

Ft. Laramie, D.T. Jan. 25.

In October last it was thought advisable by General Wheaton, the commander of the district, then at Fort Laramie, to send messengers to the Sioux to inform them that tribes were making peace and an opportunity would be offered them to do the same. The mission was so dangerous that no white man could have been found to undertake it, and accordingly five Indians, who had always been friendly, were sent for and asked if they were willing to go and find the Sioux. They very willingly consented, and being provided with the necessary outfit, set out on the journey from which many, even of the oldest men of the country, prophesied they would never return. General Wheaton soon afterwards left for Omaha, leaving me to carry out the plans he had commenced.

November and December passed, and no tidings were received of the messengers. About the beginning of January, an Indian well known about the fort, and whom I knew five years ago, came to the house of a settler about fifteen miles off and asked if I were the commanding officer, and whether he could see me. The settler brought him to me, and my first question was in regard to the messengers. He had not seen them, but had observed a place where there had apparently been a fight, with papers torn and strewed over the ground, &c., and I was afraid the messengers had been killed by the Cheyennes, a band of which tribe was then on the North Platte travelling south.

I sent this Indian back to his band with two half-breeds who lived near the fort, as he said his people would sooner believe them than himself, and have not since heard of them.

On the 15th of January it was reported to me that a number of Indians were seen approaching the house of a settler about eight