

fact much delighted him and his chiefs. I talked over situations with them and told them the straight facts, not omitting details that were unfavorable to the Indians, for you know many, if not all, of the white people who had talked to them told them only the favorable sides and left the disagreeable things out, which of course makes it much harder for the Indians in his unenlightened life to know just what his desires are concerning the government questions.

My counsel with the Indians was very satisfactory and I learned many things about Sitting Bull's individuality. He had some very indefinable power which could not be resisted by his own people or even others who came in contact with him. When I become a more thorough student of psychology I shall understand him better, but even with what knowledge I did have I comprehended more easily the character of the Indian Chief who was always so tender, gracious and invariable sweet.

About this time the people were much concerned about the dry year; there had been no rain for months. The Indians went to Ft. Yates for their rations and one day at this period, they were gathered together, Sitting Bull announced that it would rain. He took a buffalo skin, waved it around in the air, made some signs, placed it upon the ground and ----- IT RAINED. Not immediately of course, but in a day or two. I had some practice myself in discovering signs of rain but on this occasion I was not prepared from the looks of the weather to agree with the prophet Sitting Bull. He says, tho, by some means unknown to the rest of us that it was liable to rain. This is only one incident which shows why the people had such faith in him. His knowledge of the elements was very accurate and he was always shrewd enough to make advantageous use of these things to better his own power and influence. He understood the grass signs and could tell by observing it closely what sort of a winter we would have, whether it would be mild or severe. I remember particularly that during the winter of the Ghost dance he prophesied that the winter would be mild and said, "Yes, my people, you can dance all the winter this year, the sun will shine warmly and the weather will be fair." He told by the growing of the grass to whether the snow would be deep or not.