

#146 MS 55

*Sold in Montana*

Yancton, Dakota Territory August 27, 1862.

Sir: I have the pleasure of making my first annual report in conformity with the established rules of your office.

I left St. Louis on the 10th of May, in charge of the annuity goods on board the steamer Spread Eagle. We arrived at Fort Pierre on the 27th, where I found from two to three thousand Indians, portions of the several bands of Sioux, in waiting for my arrival. On the same evening the chiefs and headmen were invited aboard the boat, kindly treated, and furnished with bread and coffee. In the morning their goods were placed on shore in seven parcels, conforming, as near as possible, to the population of each, to wit: The Brules, Blackfeet, Sans Arc, Minnicongies, Unc-pa-pas, Two-kettles, and Yanctonais, all being Dakota Sioux. I asked the chiefs and principal men to meet me in consultation preparatory to receiving their goods, which, after much hesitation, they did, with the exception of the chief of the Yanctonais, "Big-head," and his party, consisting of twenty-five or thirty men, who remained at a distance. After closing my remarks explanatory of my mission, and the object of the annuity goods, the obligations resting upon them under the Laramie treaty, &c., I was answered by some ten or twelve chiefs then present, and was sorry afterwards that I had not preserved their several speeches which were delivered in the most earnest and feeling manner.

They stated that they regretted to see me without a military force to protect them from that portion of their several bands who were hostile to the government, and that they were friends to the white man and desired to live on friendly relations with the government and fulfil their treaty obligations. That General Harney, at Pierre, in 1856, had promised them aid; that they were greatly in the minority; that, that portion of their people opposed to the government were more hostile than ever before; that they had, year after year, been promised the fulfilment of this pledge, but since none had come, they must now break off their friendly relations

*Yancton*

*Letter*