

made with as little partiality as possible. The chiefs having been given rank according to influence and following, they all sat in an immense circle, smoking with great dignity and passing the pipe, meanwhile some orator entertaining them with a bombastic account of some of his or his tribe's adventures. This part of the entertainment was equal to a political convention waiting for the committee on resolutions to report. Amidst the grunts of approval as the oratory went on a chief was called in to headquarters and soon returned decked off in full major-general's uniform from head to foot. There the line was drawn by the Indian; he still wears his moccasins -- he could not walk in boots -- wearing a saber, medal with the head of the President on one side and clasped hands on the other, he carries a document with an immense seal and ribbon thereon -- enclosed in a large envelope, that he may show all comers what the Great Father thinks of him -- what rank and power he wields among his fellowmen. This and his medal he values more than all else. They give him the entree to the camp of the emigrant, who must, perforce, have confidence in and feed him since he comes with these proofs of the love the aforesaid Great Father has for him. Then follows another major-general with decorations substantially the same. Having exhausted the list of major-generals, then followed the brigadiers, then numerous colonels, lieutenant colonels, majors, captains and lieutenants -- as Bill Anderson said -- "Till yer can't rest," all with medals of some kind and all with a paper -- "Certificate of Character," Corporal Ferguson called it. These papers had been prepared, probably, in the Indian office in Washington, with a blank space left to fill in the name. Then there were great numbers of braves -- a multitude who were entitled to and received some distinguishing mark in the way of medal or other decorations or paper.

Several days were given to this "dignity business," as McDonald called it, and then followed the distribution of goods. In this the roll was called as before, and the pile turned over to the head man, who shouted out his instructions