

Blackfeet Agency,
Fort Benton, February 19, 1864.

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following information received from Antoine Frenier, who returned from Fort Union on the 15th. He left Fort Benton on the 29th of December last, and has been gone forty-eight days. He has seen and talked with some of the hostile Sioux, and he reports to me the following as the true state of affairs among these Indians.

The Yanctonais and Mississippi Sioux to the number of fourteen hundred lodges, and a few of the Teton Sioux, are moving north; they are now at the mouth of White river, on their way ot Mouse river, sixty miles north of Fort Union. One hundred and fifty lodges of the Assinaboines that made peace with these Sioux last fall are moving north with them, and are now in their camp.

The Teton Sioux are at the mouth of Powder river, a tributary of the Yellow Stone. They number some six hundred lodges. It is their intention to meet the Yanctonais and Mississippi Sioux at their camp-ground on Mouse river, in the spring, as soon as grass starts. A few lodges of the Little Crow's band (this band is a part of those connected with the murder of the citizens of Minnesota) are already encamped at this place. Mouse river has been selected as the general rendezvous for all the Sioux hostile to the government. From this place they will form predatory bands, scour the country, and commit all kinds of depredations, if not prevented by the vigilance of the whites.

X At the present time they have but little ammunition, and it is their intention to attack some of the trading posts, in order to secure this article.

They threaten Fort Union, and possibly may attack it on their way north. If they find that General Sully is closely pursuing them, their intention is to go further north, in the vicinity of the Hudson Bay Company's forts. They expect to get ammunition of them, if they fail to get it elsewhere. It is generally believed by the whites at Fort Union (and Frenier is of the same opinion) that the Assinaboines will join them. The Sioux are exasperated to the highest point, and