

Moorehead - pp.193-197 cont'd

you say you do not know who I am. I want to tell you that if the Great Spirit has chosen anyone to be the chief of this country it is myself."

THE CHAIRMAN: "In whatever capacity you may be here today, if you desire to say anything to us we will listen to you; otherwise we will dismiss this council."

SITTING BULL: "Yes; that is all right. You have conducted yourselves like men who have been drinking whiskey, and I came here to give you some advice." (Here Sitting Bull waved his hand, and at once the Indians left the room in a body).

A little later, some of the Indians having told Sitting Bull that he had treated the Committee very harshly and should apologize, he appeared and made a much longer speech. In this he asked for many things; he pointed out that the Whites were responsible for the destruction of the buffalo - the Indians' means of sustenance. He seemed to be aware that his speech had caused ill feeling for his opening sentences are: -

"I came in with a glad heart to shake hands with you, my friends, for I feel that I have displeased you; and I am here to apologize to you for my bad conduct and to take back what I said. I will take it back because I consider I have made your hearts bad. I heard that you were coming here from the Great Father's house some time before you came, and I have been sitting here like a prisoner waiting for some one to release me. I was looking for you everywhere, and I considered that when we talked with you it was the same as if we were talking with the Great Father; and I believe that what I pour out from my heart the Great Father will hear. What I take back is what I said to cause the people to leave the council, and want to apologize for leaving myself. The people acted like children, and I am sorry for it. I was very sorry when I found out that your intentions were good and entirely different from what I supposed they were. Now I will tell you my mind and I will tell everything straight. I know the Great Spirit is looking down upon me from above and will hear what I say, therefore I will do my best to talk straight; and I am in hopes that some one will listen to my wishes and help me to carry them out. I have always been a chief, and have been made chief of all the land. Thirty-two years ago I was present at councils with the white man, and at the time of the Fort Rice council I was on the prairie listening to it, and since