

The secretary then took up the treaty of 1868 and carefully explained its provisions to Red Cloud. He declared he had been entirely deceived as to what the treaty provided and that that was the first time that it has ever been explained to him. He was greatly dejected to learn that he was not to be provided with ammunition and with horses, particularly so, as Spotted Tail and his people, who had settled down near the agency, were to have horses. All of the band were discouraged and despondent, and when the next day he went to the president and demanded that Fort Fetterman should be removed, and the president informed him that it could not be done, some of ³⁹⁸ / the members of the party were determined to commit suicide, declaring that they might as well die there as to go home to starve among their people. Secretary Cox, therefore, rounded them up on the succeeding day and told them that he would not require them to go to the Missouri River but would establish for them a business agency somewhere on the head waters of the Cheyenne near the Black Hills, and that the government would give them cattle, food and clothing so as to make them happy in their new home. To this Red Cloud replied:

I have only a few words to add this morning. I have become tired of speaking. When I saw the treaty and all the false things in it I was mad, and I suppose it made you the same. The secretary has explained this morning and now I am pleased. As to the goods you talked about I want what is due and belongs to me. The red people were raised with the bow and the arrow and are all of one nation, but the whites who are civilized and educated swindle me, and I am not hard to swindle because I do not know how to read and write. You whites have a chief to go by, but all the chief I go by is God Almighty. What he tells me, that is for the best. I always go by his guidance. The whites think the Great Spirit has nothing to do with us, but He has. After fooling with us and taking away our property they will have to suffer for it hereafter. The Great Spirit is now looking at us and we offer to him our prayers. The Great Spirit makes us suffer for our wrong doing. You promise us many things but you never perform them. You take