

had we refused the ammunition demanded at the council, the war, on their part, would have resulted in great loss of life and property. As it was, they at once proceeded to their fall hunt, on the Republican river, where they killed game enough to subsist themselves for a large part of the winter, and no act of hostility or wrong has been perpetrated by them since. The statement of this fact, if it prove nothing else, may serve to indicate that the Indian, though barbarous, is yet a man, susceptible of the feelings which ordinarily respond to the exercise of magnanimity and kindness."

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/These treaties were executed at Council Camp, on Medicine Lodge creek - the first one on the 21st, and the second on the 28th of October, 1867. After the execution of these treaties, the limited annuities due these Indians in the spring of that year, but which had been withheld, were, by permission of the commission, distributed to them. The commission then returned to Laramie to meet the Sioux, but they were not present. A prevalent belief existed among them that we had resolved on their extermination, and hence they were distrustful of the objects of the commission. Moreover, it was too late in the season for those northern Sioux to come to a council, however much they might have desired to do so. Red Cloud sent word to the commission that his hostility was with the view to save the Powder river country from intrusion, it being the only hunting ground left to his people. He assured them that whenever the military garrisons at Fort Phil. Kearney and Fort C. F. Smith were withdrawn, his hostility should cease. As the commission had no authority to make such arrangement, it adjourned to meet in Washington on the 9th of December, first sending a message to Red Cloud to meet it early in the spring; and asked of him a cessation of hostilities until such meeting was had. On the return of the commission, by way of North Platte, the members received new assurances of peace, even friendship, from the Indians there assembled, being the same to whom the ammunition was given at the previous meeting; and, after the board arrived at Washington, it was advised that Red Cloud had accepted the