

"The Sioux were then, as they are now, divided in many tribes: The Tetons, Brules, Yanktonais, Ogallalas, Onkapapas and Siounes, which were again sub-divided as Sans Arcs, Lower Brules, Assiniboines, etc.

"Their language is evidently of the same origin as the dialects of the Pawnees, Osags and Crows; and even the Comanches of New Mexico speak a tongue that strongly resembles theirs.

"All the first explorers speak of the Sioux as brave, active, and friendly to the whites, but it seems that the advance of civilization has changed all those characteristics, and that today the majority of the western people firmly believe in the inhuman axiom that 'the only good Indian is the dead Indian.'

"I do not intend to speak of the recent troubles in Dakota, because I am not sufficiently familiar with their primary causes to speak of them with authority. I will merely quote a few lines from a western paper, The Denver Republican, that seems, to me, to contain the whole question in a nut shell:

"Some army officers/~~wegged~~ weighed some beef issued to the Indians and paid for at the rate of 1,132 pounds per head. The real weight was less than 400 pounds, and very bony at that. This was only one-fourth rations. Suppose our butchers served us in the same way. How long would it be before we had a ghost dance?"

"Sitting Bull had not even taken any part in the dance, when he was arrested in his tent, among his wives and children, and shot down in cold blood by paid Indian scouts, when he attempted to escape."