

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 had 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. (The proceedings in Council we will give in a connected form.)

Oct. 26, 1851.

THE COUNCIL

Treaty Ground near Fort Taramie, I.T.
September 8, 1851.

When order had been restored, all the Indians, seated after their own peculiar notions about rank and precedence among themselves, Col. Mitchell addressed them through the interpreter, as follows:

"As the Chiefs and principal men of the several tribes are now present, I will proceed to speak of the business for which we are assembled. I am sent here to transact important business with you. Before commencing that I propose to smoke all around with you. The ceremony of smoking I regard as an important and solemn one, and I believe you all so regard it. 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.