

Colonel Maynadier listened patiently to the story of their destitution and sufferings, and assured them that the government was earnestly desirous that terms of peace and friendship should be re-established. Provisions and tobacco were issued to them, and they returned to their tribes. Early in March several of the chiefs, with portions of their bands, arrived at Fort Laramie, and a telegraphic correspondence was held between them and the undersigned, who had during the preceding winter been appointed by the President a member of a commission to negotiate, if practicable, terms of peace. In that correspondence (a full report of which was at the time forwarded to the Indian department at Washington) it was agreed, on the part of the chiefs, all hostile action on the part of the bands which they represented should be suspended until the time fixed for the assembling of the peace commission at Fort Laramie on the first of June following. This agreement was faithfully observed by the Indians, and no depredations were committed by any of the lately hostile bands.

On the 1st of June, in pursuance of previous arrangement, the peace commission assembled at Fort Laramie. It was constituted as follows: E. B. Taylor, superintendent Indian affairs, president; Colonel Henry E. Maynadier, Colonel R. M. McLaren, of Minnesota, and Thomas Wistar, of Philadelphia; Charles E. Bowles, esq., of the Indian department, secretary; Frank Lehmer, of Omaha, Nebraska, assistant secretary.

The Brule and Ogalallah Sioux were largely represented by the principal chiefs and soldiers of the respective bands, and at least two thousand of their people were in attendance. A council was called soon after the arrival of the commissioners, which was attended by the principal men of the two bands, and it was determined, after a full and free interchange of opinion, to defer final action as to the conclusion of a treaty, until messengers could be sent to the different sub-bands, who