

might establish roads and military posts within their limits; and in consideration of these concessions, the government agreed to protect them from depredations on the part of whites, and to give them in goods suited to their wants, yearly, for fifty years, the sum of fifty thousand dollars, to be divided ratably among them. The Senate amended the treaty to limit the annuity to a period of fifteen years. In the fall of 1852, the commissioner of Indian affairs reported that "notwithstanding the mountain and prairie Indians continued to suffer from the vast number of emigrants who pass through / ¹⁵⁷ their country, destroying their means of support, and scattering disease and death among them, yet those who were parties to the treaty of Fort Laramie, in the fall of 1851, have been true to their obligations, and have remained at peace among themselves," and this state of things continued until in the month of August, 1854, when, by the folly of a young military officer, then in command at Fort Laramie, it was interrupted. Some bands of the Dakota Indians, parties to the Laramie treaty, were at that time in camp at a point about eight miles from the fort, awaiting the agent, then on the Arkansas, and on his way to these Indians, to distribute to them their share of the fifty thousand dollar annuity. While thus encamped, a Mormon train passed by on its way to Utah, and a cow in the rear, and belonging to the train, left the road and went into the Indian camp. This cow was killed by some of the Indians. The Mormons, on arriving at the fort, reported the fact, when Lieutenant Fleming, in command, ordered Lieutenant Grattan, with a file of soldiers, to proceed to the Indian camp, and arrest the Indian or Indians who killed the cow. At the time there were but few troops at Laramie, and nearly one-half of these were absent on the Platte river cutting hay. Lieutenant Grattan took twenty-nine men and an interpreter, and set out to execute the order. When he arrived at the trading post, near the Indian camp, and told his mission, the trader advised him not to enter the camp, and proposed that he would go in and bring out the chief to see Grattan. The lieutenant replied that he had come to arrest the party that killed