

features which greenhorn writers from the east habitually described as 'impassive!' At the end of five minutes, Garreau consulted his boss, and immediately afterward offered Sitting Bull the job of "trade-chief" among his people.

The offer was attractive. Sitting Bull liked the blankets and the gun which Garreau laid on the counter before him. He accepted at once.

When a trader visited the camp with pack-ropes or a wagon, it was Sitting Bull's duty to arrange for the trade and see that the trader was protected to and from the fort. He would stand by his "Strong Hearts" while Garreau in his fringes and fur cap spread down his goods in tidy rows on the grass, and as each Indian came up and offered his robes in turn, pointing out the red or blue blanket he desired, a paper of Chinese vermilion, flannel for his women, or a bunch of hawk-bells or a knife he needed, to see that all was orderly, fair and honest -- on both sides. Then Garreau would inspect the buffalo robes and make his bargain, with such fluent sign language and sharp, staccato gestures, crisper and more unmistakable than his snatterings of Sioux. And then the redskin would make up his mind, make trade, or turn away, giving place to the man who followed.

At times Sitting Bull would himself trade for robes, or for peltries of beaver, otter, or for the hides of elk, deer, and antelope. In those days the fox and wolf hides were in no demand, the horses and mules were too valuable to the Sioux to be offered in trade to the white man. The staple was the buffalo robe, and Sitting Bull soon became an expert in appraising them.

He learned especially to look out for the so-called "beaver robes". These had very fine, wavy fur, with long coarse straight hair coming through. These were rare, about one in a thousand robes -- and sold for twenty times the value of a common robe in eastern markets: after the bristles had been