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Indian tortures

Dear Mr. Campbell:

I am glad that my "narrative" interested you. As far as torture of captives by Indians of the Great Plains is concerned, there is documentary evidence to show that it occurred. See for example the article Captives, Bull. 30, BAE.; Mooney, Mem. Amer. Anthrop. Ass. I, p. 381; also 17th Ann. Rept. BAE., pp. 188, 193, 203, 213. I am afraid I shall have to agree with the Rev. R. Petter in his opinion that Grinnell was inclined to whitewash the Cheyenne. That Indians of the Great Plains were much more sinned against than sinning, I think is true. The Chivington massacre can hardly be matched for its cruelty. According to *Bull. 30* the late J. O. Dorsey stated that captives among certain Siouan tribes were not tortured; but there is no record of the precise tribes he had in mind which is a pity, for Denig who wrote approximately in 1854 states that the Assiniboin, Blackfoot, Arakara, Cree, Crow, and Sioux tortured ~~SKINNING~~ captives: for details see the 46th Ann. Rept. BAE., pp. 551, 552. My interpreter is not a young man, contrary to your supposition. My own work among Indians of the Plains began in 1910. I considered them a brave heroic people with justice on their side, fighting against overwhelming odds. Personally I have always been treated with kindness by them; the Arapaho in particular, have ever been gentle. Without doubt our own white ruffians of the border are largely if not wholly responsible for the troubles, and this applies to not only to the Plains, but Middle West, and East also. I thank you for your data on the Minniconjou Sioux.

Sincerely Truman Michelson

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