

Grouard states positively that members of the Circle of Silence could gain admission in safety to hostile camps at times when it was worth a man's life to go*within shooting distance of the enemy's village. No matter if an hereditary chief were eligible to membership in the Circle, he could not gain admittance to it until he attained his thirtieth year. Visiting members were always received in a brotherly manner, and feted and otherwise royally entertained while they remained.

There is still another feature of village government worthy of attention. The inhabitants of the village were divided into clans, and these were in turn ruled by one or more chiefs. These clans comprised the relatives and adherents of certain chiefs, who shared all his misfortunes and conquests. In the Sioux village, when Grouard was still in captivity, these clans were two in number, being the Big Bellies, under the immediate control of Big Nose, and the Sitting Bull, with Four Horns and Black Kettle as governors. The leaders of the different clans were always members of the Circle of Silence, so there was no danger of a clash of authority, besides which the scope of these leaders' authority extended only to the actual family life of its members.

moon