

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

13-17
Treaty Ground, near Fort Laramie,)
September 15th, 1851.)

The firing of the cannon, and the holding of the flag, called the Indians together about eleven o'clock. When assembled, Col. Mitchell inquired of the several nations if they understood the proposition contained in the treaty - if they had smoked and talked over it among themselves, and whether there were any parts of it that they did not understand, or objected to. There were a few inquiries made, and a few difficulties, or doubts, suggested, which were not important, but, upon explanation, were apparently satisfactory to all.

The only difficulty that presented itself was the selection of a Chief for the Sioux nation. At the former meeting, Col. Mitchell had informed them that, if they could not select a Chief among themselves, in whose support all the bands would unite, he would himself select one, but that he would not force them to take any one whom they did not approve; that, if the man he selected was not acceptable to a majority of the bands and the Sioux nation, he would choose another, and so on, until he found some one who would be acceptable to them all. This morning, Old Smoke, Terre Blue, and several of the principal men from the various bands, (there are ten bands in the Sioux nation,) made speeches, assuring the Commissioners they could not agree in the selection of a Chief. The most of the speakers were either candidates for the office, or urged the claim of some one from their band. Nearly every band had its candidate.

THE FIRST ELECTION AMONG INDIANS.

After the speeches were through, Col. Mitchell informed them that, as they could not agree among themselves, he would select one himself; that he would require them to signify their approbation or disapprobation of the man selected; and if they did not like the man proposed, he would select another.