

Statement of The Rev. P J De Smet S.J. of his reception by and Council with the hostile Uncpapa Indians.

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SB Speech.

with 11/19

"Father, you pray to the great spirit for us, and I thank you (for doing so) I have often besought the kindness of the great spirit, (but) never have I done so more earnestly than today, that our words may be heard above, and all over the earth. When first I saw you coming (in,) I had evil thoughts and my heart beat fast, caused by the remembrance of the past. (But) I made my heart be quiet, and when I shook hands with you, I felt a change and hardly knew what to say, but (I arrived soon at a decision.) I am and always have been a fool and a warrior, but my people caused me to be so. They have been troubled and captured for several years past, and they look upon the whites as the cause of their troubles, and they pushed me forward. For the past four years, I have led them in bad deeds, the fault is theirs (as much as) mine, and (I now say it in their hearing. Welcome now I say to you, Father, as messenger of peace, and I hope for quiet once more to our country.) Here I thank you in the presence of our Chiefs and Braves (for your kindness in coming so far to us,) and I accept your tobacco as a token of peace. I trust that you will always continue to wish us well. I have now ~~to be~~ told you all that I have to say. Some of my people will return with you) ~~all thank~~ to meet the Chiefs of our great father, who are coming to make peace. I hope it will be accomplished: Whatever is done by my people at the council, I will accept and remain here-after a friend to the whites. After shaking hands with Father De Smet, Major Galpin and his Indian wife, he then turned to the Indians and asked them if they had heard his words. "how? how." ran through the crowd. "A moment afterwards he rose again and said he had forgotten to say somethings. He wished all to know that he did not propose to sell any part of his country, nor did he wish to have the whites cutting his timber along the Mirrouri river, and especially the oak. He was particularly fond of little groves of oak/ and had a reverence for them they stood the wintry storms and summers blast and not unlike ourselves seemed to flourish by them. His last request was that these forts peopled with white soldiers should be abandoned as there was no greater source of grievance to his people. with cheers from all he resumed his seat.

L. Galpin  
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