

Winchesters being visible. The ponies seemed to partake of the joy of the men, for they pranced about and champed their bits, while their eyes snapped with vivacity. They drew up in front of the general's (Brooke) headquarters, and as the last notes of the song died away leaped from the animal's backs. The general himself welcomed them with words of commendation, for he thoroughly appreciated the efforts of the "friendlies" in the desire to prevent bloodshed. The Indians/page 571/ remained closeted with the officers for some time, and then left to return to their several teepees.

The account given by Shangraux, itself intensely dramatic, reveals most clearly the mental condition of those whom the policy of the government had driven into the attitude of "hostiles." The account is given as nearly as possible in his own words:

Louis was given the power to select his party, and accordingly chose some good, true men who he knew could be depended upon in case of trouble. No white men went with them, for it was believed the hostiles would kill any one not an Indian who should venture near the camp. From subsequent events this was found to be true.

Bright and early the "friendlies" set out, with several days' provisions and plenty of ammunition. They rode at a good pace, and reached a high point of land about five miles from the hostiles at sundown--there went into camp near a small stream. The fire which they started to prepare coffee was seen by the hostiles, and at sunrise twenty Sioux, armed to the teeth, rode into the friendlies' camping-ground, and demanded:

"What do you want here? Have you come to spy on us? Speak quick, or we will shoot you."

The scouts did not appear frightened, but advanced without arms to meet the hostiles. Louis assured them that they had come on a mission of peace to hold a great council and talk over matters. He said that his men