

Americans, but they had come after him on all sides, taken his horses, land and money, and that he had been obliged to fight. He also says he will not go back to the other side, as he knows they would take all he had, and destroy all his people. He had come to this country to find peace, and he wished to live in peace; he wanted to trade buffalo and that's all he wanted. When talking to the Priest, one of the three Americans, he spoke as a man who knew his subject well and who had thoroughly weighed it over before speaking. He believes no one from the other side and he said so. His speech showed him to be a man of powerful capability. I was much impressed, by the way, when asked by the Priest whether he was going to return or remain; before answering he turned to me and asked "Will the White Mother protect us if we remain here?" On receiving an affirmative reply, he answered "What should I return for? To have my horses and arms taken away? What have the Americans to give me; they have no land? * * * I have come to remain with the White Mother's children."

The ceremony at the opening of the Council was very impressive. After the peace smoke was concluded, the ashes were taken out and solemnly buried, the pipe taken to pieces and placed over the spot.

After this Council was over, I went to meet the Catholic Priest, the Rev. Abbott Martin, who showed me letters from General Ewing, Catholic Commissioner at Washington, and Commissioner J. J. Smith, office of Indian Affairs, Washington. He was accompanied by General Miles' head scout as guide and interpreter. This gentleman had started expecting to find Sitting Bull on the other side, and had followed the trail.

He informed me he simply came to endeavor to get the Tetons back to the Agency and tell them the terms. The scout stated he had come to try and find out from Major Walsh whether Sitting Bull was going to return, and had taken advantage of the Priest to come under his protection.

This is doubtful, I think, as he said a letter from General Miles to Walsh he didn't bring, as he was afraid.

If Inspector Walsh, in his first interview with Sitting Bull, had not told him to send to him any one to come into his camp, there is but little doubt but that the scout and interpreter would have been shot. Sitting Bull almost said as much. The Priest, of course, would have been safe. Several warriors knew the scout, and what he was.

I consider Sitting Bull's action in this matter indicative of his future conduct. He kept three men in his camp till we came.

They were five months traveling from the Yellowstone, and lost all their lodges by a sudden rising of the Missouri the day after they crossed. Poor people! had they been one day later at that river, few of the men, women or babes I saw at their camp would have been alive today to tell their story, for troops were marching up the south side of the Missouri, and "kill all who talk" are their usual orders in Indian Warfare.

They all seemed greatly relieved on my assuring them that they would be protected while on this side, and that White men and Indians were punished alike when they did wrong.

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I remained in camp all night, and the Indian heart indeed appeared glad. I never saw a happier lot of people. My interpreter said it was the happiest night they had spent for many a weary month.

I might add that I was somewhat surprised at receiving a visit in my tent from Sitting Bull, after eleven at night. He sat on my bed until an early hour in the morning, telling me in a subdued tone his many grievances against the "Long Knives."

I have ~~little~~ but little doubt of his future conduct if he remains here, which he assuredly will.

I forward a verbatim report of what took place at the Council, taken down by Sub-Inspector Clark.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

The Hon. R.W. Scott
Secretary of State.

(Signed,) A.G. Irvine

Assistant Commissioner