

Cocconut Grove Fla.,

January 31st., 1910.

My Dear Mrs. Willson:-

I congratulate you upon the completion of your difficult task; that ^{of} collecting, sifting, sorting, and assembling in concrete form, the mass of information concerning the Seminoles of Florida, held between the covers of the intensely interesting book you have just given to the world.

There is no question that this remnant of a tribe, once so powerful as to wage successful warfare against the United States for seven years, is, ethnologically, the most interesting body of American Indians now in existence. Not only are they of pure blood, without a trace of admixture with the Whites, but they live today, as they did when first seen by Europeans.

I am very glad that you have brought out so strongly, their sense of honor, their absolute integrity, their abiding affection for home and family, their religious convictions, which, ignoring Christianity, still embody its highest ethics, and their sturdy independence of character.

Also, shameful to Americans as is the record, I rejoice that you have not hesitated to uncover, in your narrative, the salient features of that most cowardly war which was not ended until the "Red Patriots" were forced into submission through the foulest treacheries that have disgraced the American name.

Your book must, and will always stand side by side with Helen Jackson's terrible "Century of Dishonor", and as a life long friend of the Florida Seminole, I thank you for having written it.

There is but one thing in connection with it that I deplore, and that is the birch-bark canoe on the cover. So foreign is such a craft to the needs of the

Seminole, and so unfitted to the exigencies of the Everglades, that you might just as well have given him an Eskimo kayak, or a Peruvian balsa. And this, when his own, incomparable, dug-out, canoe, unique among all the water craft of the world, is so distinctive of both him and his country, as to be well worth an entire chapter of your book, or in fact a magazine article by itself.

By the way, may I offer for your consideration; Talahassee=Sunflower? Talah, a tree. Faese, the Sun. Ergo, the suntree or sunflower, suggested by vast quantities of sunflowers covering the abandoned old fields of Leon County, when the Seminoles first appropriated them.

Wishing your book the wide reading it so well deserves, and thanking you for my own copy, which I shall place in the Coconut Grove Library, I remain,

Yours gratefully,

Kirk Munroe