

prior to the outbreak were directly under the influence of the missionaries of the Upper and Lower agencies, living in comfortable homes with well cultivated farms, determined to withdraw from the Santees of Nebraska and establish themselves as citizens of the United States upon the Sioux River. They selected locations in the neighborhood of Flandreau, where the conditions were quite similar to those to which they had been accustomed on the Minnesota River, and under regulations prescribed by the Indian department, on oath renounced all claim on the United States for annuities, selected homesteads and settled down as self-respecting citizens, and have from that time to the present maintained themselves and have engaged in all the activities of the excellent community in which they reside. This enterprise on the part of the Indians was a noteworthy experiment and was watched with a great deal of interest by the Indian officials and the public <sup>391</sup> generally, being the first instance in which Indians of their own volition and outside of reservation and agency influences, established themselves as citizens on an equality with white men. Everything considered, the experiment must be deemed a success of the first order. This settlement had been in contemplation for some time and in furtherance of it the president, on March 7, 1867, had withdrawn from settlement and set aside a reservation which was intended to be devoted to all of the Santees, Sissetons, Wahpetons, M'dewakantons and Wakpekutes. This reservation was bounded on the east by the Sioux River and on the west by the James River, and included all of the land between those streams in a belt extending from Flandreau to Lake Kampeska. The people of Minnesota, however, were so violently opposed to having the Indians domiciled so near to them, and the selection by the friendly Sissetons and Wahpetons of the Flatiron reservation north of Lake Kampeska induced the abandonment of the scheme, and on the 13th of July, 1868, the president rescinded his previous action and restored this vast body of land in the interior of South Dakota to the public domain.