

from the daily intercourses with their relatives remaining here that most of them, when they left here last winter for a visit to the hostile camp, did so for the sake of trade, novelty, and curiosity, without any hostile intentions. Many other Indians have of late left this reservation on the pleas of their annual visits to their friends at other agencies. They have been induced to do so by the state of anxiety resulting from all kinds of rumors about the plans and movements of the belligerent parties and their fear of being in some way or other involved in the fatal issue of the contest.

I have nowhere seen the same number of people living together in a more peaceable, friendly and orderly manner than our Indians. No soldiers were ever needed to protect either the person and family of the agent or the employes and property of the Government. The two companies situated here all the year were quietly occupied in building up their small farms and in cultivating their gardens, the crops of which were subjected to the same fate with those of the Indians. Four companies more have arrived lately because the rumor had spread some time ago that the hostiles meditated a raid upon their former friends in order to force them into their ranks.

Five months ago I succeeded in finding a competent teacher for the school, which has been regularly attended since by the children of this neighborhood; and on the first of this month a missionary priest of the Benedictine Order arrived, who is now preparing for his work by the study of the Dakota language.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN BURKE