

on their best behavior. With these little ones it was easy to decide upon the thrift, the cleanliness and industry of the mothers. We have a belief that a child in its dress and behavior is a fair index of the culture, mind and industry of its mother. Some were decked out in all the variety of finery that skins of wild animals, beads, porcupine quills, and various colored cloths could suggest. Others were in more simple costume, a string of beads round the neck, and a string round the loins. It is due to the Indian woman to say, that whilst the male children, even to an advanced age, are often permitted to go naked, or nearly so, we saw but one female child so exposed.

When the crowd has assembled, it was announced that only the principal of head men of the nation were expected within the circle prepared for the Council. The others took positions on the plains, generally in the rear of the part assigned to their chiefs and braves. The Council ground was a circle - about a third of it facing the east was left open. Around the remainder sheds had been erected with lodge poles and lodge skins. The tribes were arranged around - the Sioux first, north and west of the entrance, the Cheyennes, Assinaboins, Shoshones, Arrickewas, Gros Ventres, Mandans, Arapahoes. In the centre a covered arbor was erected. Here was seated Col. Mitchell and Major Fitzpatrick, the Commissioners; there was also present, Col. Cooper, Capt. Ketchu, Capt. Duncan, Capt. Rhett, Lieut. Hastings and Lieut. Elliott, of the U.S.A. The Rev. Father De Smet, Col. R. Campbell, B. W. Brown, Major Haldman, of the Utah Indian Agency, Mr. Rose, Sub-Agent, and a number of gentlemen, interpreters, traders, and others.

Far reaching in the rear of the Indian Chiefs and Braves, stood the attentive members of their respective tribes. For quietness, decorum and general good behavior, on such occasions, the Indians might be made models for civilized society. Although here closely pressed together, everything was quiet as in a church.

I have alluded more particularly to the assemblage and appearances this morning, for the reason that ~~was~~ it was the first and best opportunity presented to see all the Indians in a body. In all its aspects, it was new to me, and a thousand incidents, which will not bear repetition, were of deep interest. It is an undoubted fact that the bearing, character, manners, courage habits and nearly all leading characteristics of the Indians of the plains and mountains, strongly contrast with that of the more easterly Indians - say from the Pawnees to our State line. The former are proud, manly and high toned sons of the wilds - the latter are dirty, beggarly and cowardly compared with the former.

The latter have more to do with the whites, have learnt many of their vices and few of their virtues. What contamination may do with the former remains to be seen.

Colonel Mitchell in his address, through an interpreter, first asked that the pipe of peace be smoked. Then he said:

"When white men meet to transact important business, and they desire to test their truth and sincerity, they lay their hands on the Bible, the Book of the Great Spirit - their Great Medicine - and take an oath. When the red man intends to tell the truth, and faithfully fulfill his promises, he takes an oath by smoking to the Great Spirit. The Great Spirit sees it all and knows it. Now, I do not wish any Indian to smoke with me that has any deceit or lies in his heart - or has two hearts - or whose ears are not bored to hear what his Great Father at Washington has to propose, and perform whatever is agreed upon. All such will let the pipe pass. I don't want them to touch it."

During the process of smoking, Mrs. Elliott, the lady of Lieut. W. L. Elliott, of the Mounted Rifles, came in, and was received by the Commissioners, and assigned a seat within the arbor. Mrs. E. was the only white lady within the encampment, and her presence created an agreeable sensation through the assemblage. Col. Mitchell, on receiving her, remarked to the Indians, "That in her presence the white men gave them an evidence of their peaceful intentions, and thus confidence in their power to punish any wrongs. Her presence, too, was also an evidence of the confidence that was reposed in their honesty and good intentions."

When you have made peace between all your nations here assembled