

p.192-197 cont'd.

with the government and rejoin their respective bands, as they could hold out no longer; that their lives and property were threatened in case they accepted any more goods from the government; that the small amount of annuities given them did not give satisfaction; it created discord rather than harmony, nor would it justify them to come in so far to receive them; that they had been friends to the government and to all white men; had lived up to their pledges made at Laramie in 1857, as far as it was possible under the circumstances, and still wished to do so, but must henceforth be excused unless their Great Father would aid them.

They requested me to bring no more goods under the Laramie treaty, nor would they receive those present. The same views were expressed by all the speakers, but after a long parley "Bear's Rib," a chief of the Sioux nation appointed by General Harney, a brave and good man, rose and said in the most touching manner, that for eleven years he had been the friend of the white man and the government; that for years he had relied upon promises made by General Harney and former agents ¹⁹³ to send him assistance, yet none had come; that if / he received those presents sent his people by his Great Father, he not only endangered his own life but the lives of all present; yet he loved his Great Father and would this once more receive for his people the goods present, but closed by requesting me to bring no more unless they could have assistance. A few days after this delivery, and after I had left, that portion of the Sans-Arc band opposed to any intercourse with the government came in from the prairies, assaulted and killed, within the gates of Fort Pierre, this true man, the best friend the white man had in the Sioux nation. Several others were killed in the affray. "Bear's Rib" was chief of the Uncpapas, and that portion of his band friendly to the government who were present, numbering some 250, are now wandering outcasts in the country.

Now the question arises, What shall the government do in the premises? Shall those friendly Indians be abandoned and lose the labor of ten or twelve years and thousands of dollars, or shall they receive their annual payments and protection also?