

It was July when we returned from Laramie, and the troop from Adkinson and July when we left Fort Leavenworth, and August when we arrived at Fort Laramie. I had been consulted a good deal about camping places because of my recent trip over the road, and now when asked by the Major I recommended "Camp Macklin," and there we camped. The Indians were gathering in great numbers. The plain between our camp and Laramie was filled with Indian lodges, mostly Sioux, but there was a large camp of Cheyennes and Arapahoes. Here and there were interpreters, squaw men (men married to squaws and living with or near the tribe for the purpose of trading). Now, this was an effort on the part of the Government to get all the tribes together and have them to make peace with each other, swear fealty to the Great Father, and generally to fix up matters so that there should be no friction between tribes, nor between the various tribes and the Government. Runners had for months been circulating throughout the Indian country, from the Missouri River to Fort Bridger and from Canada to the Arkansas. This was in the heart of the Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapahoe country. Thousands came, even from the far northwest, from the upper Mississippi, from headwaters of the Missouri and the Yellowstone.

The grand old Sioux Nation with its numerous branches and bands furnished the greatest number; then the handsome, the dignified, the wiry, agile, intelligent and brave Cheyennes in large numbers, and rich in equipment. The Arapahoes were interesting but less numerous. These three tribes were friends and allies, and ruled the country from Minnesota to the Arkansas River and from the Rocky Mountains to a line drawn north and south some forty miles west of Fort Kearney at their own sweet will. They did not want peace with other tribes. Why should they? Their pastures were well stocked with game, the supply of buffalo was unlimited, the way they hunted inexhaustible. They were rich in everything that people of nomadic habits needed, and as to peace, why, what would life be to them without war? Nature supplied all their needs. They did not hunt for the