

p.192-197 cont'd.

The seven bands of Sioux embraced in my agency number about 13,000 souls; about one-third of these are friendly. A powerful and warlike people, proud, haughty and defiant; will average six feet in height, strong muscular frames, and very good horsemen; well dressed, principally in dressed skins and robes; rich in horses and lodges, have great abundance of meat, since the Buffalo, elk, antelope, and deer abound in their country. They say they are Indians, and do not wish to change their mode of living, but would not object to any arrangement by which their children might be induced to live differently. "Big-head," chief of the Yanctonais, who is regarded as one of the most hostile chiefs in the Sioux nation, on invitation, came on board the boat at Fort Pierre with his war party, partook of bread and coffee, accepted for himself a spy-glass and jewelry for his several wives, trinkets for his children, &c. He conducted himself in the most becoming manner, and after an hour or two spent in conversation retired, apparently well pleased with his entertainment.

Bad pay
In conversation he told me that he had received no annuities for six years; that, if I would give him these also, he would then receive his portion of the goods there ready for delivery. This I was not prepared to do, when he declined to enter the council or be present on delivery of the goods.

Those unfriendly Sioux have committed sundry depredations within the last year or two. Of course they acknowledge no treaty obligations resting upon them,

60
and lose nothing by violating those made by their people. Two years ago some four hundred of those Sioux attacked Fort Union. After burning the outbuildings of the post, killing some thirty head of cattle and horses, killing and wounding seven men in the vicinity, engaged in cutting hay, fired the fort, but were fired upon and were dispersed with the loss of several killed and wounded, and left for dead two men found outside the fort.

About the same time they attacked a party of Crows in their own country, and killed twenty-five or thirty. They have, indeed, driven the Crows from their