

was the desire of plunder and of fame as brave warriors.

The commission before named, of which General Sully was president, met in council a large number of friendly Sioux, under chiefs "Spotted Tail," "Big Mouth," and others, who promised to remain friendly and go upon a reservation; they kept their promise, and were provided subsistence pending military operations. Part of this commission, (General Sully and Colonel Parker,) by agreement with the others, went up the Missouri river, with a view to prevent the Indians in that river country from becoming involved in the hostilities of those on the Platte and Powder rivers, apprehensions being entertained that they would be drawn into them by various influences. They met with many friendly disposed Indians, who yet complained of the bad treatment of the government in not providing for their wants, and compared their destitution with the abundance of horses and other property possessed by the hostile. The commissioners also met many who had participated in the massacre of Fort Phil. Kearney, who professed a desire to be friendly, and talked about peace, but wanted it only upon condition of the soldiers being taken out of their country, and that roads should not be made through it; some of them even demanded the stoppage of navigation on the upper Missouri. This portion of the commission also reports that all the Indians on the east side of the Missouri are friendly at present, but that a change may take place on account of the establishing a military and post road through their land, which is being done without their consent.

Another part of the commission (Jude Kinney) proceeded to Fort Phil, Kearney, and there met the Crow Indians inhabiting a portion of the country west of the Powder river, and who may be relied upon as friends of the government. The country claimed by the hostile Sioux, they assert, belongs to them, and they ask that it be resorted, and protection be given them against their enemy the Sioux.

In regard to the difficulties with the Cheyennes and others south of the Platte, we may properly look for their origin in the bad feeling produced by the massacre of friendly Cheyenne women and children, as well as men, in December, 1864, by Colonel