

PREFACE TO PART II.

It seems that Sitting Bull, while in camp at the Red Deer river, was presented by some one from Fort Walsh with a copy of his printed "works." He appeared greatly surprised, but must have felt flattered by it; for, for some days after, he was observed to be in a pondering mood, his countenance occasionally lighting up with an expression of grim humor quite strange to his impassive features.

Starting suddenly from his abstraction, and taking up a slip of birch bark, with a lead pencil which he always carries about him, he appeared for some time to be quite absorbed in writing. The composition, which was written in a character respectable for its neatness, proved when finished, to be an invitation, in several languages, to President Hayes to visit him at his camp at the Red Deer.

Delivering it to a friend at Fort Walsh, he enjoined him strictly to send it by the least indirect means to the editor of his printed "Works." In accordance with the editor's interpretation of this action, the communication is here given to the world. It would seem to have been written purposely to dispel the doubts of the incredulous; and certainly supports the position of those journals which have held from the first that the great Sioux chief had been initiated in the learning of the whites,--one editor pointing to Montreal, and another to St. ⁴ Louis, as the place in which he received his early training. It has even been hinted that he was for a time a pupil of St. Omer's, in France. * The fact that a copy of the Life of Napoleon I, in the French language, had been seen in his tepee, has had a wide circulation by the press.

Since the above was written, the country has again been disturbed by the announcement that Sitting Bull, with the remnant of Lane Deer's band, has appeared south of the boundary line; and in fact has again made his camp on Miles' old battle-ground, where he seems to be inclined to active hostilities. If this be

*He seems at least to have taken early to the study of the humanities. Editor