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I.P.R.

p.30-31.

The Sioux of Dakota, who must not be confounded with those of Minnesota, number some thirteen thousand. They are among the most warlike and powerful of the tribes of the continent. They abound in everything which constituted the wealth of wild Indians; have an abundance of horses; are expert riflemen; and if once engaged in actual hostilities with the whites would be found capable of inflicting an immense amount of damage upon the frontier settlements, and in a country like theirs exceedingly troublesome to subdue.

The defiant and independent attitude they have assumed during the past season towards the whites, and especially towards their agents, warns us that not a moment should be lost in making preparations to prevent, and, if need be, resist and punish any hostile demonstration they may make. They have totally repudiated their treaty obligations, and, in my judgment, there is an abundance of reason to apprehend that they will engage in hostilities next spring. Like the southern rebels, these "savage secessionists" tolerate no opposition in their unfriendly attitude toward the whites. Last spring Agent Latta found between two and three thousand of these people, being portions of seven different bands, assembled at St. Pierre to meet him.

When it was ascertained that he was unaccompanied by military force, Big Head, a chief of the Yanctons, and his party refused to hold council with the agent. The chiefs and head men of the other portions of bands, after much hesitation, consented to hold a "talk." Notwithstanding the fact that Agent Latta's entire report is among the accompanying papers, I deem it proper to here insert an extract therefrom, giving the substance of this talk on the part of the Indians, that, so far as is in my power, I may obtain for it that attention which its importance seems to demand. The following is the extract:

"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 to them who were friends to the white man and desired to live in

FXP. Council
Missouri
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relations

of
Latta's
talk!