

Wice 71

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It seems that all previous Commissions had taken a preacher with them and all the councils had been opened with prayer. We failed to do this, but soon found that the Indian regarded it with favor. In every treaty where the council had opened with prayer they had been cheated. The great point to be gained was to obtain their confidence, so they would believe what we told them; we were successful in this, and mainly because General Crook was with us. He had fought and whipped them, and a large number of them had been scouts in his army; he had the wisdom to treat them honestly; he never told them a lie; he treated them vigorously, but always justly. They called him "Three Stars" and "The Great Father's big whip."

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Some of the Indians have a great reputation away from home, for instance such men as Sitting Bull and Red Cloud. Perhaps the two men having the least influence among the Indians are these two. They lack in character and intellectual force compared with many of the others. As far as Indian oratory is concerned, I didn't see much of it. Their gesticulation and modulation of voice are perfectly beautiful, but when you come to consider what they say, it is, in the main, childish twaddle; as a rule they talk only of little things, but there is an Indian named John Grass, who, I think, with education would be the equal of any in the country.

inspectorship -
1st & 2nd highest posts
gambling, horse racing, etc -
for U.S.A. Civil War -

all these people had
axes to grind &
wanted to do it