

did not meet with his superior, if there was any one equal to him, among all the Indians assembled.

I have heard it said, that an Indian is so stoical and indifferent to danger or surprise, that no occurrence can change his countenance or disturb the stolidity of his nature. Such was not the case in this instance.

When Col. M. selected the Lightning Bear, and raised him from his seat and conducted him to the centre of the circle, his face evinced the workings of the various passions that stirred within him. His nomination was wholly unexpected, and came upon him like a clap of thunder from a clear sky. For some minutes he stood mute and deeply agitated. There was a rush of overwhelming feelings evident in his countenance, manner and action, which it is impossible to portray, but which evinced the sensitiveness and native modesty of the man.

Col. M. announced to the bands that Mah-toe-wah-yu-why was selected by him. When this announcement was made, the squaws of his band set up a shout of joy. This act of impropriety on the part of the squaws, interfering with the business of the men, recalled Mah-toe-wah-yu-why to himself, and he indignantly rebuked them for it. Then, turning to Col. M., he addressed him in substance as follows:

"Father, I am a young man and have no experience. I do not desire to be Chief of the Dakotahs. I have not attended the Councils much, because there are older and better heads in our nation than I am. There are men who know the white man longer than I have, and they know better what to do, and understand what you and our Great Father proposes for our good, better than I do. Father, I have not attended the councils for several sums. I have been hunting buffalo, and I would not have come here to-day if I had known that this would have happened. Father, I think you should have selected some older and wiser man than myself."

Col. M. explained to him, that he had selected him because of the character he bore among the whites and Indians, for honesty, intelligence and courage. That it was necessary there should be one principal chief, and if the