

June 8. - Arrived at Fort Union. The Assinaboines not being present, their goods were stored until the 28th. When I had returned from Fort Benton, the whole tribe was present, except one band, in the extreme northwest of their country. They received their goods with many expressions of satisfaction, spending one entire day in feasting and dancing before my door.

These are a good and well-disposed people, and try to keep their treaty obligations. They molest no white man, and respect his property rights, and they wish to dispose of a portion of their lands to the government. They request aid in building houses, farms &c., and manifest a desire to have their children educated in letters and agriculture.

They also live in constant dread of the Sioux; have abandoned their country on the south side of the river in consequence, and spend a portion of their time in the British country. They also request that a military force be placed at or near the mouth of the Yellowstone river, their boundary, to keep back the Sioux. They live in skin lodges, roaming over the vast prairies at will in quest of the buffalo, one herd of which I saw from the bastion of Fort Union, supposed to number 10,000. The government can make any treaty with these people it may think proper; they number about 3,280 souls, and received this year \$2,257 78.

I was here informed that the Crow Indians were then waiting at the mouth of Milk river to receive their goods. I therefore continued on with them to that point, finding only some thirty or forty, to whom I gave a portion, and for want of storage was compelled to carry them to Fort Benton and back to Fort Union again. A small party of the Crows wintered with the Assinaboines, and are now wandering over the country, while the great body of the Crows are wandering in the mountains, drive from the Yellowstone by the Sioux. I stored the Crow goods at Fort Union, less the amount given to the party met near Milk River.

I would suggest, in consequence of the newly discovered gold fields in Washington Territory, that a large emigration may be expected to pass up the Missouri river, as also overland, through the Indian country next season, as by