

p.30-31 cont'd.

friendly relations with this government, and fulfil their treaty stipulations; 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 nine had come they must now break off their friendly relations and rejoin their respective bands, as they could hold out no longer; that their lives and property were threatened in case they accepted any more goods from the government; that the small amount of annuities given them did not give satisfaction; it created discord rather than harmony, nor would it justify them to come so far to receive it; that they had been friends to the government and to all the white men; had lived up to their pledges made³¹ at Laramie in 1851, as far as was possible under the circumstances, and still desired to do so, but must henceforth be excused, unless their "Great Father" would aid them. They requested me to bring no more goods under the Fort Laramie treaty, nor would they receive these presents." With the exception of the chief, Bear's Rib, they actually refused to receive the presents with which Agent Latta was provided, and which he then offered them. After much parley, Bear's Rib consented to receive that portion of the goods designed for his people, stating at the same time that he thereby endangered not only his own life but also the lives of all his followers, and requesting that no more goods be brought unless they could have protection. A few days after this the event justified the caution of the other chiefs, and proved that the apprehensions of Bear's Rib were not unfounded. A party of Sioux came in from the prairies, assaulted and killed Bear's Rib and several of his followers, compelling the others, some two hundred and fifty in number, to scatter and flee for their lives. Not content with thus repressing every manifestation among their own people of friendly feeling towards the government, these savages have also become the terror and scourge of all the lesser tribes of the upper Missouri who dare to remain on friendly terms with the United States. All these lesser tribes represent to our agents that,