

A FAMILY OF SIXTEEN,

and he received rations once a week, but these rations were usually gone in two days.

The Government agent in charge here interposed the remark, however, that Sitting Bull's family of sixteen did not devour his week's rations in such an incredible short space of time, but that the old man, as was his custom, invariably fed all the hungry members of his tribe who swarmed into his house whenever he had rations.

At this Sitting Bull laughed, and candidly admitted that he fed a good many of his people while his rations lasted. He said it has always been his custom in the old days, when he had plenty, to feed any man, woman, or child who came along when he himself was ready to eat, and that now he was too old to adopt the ways of the white man in this respect. His children might be taught economy and frugality but for his part as long as he had anything to eat he would live as he had always lived, and feed anybody and everybody who came to his door hungry whether they were white men or Indians.

Some of his white friends present explained that this represented one of the most unpractical traits in Sitting Bull's character. He had no idea of saving anything. The large salary which he now draws from Cody and Salsbury is invariably spent before the week is out. A large portion of it is sent home to his family, another part is forwarded for the guard of the Uncapappas, in general, or those who have the most need of it, while that he keeps for his own private use is lavished on the most reckless manner upon the kids about the camp, or when any bootblacks, newsboys, or other children who come in his way and who he thinks would be better of assistance.

An accident was related by THE GOVERNMENT AGENT, who is in charge of the famous Chief. As far back as 1869. Father DeSmet arrived in the