

grown to manhood, loved his foster brother better than his life. His word was law. When Sitting Bull had taken him from the lodge of his parents during a battle between the Assiniboines and the Sioux, the little fellow had become the special care and pride of the Sioux warrior. To the tender care of White Cow, Sitting Bull's sister, the little captive had been entrusted. She reared him as she afterward did her own, and in time Little Assiniboine became one of the most powerful warriors in the nation of his adoption.

The rise of Little Assiniboine had been a source of great pride to Sitting Bull, and his wisdom in sparing the child's life was a theme never forgotten by his relatives and friends. Sitting Bull was not a great orator, but what he lacked in this particular he made up in diplomacy. He was as shrewd as he was cunning. His speeches in council were always blunt, but convincing because he ever worked upon his hearers through those avenues by which they had reached success. Therefore, without drawing a parallel, he adroitly reminded the wise men of the council that the course he had pursued in Little Assiniboine's case had been fruitful of much good to the Sioux nation. He left them to infer his meaning, that the sparing of Grouard's life would furnish a similar cause for congratulation.

- 84 So far as the council was concerned, the determination of Sitting Bull to adopt Grouard, settled the matter. * What view individual members of the tribe took of it was another consideration. But Sitting Bull had thought of that also. As a result, poor Grouard was kept a close guarded prisoner for sixteen months. At the end of two years he was able to converse in the Sioux tongue like a native, and had made himself proficient in the language of signs.

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