

In the Sioux treaty the United States stipulated that "the country north of the North Platte river, and east of the summit of the Big Horn Mountains, shall be held and considered to be unceded Indian territory, and also stipulated and agreed that no white person or persons shall be permitted to settle upon or occupy any portion of the same, or without the consent of the Indians first had and obtained, to pass through the same; and it is further agreed by the United States, that within ninety days after the conclusion of peace with all the bands of the Sioux nation, the military posts now established in the territory in this article named, shall be abandoned, and that the road leading to them, and by them to the settlements in the Territory of Montana, shall be closed up." And the Indians agreed to relinquish all right to occupy permanently the territory outside of the reservation, as defined in the treaty, but yet reserved the right to hunt on any lands north of the North Platte, and on the Republican fork of the Smoky Hill river, so long as the buffalo may range thereon in sufficient numbers to justify the chase. It was further agreed that such of the Sioux as should elect to lead the life of nomads, and roam and hunt, should each receive, for the space of thirty years, ten dollars and a suit of clothes each year.

294

CHAPTER XV.

The Sioux War of 1876. - How Brought About - Sitting Bull, and His Followers Turned over to the Army February 1, 1876, - Sitting Bull's Views. - Seizure of the Arms and Ponies of the Indians at Red Cloud, Standing Rock, and Cheyenne River Agencies - Military Correspondence and Comments Thereon.

In referring to the war waged against the Sioux Indians in 1876, the commissioners appointed to negotiate for the surrender of the Black Hills and the unceded Indian country, defined in the treaty of 1868, said in their report to the president, made on the 18th of December, 1876, that "it was dishonorable to the nation, and disgraceful to those who originated it." This commission was created in pursuance of an act of Congress, passed August 15, 1876. The reasons which led its members to express so forcibly this opinion were not embodied in the report. Some of them will be given in this chapter.