

Agency of the Upper Platte,
Fort aramie, September 20, 1866.

Sir: On the 18th instant I assumed the duties of this office, relieving Colonel Vital Jarrot, and receipting for all the property belonging to the agency.

I find the Indians in different localities. Big Mouth's band, of three hundred Indians, are in camp near Horse creek, and the balance of the Sioux, consisting of Spotted Tail band, three hundred; Swift Bear's band, two hundred and fifty; Iron Shell's band, three hundred; The Man that Walks in the Ground, three hundred, besides three or four hundred men in small bands, are in the game country, and about one hundred and fifty women and children left here in camp, without any means of subsistence and in a starving condition. These Indians all want peace, and say that on account of some few bad and hostile Indians being in the game country, they have not been able to hunt as usual, for fear of being charged with committing depredations that the hostile and bad Indians might commit; that they are anxious to go on the reserves they were promised, and are all determined to carry out in good faith the treaties made, and I believe will do so. I am of the opinion that if there is any way provided to place them on reserves, and subsist them until they can raise crops, they will effectually settle down and cease all hostilities and commit no depredations, and will be able to restrain and control the "bad men" of the tribes.

Sgd. M.T. Patrick,