

portion of the power thus acquired, and never took kindly to the ways of civilization. In 1882 Red Cloud, as was the case with Spotted Tail a couple of years earlier, acquired rather exalted views of his own importance and sought to set at defiance the authority of the government, but Dr. McGillycuddy was always a bad man to fool with, and he suppressed his ambitions so promptly that he did not again exhibit any particular desire to run things. On May 10, 1883, Sitting Bull and his immediate followers to the number of 153, who had for nearly two years been held as prisoners at Fort Randall, were released and returned to the Standing Rock agency. On the following day Sitting Bull, accompanied by his people, came to the agency office, soliciting a council, whereupon with the greatest sang froid he commenced to harangue by announcing a code of regulations by which he and his people desired to be governed, stating that he did not intend to plant anything that season, but would look around and see how it was done so that he would be prepared to commence next year. He did not want ration tickets, but would draw all of the supplies in bulk for himself and his people. He asked to be placed first on the rolls of the agency, together with other absurdities. He presented a paper which he had prepared in duplicate, asking that his appointment of eleven chiefs and thirteen headmen be confirmed. His request for the appointment of these twenty-four chiefs and headmen, out of a total of thirty-five adults, which constituted his party, did not seem to him unreasonable, arguing that they were all hereditary chiefs, good and true men, true to him and superior to any of the old chiefs of the agency. He said that the Great Father had written to him before he left Fort Randall that he was to return to his own country and live among his people, where he would be the headman, the big chief of the agency. That a good house was to be built for him to live in. That he and his people would have cattle, wagons, horses and buggies. That he might gather his people from all the other agencies, and have everything that he desired. Major McLaughlin listened patiently to his inflated nonsense, when he told him that to be honest with him he must be very frank, and he must therefore say to him that the Great Father never wrote him any such letter as

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*He refers to this in Council of 83*

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