

I.O.R., 1866 (Headqts West Sub-district of Neb., Ft. Laramie, Dak. Ter., March 9 Sgd., Henry A. Maynadier. pp. 207-8, cont'd.

from his eyes, a rare occurrence in an Indian, and for some time he could not speak. After taking my hand he commenced with the following eloquent oration: "This must be a dream for me to be in such a fine room and surrounded by such as you. Have I been asleep during the last four years of hardship and trial and am dreaming that all is to be well again, or is this real? Yes, I see that it is; the beautiful day, the sky blue, without a cloud, the wind calm and still to suit the errand I come on and remind me that you have offered me peace. We think we have been much wronged and are entitled to compensation for the damage and distress caused by making so many roads through our country, and driving off and destroying the buffalo and game. My heart is very sad, and I cannot talk on business; I will wait and see the counsellors the Great Father will send."

The scene was one of the most impressive I ever saw, and produced a marked effect upon all the Indians present, and satisfied some who had never before seemed to believe it, that an Indian had a human heart to work on and was not a wild animal.

Preparations were then made for the funeral of the chief's daughter. A scaffold was erected at the cemetery and a coffin made. Just before sunset the body was carried to the scaffold followed by her father and mother and other relatives, with the chaplain, myself and officers, and many of the soldiers of the garrison, and many Indians, Amid profound silence, and, as I was glad to see, with the most devout and respectful behavior on the part of every white man present, the chaplain delivered a touching and eloquent prayer, which was interpreted by Mr. Gott. I can hardly describe my feelings at witnessing this first Christian burial of an Indian, and one of such consideration in her tribe. The hour, the place, the solemnity, even the restrained weeping of her mother and aunts, all combined to affect any one deeply.