

in this section of Dakota, because immigration has been in another direction, and it is along those routes they have mustered their forces to keep back the invaders. Had the course of immigration turned in this direction, here would have been the field of war. Could it be done, bring every hostile Sioux to a council to day, and ask, What consideration will induce you to give up the war and remain at peace, they would say, Stop the white man from travelling across our lands; give us the country which is ours by right of conquest and inheritance to live in and enjoy unmolested by his encroachments, and we will be at peace with all the world. And this is undoubtedly true; but where gold exists our people will go. Waters, deserts, and mountains cannot stop them, and it is beyond the power of man. Precious minerals are under us here, and all around us. Soon they will attract the eye of the adventurous fortune hunter, and this portion of the Sioux country be pierced with roads from every quarter. The Indian must give way, and the question is how shall he be made to do it, and at the same time establish with him a permanent peace. So long as they have a country which they can call their own they will fight for it. The whole history of our government from its infancy bears record to the many desperate and bloody trials of this people to save their country. It has only been where a tribe or band has been induced for a fair consideration to cede their lands to the government that anything like a reliable peace has been secured with them. The Yanktons and Poncas were, only a few years ago, as wild and warlike as these, but throughout all our recent difficulties they have remained true to the government, and no influence has even tempted them to swerve from their loyalty, save that of common sympathy for their unfortunate race. They have been at peace because they had no country to fight for. Their land has been sold, and every year they were enjoying the income which they could not hope to do if hostile. This policy has been the best ever devised for the benefit of the Indians themselves, and, when unobstructed by the cupidity of civilized men, for the security of peace, this is my plan for effecting a final settlement of difficulties with these Indians.

Send the properly authorized persons up the Missouri river in a council; announce to them plainly and in most emphatic terms the determination of the government to