, Mich.

Dear Mr. Smith:

I was pleased to get your interesting letter. I think a sketch of the Indian, David Oakerhater, should be an interesting undertaking. As it happens, I have not been working with the Cheyennes for some years past now, having been engaged rather with the Sioux in the Northwest. However, I think you might get co-operation if you would write direct to Superintendent Leo S. Bonnin, Cheyenne & Arapaho Agency, Concho, Oklahoma. There is an Indian there named Hawkins who has helped a number of investigators, including myself. Or, you might consult Prof. Clements, head of the Department of Anthropology in this University. He has recently been working with the Cheyennes.

I think there should be no real mystery in the character of Oakerhater, as you describe him. It does not follow that a fighting man (red or white) is necessarily personally quarrelsome. In fact, I think my experience goes to show that the soldier (civilized and savage alike) is apt to be a very quiet, self-controlled man, often with very gentle manners. Kit Carson was such a man, and many white officers and soldiers conform to the pattern. In our own wars, it was generally the non-combatants who grew hysterical and sang hymns of hate. I could name many