

accurate knowledge of the numbers actually killed." To that end he made application, "either direct or through friends, to the officers of the various railroads which bring this product to market." To his very great surprise he states that he soon found he was treading on most delicate ground, the authorities of but one prominent road giving the desired information. After offering reasons which he considered futile why his requests were not complied with, Col. Dodge says that he was "constrained to believe that the refusal is prompted by fears that publicity in this matter might result in some legislation which would interfere with profits." This language seems rather cool, coming from one who, in many years' service on the plains, has done his share in destroying the subsistence of the native population, and thus actively aided in indelibly fixing in the minds of the Indians the impression that the white race is imbued with cruel and bitter feelings toward the red man. To cap the climax, Col. Dodge, like the most of military officers, is ready to join in the denunciation of the Indian as an irreclaimable savage, devoid of any noble impulses; that he will not voluntarily do any thing good; that he must be compelled, by punishment and force; in short, that he must be given over to the army, and by the bayonet receive lessons in civilization.

156

/ In 1851 it was found necessary to make some arrangement with the wild Indians of the plains and mountains, by which the right of transit through the country claimed by them, should be assured to the multitudes going across the plains to out distant possessions; and on the 17th of September of that year, at Fort Laramie, a treaty was made with the Sioux or Dakota, Cheyenne, Arapahie, Crow, Assiniboine, Gros Ventre, Mandan, and Arickaree Indians, who claimed most of the country east of the Rocky Mountains, north of Texas and New Mexico, south of the Missouri, and west of the emigrated tribes. By this treaty the boundaries of the territory of each tribe were defined, and they all agreed to abstain from hostilities against each other, and maintain friendly relations. They also agreed that the United States ~~might establish a road, the goods transported thereon, and the inhabitants, from the red skin nation~~