

and parceled out the goods, and strange to say there seemed to be little wrangling or dissatisfaction. In each case the goods were packed on ponies and taken to the camp where they belonged. The provisions were given out last and in great quantities, and the feasting and good humor was general. The daily scenes and incidents of our stay there were of the greatest interest, often very exciting; sham battles were a feature daily, and they showed their prowess to the white<sup>87</sup> men, and one tribe to another, with all the savage energy of their bombastic natures. No human being can out-brag an Indian, and they spend hours in oratory over the most trifling occurrences, and often tell monstrous lies in their illustrations.

The presents having all been distributed, the feasts being over, the long talks ended, the great orators having ventilated themselves, while the white dignitaries listened and grunted their approval with the dignity becoming the representatives of the Great Father in Washington, the great camp began to disintegrate, band after band began to move out, until all but a straggling few, camp scavengers who hang around to pick up anything left behind, were gone. The Sioux moved in many directions, some for the far north and northwest, others for various points for winter quarters. The Cheyennes seemed to keep well together and moved off up Horse Creek, the Arapahoes soon following. The Snakes were amongst the first to move, and though the head chief and a few others had talked a little in their turn to the Indian Commissioner, their story was soon told. Few complaints, as Bridger told me, were made, and they had no bombastic threats nor false promises to make. All they wanted was to be left alone, but would endeavor to care for themselves; they had never injured the white people and had no desire to do so. Every Sunday the Snakes had church service. They had a minister who had been with them twenty years; preached to them in their own language; several times I heard him. Bridger interpreted to me, and I could readily understand why every one of those people listened to him with close attention. He taught them true Christianity, kindness, brotherly love, honesty, and all the