

intention of allowing the Indians to suppose that they would be granted permanent residence. In a dispatch to the Commissioner of the Mounted Police the Hon. R. W. Scott, the Secretary of State, wrote: "Important that Sitting Bull and other United States Indians should be induced to return to reservations. United States Government have sent Commissioners to treat with them. Co-operate with Commissioners, but do not unduly press Indians. Our action should be persuasive, not compulsory."

The American Commissioners were Generals M'Neill and Terry. A conference between them and the Sioux was arranged to take place at Fort Walsh, where Inspector Walsh, a man in whom the Indians placed great reliance, was in command. At the last moment it was doubtful whether Sitting Bull would leave his camp to meet the Commissioners, so great was his distrust of the Americans. The fact that about a hundred Nez Perces, men, women, and children, who had just escaped from the American troops under General Miles, had come into the Sioux camp wounded and bleeding, had a further disturbing effect upon the tribe. However, Inspector Walsh reassured them of their safety in the hands of the Police, and the Sioux proceeded to the Fort.

The Sitting Bull Commission arrived in Canada in October 1877, but only to fail completely in its attempt to secure the Indians' return. To General Terry's statement of terms, that the band should go back to their reservation and yield up their horses and arms, for which cattle would be given in exchange, Sitting Bull replied <sup>79</sup> curtly that "he did not trust the 'Long Knives' word. He knew he was safe where he now was, and there he intended to remain. He distinctly and firmly refused to listen to any offer from the American President."

For the next four years the North-West Mounted Police had their hands full in looking after their Sioux charges. Constant watchfulness was needed to prevent open war breaking out between them and the Canadian Indians when matters went wrong - as they sometimes did - between the two peoples. And considerable diplomacy had to be exercised in controlling and regulating their movements. Suspicious of any attempt to induce him to place foot again on American territory, Sitting Bull resolutely turned a deaf ear to any overtures that were made. On their side the Police officers, acting on precise instructions from the authorities at Ottawa, spared no pains to alter his