

withheld his soldiers, will let loose his young men, and you will be swept away. We therefore propose to let the whole Sioux nation select their country up the Missouri River, embracing the White Earth and Cheyenne Rivers, to have their lands, like the white people, forever, and we propose to keep all white men away except such agents and traders as you may choose. We want you to cultivate your land, /p.210/build houses, and raise cattle. We propose to help you there as long as you need help. We will also teach your children to read and write like the whites.

"The Cheyennes and all southern Indians shall have similar homes in the country on the Arkansas, and if the Sioux Indians prefer to go down there, agreements have been made by people gone before us. We propose to stand by them, but I am afraid they did not make allowances for the rapid growth of the white race, and you can see for yourself that travel across the country has increased so much that the slow ox waggon will not answer the white man. We build iron roads, and you cannot stop the locomotive any more than you can stop the sun or moon, and you must submit, and do the best you can, and if any of you want to travel east to see the wealth and power of the whites you can do so, and we will pay your expenses. Our people east hardly think of what you call war here, but if they make up their minds to fight you they will come out as thick as a herd of buffalo, and if you continue fighting you will all be killed. We advise you for the best. We now offer you this, choose your own homes, and live like white men, and we will help you all you want. We are doing more for you than we do for white men coming from over the sea. This Commission is not only a Peace Commission, but it is a War Commission also. We will be kind to you if you keep the peace, but if you won't listen to reason, we are ordered to make war /p.210/ upon you in a different manner from what we have done before.