

I.O.R. - 1872  
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our presents because we would not deliver them at their lodges a mile away. This difficulty, however, was very satisfactorily settled by their summoning their squaws, who were able to get away with everything we had for them. It will be observed that the second day's council adjourned with a very decided expression against sending a delegation to Washington. This was in accordance with the almost unanimous feeling of the Indians at that time; and we felt that we would not be able to induce any of them to return with us. This feeling was confirmed by an occurrence the second day after the council adjourned. On the first day thereafter a band of the Indians came to the post and gave a war-dance; we gave them some presents. The next day there came another band and danced; we gave them, also, some presents; but for some reason, probably because they fancied their presents less valuable than were given to those who came on the previous day, they became angry, threw their presents from them and began firing their guns promiscuously as a mark of displeasure, one shot passing through a window near by. They then went away to camp, whooping and yelling in derision. The next morning the principal chiefs came to the agents' room, at the invitation of our chairman, when he made the outbreak of the day before the occasion of giving them a talk, which in the end resulted in an entire revolution of feeling in regard to going to Washington, and a promise that the parties to the performance of the previous day should be properly punished as soon as identified. The chiefs also collected a large number of chiefs, and, warriors, and, in all the savage magnificence of feathers and paint, gave us a dance in good style, agreeing, in advance, that we should give them no presents at all at that time.

In the council the questions of the construction of the railroad and the site for an agency, (the former of which was pressed with considerable persistency,) we declined to discuss with them until they should visit the Great Father. They were most pressing, however, in their demand for guns and ammunition, every speaker seeming to be more demonstrative than those who had preceded him. This, it will be seen, we met by a prompt and decided refusal.