

there will be no occasion for war parties going into the country of another nation.

Your nations are divided up into bands or small tribes, and many of these small bands are as hostile to other bands of their own people as they are to other nations. Your Great Father will not recognize any such divisions. The bands of the several nations or tribes must make peace with each other and form one nation. Your Great Father will only treat with the whole nation or tribe when united, not with any band however large or powerful.

Big Yancton, another Sioux, who is very much like some of our fulsy, meddlesome, everyday orators, followed. He never lets an opportunity escape him to make a speech, and seldom spoke much to the point.

"Father, you tell us to behave ourselves on the roads and make peace. I am willing to shake hands and make peace with the whites and all the Indians. Your white people travel the roads and they have destroyed the grass, why do you not give them grass of their own. They have destroyed our grass and timber, and we can't hunt where we used to; we used to own all this country and went where we pleased; now, we are surrounded by other Indians, and the whites pass through our country. The game is going away and I should like to see the time when you will give us horses, cattle and fowls as the white men have."

Col. Mitchell then called upon the Cheyennes, and Bark, or The Bear's father, and said:

Grand Father and Father: I am glad to see so many Indians and white meeting in peace. It makes my heart glad, and I shall be more happy at home. I am glad you have taken pity on us, and come to see us. The buffalo used to be plenty in our country, but it is getting scarce. We got enough to come here and to keep us a while, but our meat will not last long. As the sun looks down upon us - as the Great Spirit sees me, I am willing, Grand Father, to do as you tell me to do. I know you will tell me right, and that it will be good for me and my people. We regard this as a great medicine day, when our pipes and water shall be one, and we all shall be at peace. Our young men, Grand Father, whom you want to go with you to the States, are ready, and they shall go. I shall look for their return when the grass begins to grow again. If all the Nations here were as willing to do what you tell them and do what they way, as we are, then we could sleep in peace; we would not have to watch our horses or our lodges in the night.

Here the proceedings were interrupted by a Chief of the Sioux, one of the Black Feet band, who insisted on making a speech:

"Grand Father, you called me here from the Missouri river. I am here; my people are very poor and hungry - we have very little to eat. We have heard all you have said; your words are very good, but we think we should have a hundred wagon loads of goods every year and more buffalo. We don't want the horses - we have plenty of horses. We want to see the goods."

In addition the Commissioners had the assistance of Mr. James Bridger, the owner and founder of Bridger's Fort, in the mountains. This man is a perfect original. He is a Kentuckian by birth, but has been in the Indian country since he was sixteen years of age. He was with General Ashley in his early trapping expeditions, and afterwards with various companies, and finally, roamed over the country on his own hook, in the capacity of trapper, hunter, trader, or Indian fighter, as the emergency demanded. He has traversed the mountains East and West, and from the Northern boundary of the United States to the Gila river. He is not an educated man, but seems to have an intuitive knowledge of the topography of the country, the courses of streams, the direction of mountains, and is never lost, wherever he may be. It is stated by those who have had him in their employ, that in the midst of the mountains, when the party of trappers wished to move from one stream to another, or cross a mountain to any stream or place, or when lost or uncertain of the proper direction, they would always appeal to Bridger. He would throw his gun carelessly over his shoulder, survey the country awhile with his eye, and then strike out on a course, and never fail to reach the place, although he had several hundred miles to traverse over a country which he never