

their decrees, that he had slipped off and killed meat without permission, their punishment took the form of cutting the tail off his horse as a mark of humiliation, slashing his tent to pieces, shooting his horses, breaking his weapons, and flogging him with their quirts. This was known as a soldier whipping or soldier killing, and it was no light penalty. To resist the soldiers was likely to prove a fatal error resulting in the death of the offender. Two points should be emphasized here: first, that the penalty was severe not because of the beating or the destruction of property, but because of the disgrace these entailed; secondly, that the offences were offences against the tribe, not offences against another individual. Thus, the soldiers would not normally punish a man for murder or theft or stealing another man's wife, since these were private matters to be settled by payment or punishment among the parties concerned. Only when such quarrels threatened to involve the whole community would the soldiers take action. There were also two restraints upon the actions of the soldiers which tended to keep them from abuse of their authority. In the first place, their authority was temporary and the man beaten today might be a policeman himself ^{next year} ~~tomorrow~~ when the turn of his society came to control the camp. In the second place, it was not felt to be proper that a warrior should be punished by a man less distinguished than himself. As millionaires among ourselves are likely to resent pressure from a penniless politician, so famous warriors resented punishment at the hands of men less renowned than they. All these facts must be kept in mind in order to appreciate what followed when the Indian came under control of white men and settled on the reservations. This happened about 1870. Long before that ¹⁸⁵⁶ however, General ^{W. Harney} ~~Phil Kearny~~ and others had perceived that the true control of the Plains Indians lay in the hands of the soldiers and not in the hands of the chiefs, and the General had recommended that the Government arm and equip organizations of these soldiers to patrol the Plains and keep the peace among the warring tribes. Had this been done, much of the