

of the Missouri to unite and form one nation, and define their own lands. He explained to them that, ~~divided as they were, they were~~ weak and defenceless. If you take one lodge pole you can easily break it, but if you take all the polls of a lodge together, it is very hard to break them. So, if your bands unite and all become one nation, it will be hard to break you. MB

Several other Sioux Indians spoke, but all of them were of the same import - mere begging speeches. They were all very poor, very hungry, and hoped the goods would soon be here.

Col. Mitchell then called upon the Cheyennes, and ^{and see} Bark, or The Bear's Feather, said:

Grand Father and Father: I am glad to see so many Indians and whites meeting in peace. It makes my heart glad, and I shall be more happy at home. I am glad you have taken pity on us, and come to see us. The buffalo used to be plenty in our country, but it is getting scarce. We got enough to come here and to keep us a while, but our meat will not last long. As the sun looks down upon us - as the great Spirit sees me, I am willing, Grand Father, to do as you tell me to do. I know you will tell me right, and that it will be good for me and my people. We regard this as a great medicine day, when our pipes and water shall be one, and we all shall be at peace. Our young men, Grand Father, whom you want to go with you to the States, are ready, and they shall go. I shall look for their return when the grass begins to grow again. If all the nations here were as willing to do what you tell them and do what they say, as we are, then we could sleep in peace; we would not have to watch our horses or our lodges in the night. MB

Here the proceedings were interrupted by a Chief of the Sioux, one of the Black Feet band, who insisted on making a speech: