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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR.

Treaty Ground, Horse Creek, Near Fort
Laramie, I.T., September

This morning the first Grand Council is to be held, and it may well be supposed that there was an early stir and great preparations. It was an event to which the Indians had been looking with great interest, for as yet they were uninformed of the purposes of the Government. The past night had been to me one of annoyance, so far as my personal comfort was concerned, for there was no opportunity to sleep; but viewed in reference to the objects of the assembly, was gratifying. On Saturday it had been announced by Col. Mitchell, through the interpreters, that the next day, Sunday, was the "White Man's Medicine Day," and for that reason he would not hold Council, or transact any business. Everything that pertains to the Great Spirit the Indians regard and designate as "Medicine."

Every one, whites and Indians, seemd to look for the morning, and everybody was early afloat. From dawn until 9 o'clock, when the cannon was fired and the flag hoisted, as a signal for the Council to assemble, parties of Indians were coming in from every direction. I have taken pains to form an estimate of the number present, and by the number of lodges, estimating, as is common with those familiar with the Indians, we had assembled over nine thousand. Allowing for "soldiers," and bands without lodges, I believe the number might be safely set down as exceeding ten thousand.

When the cannon had given forth its thunder, the whole plains seemd to be covered with the moving masses of chiefs, warriors, men, women and children; some on horse-back, some on foot. The Chiefs and Braves were expected to go into Council - for only the principal men take part in important deliberations like this - generally came on foot; then followed the young men, mounted and on foot, then the squaws and children. Until the signal was given for the Council to assemble, the masses had remained at a distance from the temporary arbor

prepared for the occasion. But when the whole body commenced moving to the common centre, a sight was presented of most thrilling interest. Each nation approached with its own peculiar song or demonstration, and such a combination of rude, wild and fantastic manners and dresses, never was witnessed. It is not probable that an opportunity will again be presented of seeing so many tribes assembled together displaying all the peculiarities of features, dress, equipments, and horses, and everything else, exhibiting their wild notions of elegance and propriety.

They came out this morning, not armed or painted for war, but decked out in all their best regalia, pomp, paint and display for peace. The Chiefs and Braves were dressed with punctilious attention to imposing effect. The "Bucks" (young men) were out on horse or afoot, in all the foppery and display of prairie "dandies." In their efforts to be elegant, fashionable and exquisite, it must be confessed that the Prairie Dandy, after his manner, displays quite as much sense and taste as his city prototype, with his advantage. The Indian does not conceal his features with a superabundance of hair. In their bearings, and efforts to show pride of dress and tinsel, they are on a par.

The squaws were out in all the richness and embellishments of their "toggerly." Their displays, according to their stations and the wealth of their husbands or fathers, marked their ability to dress, and their distingue in genteel Indian society. The "belles" (there are Indian as well as civilized belles) were out in all they could raise of finery and costume, and the way they flaunted, tittered, talked and made efforts to show off to the best advantage before the bucks, justly entitled them to the civilized appellation we have given them. We concluded that coquetry was not of foreign origin. Even more than ordinary care had been bestowed on the dress of the children. They were evidently