

and every body 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 seemed 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 probably 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 fopperty and display of prairie "dandies". In their efforts