

Sioux, Nbr. 7/11 1889.

July 3/89.

Maj. Roberts,

Sioux Commission, Standing Rock Agency, D. T.

Dr. Sir:

McK-11

I herewith inclose you a fair specimen of a letter from a female crank; and if it but provokes a smile, after perusal, its mission will have been accomplished.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) W. J. Godfrey.

Yankton Indian Agency
July 3rd, 1889.

Chief Red Cloud,

Last spring I received an invitation from Dr. Bland in Washington, to come and meet you there. I am a member of the N.I.D.A. & he wished me to go and talk the Sioux question over with you and the other members. I was ill & could not go at the time. I had long ago contemplated a visit to Dakota, to visit some Indian friends. Some are at Cannon Ball now, some at Standing Rock and some at the Yankton Agency. I was glad to get away from the busy world to breathe air of Dakota once more & to see the faces I liked to look upon. I arrived at the Cannon Ball river and visited some friends 8 miles south of it. Sitting Bull was almost ~~dead~~ ^{dying} at the time & was reported even dead. He recovered and when he heard I had come sent a messenger with a letter. This letter was entrusted to the Agent's son & Barry the Photographer of Bismarck. I heard of this letter 2 weeks later from Sitting Bull himself: but I had never received it.

Sitting Bull sent another messenger whose message was delivered 5 days later than it should have been. A third messenger came with the news that the old chief wished to speak to me but was too weak to ride up. Up to this time I had been ignorant as to whether he was alive or dead & much worried about him. The Agent had come up & seemed very friendly & commenced at once to talk of Sitting Bull although no one mentioned the chief's name. Said he was a coward, a selfish man, no one's friend, of no importance & a heavy burden on the younger men who were more progressive. He also spoke of Dr. Bland & said that he had no foot hold or influence whatever at Standing Rock. I did not answer, & I do not know whether he was aware that I am a member, but I think he is else he would not have spoken of the N.I.D. Asso. I saw Sitting Bull at Yates; he had come up 40 miles, ill as he was to meet me. He was glad to see me for he had many things to tell me. He has become a member of the N.I.D. Association, also Thunder Hawk, Hohecikana, Bears Rib, Wakinyanduta, Circling Bear, Matowaoyunpa, Ceya Apapi (Strike Kettle) Black Shield, Wasica, Maza Wizi Hanku & Tasmka Duta. Many more would have joined but I had no time, nor chance to see them, but Sitting Bull said he knew they would join, but he wanted their own word for it.

It had been my intention to travel through the Indian country on the journey to the Yankton Agency & I told Sitting Bull of my intentions. He said that if I was satisfied and he was strong enough he would escort me to Cheyenne himself. The wagon was comfortable & members of his family would be in attendance. I accepted gratefully & he gave orders to have things in readiness. A relative of Sitting Bull, Mrs. Van Solen, suggested that we had better go for a pass for Sitting Bull as he could not cross