

which tried the participants in the massacre, nor in the history of the war; nor is any mention made of any of their tribe/⁴⁵⁷ having taken part therein. Dr. Daniels, who was closely identified with the scenes of that war, does not think they had any part in it, neither does Red Dog, nor any other of the leading chiefs with whom we have conversed. They have committed crime enough, without being charged with any of which they are innocent. That these chiefs have great influence among the Tetons, however, is undoubted, notwithstanding some of the chiefs from the lower agencies affect to consider Sitting Bull as a mean-spirited sort of fellow, with but little or no influence, and very small following. The Indians whom we met of the Tetons consider him the leading man of their people, and their speeches at the council sufficiently indicated their fear of and respect for him. When he has visited the post his control of his braves is said to have been more complete than is usual among Indians, and other chiefs showed their respect for him by removing their koo feathers from their heads in his presence. In order to fully understand the situation with regard to Sitting Bull, it may be well to state the fact that he has in his company a Sandwich Islander, called Frank, who appears to exercise great control in the Indian councils, and who excels the Indians in their bitter hatred to the whites. We have had no opportunity of forming an accurate or even approximate idea of Sitting Bull's followers prior to the secession therefrom of those now in the immediate neighborhood of Fort Peck. Their numbers have been variously estimated, as you know, at from fifteen hundred to three thousand lodges, but, from the data we have been able to collect, we are of the opinion that one-half the smaller number is nearer the true estimate of his present force, if it be not really in excess of the truth. This estimate may or may not include a large number of Sioux from the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies, and roaming the Powder River and Yellowstone countries.

On our arrival at Fort Peck we found very few Indians in that vicinity. A few lodges only were there under Medicine Bear, a Cuthead Yanktonais, who may be considered as the head chief of all we have yet drawn from Sitting Bull's control.