

nation selected him, his Great Father would sustain him in his office.

Mah-toe-wah-yu-whey replied: "Father, I am not afraid to die, but to be chief of all the Dahcotahs, I must be a Big Chief. If I am to be chief I must be a Big Chief, or in a few moons I will be sleeping (dead) on the prairies. I have a squaw and papooses that I do not wish to leave. If I am not a powerful chief, my opponents will be on my trail all the time. I do not fear them. I have to sleep (die) on the prairies some time, and it don't concern me what time it comes. If you, Father, and our Great Father, require that I shall be their chief, I will take this office. I will try to do right to the whites, and hope they will do so to my people. And, Father, if any of my people are determined to leave me on the prairie, (kill me) I will have a large company of my enemies to accompany me to the Great Spirit. I know the Great Spirit will protect me, and give many spirits of my enemies to accompany men, if I have to sleep for doing what you and our Great Father asks. The Great Spirit, the sun and moon, and the earth, knows the truth of what I speak.

Col. Mitchell then placed Mah-toe-wah-yu-whey in the centre of the semi-circle, and again, through the interpreters, explained that those who were willing to take him for the Chief of the nation, should come up and give him the stick, or twig; and if they did not desire him, they would either keep the stick or give it to the Commissioner.

Now, although this, I presume, was the first election by ballot, ever held in the Sioux nation, it gave rise to as much interest as one of our municipal elections. The voters sat in front of their respective bands, and when the nomination was made, a busy and active consultation commenced. The representatives of the bands were too dignified to leave their seats, but the chiefs and principal men, not voters, were passing and repassing frequently. This consultation between the representatives and the bands, was kept up for a long time, exceeding an hour.

During this interval, and whilst all the spectators were awaiting, in deep