

proposition to cease hostilities, and meet them in council, as requested.

On the 7th day of January, 1868, the commission, as we have said, made report of its operations. In every case of complications existing with the Indians at the date of its creation, and for several years previous to that time, and which was investigated by it, the cause of the difficulty was traced to the wrong-doing of our own people, both civil and military. In a preceding chapter, extracts are given from its report, and quoted as the language of the commission of 1867-8, and these have, doubtless, already attracted the attention of the reader. Although no /treaty had then been made with the Sioux, the commission said, in their report, that "with any thing like prudence and good conduct, on the part of our people in the future, we believe the Indian war, east of the Rocky Mountains, is absolutely closed."

In the spring the commission resumed its duties, and met the Ogallalla and Brule Sioux, at Fort Laramie, on the 29th of April, 1868, concluded a treaty with them, and thereafter, during the spring and summer, at divers places on the Missouri river, the same treaty was submitted to the Upper and Lower Yanktonais, Uncpapas, Blackfeet, Sans Arc, Two Kettle Minneconju, Lower Brule, and Santee Sioux, and was accepted and ratified by them. The general provisions in all these treaties were similar. War between the parties was to cease forever. The honor of the government and the Indians was pledged to this. If bad men, among the whites, committed any wrong against the Indians, the government was to cause the offender to be arrested and punished, and to reimburse the Indians for losses sustained. If bad men among the Indians committed wrong against the whites, the tribe, upon proof, was to deliver up the wrong-doer, to be punished by the United States, and the person injured to be reimbursed out of the annuities. The president was to prescribe rules for ascertaining damages; but no person sustaining loss, while violating the provisions of the treaty, or the laws of the United States, should be reimbursed therefor.