

miles below this fort. I made preparations at once to send an armed party to his rescue, when a messenger came from him to tell me the Indians were those that had been sent out and the Swift Bear's band.

I was greatly rejoiced, as I feared that even if they had escaped enemies they had perished from cold, (for the months of November and December were extremely severe,) and on the 16th of January I hoisted a white flag, as had been agreed upon, and received with heartfelt satisfaction my faithful braves and a deputation, with Swift Bear at their head.

Here I would respectfully call your attention, sir, to the great value of the services rendered by these messengers. Of the five, four, named as follows: Big Ribs, Big Mouth, Eagle Foot, and Whirlwind, came from the vicinity of Denver, and the remaining one, Little Crow, a man of seventy-five years of age, resides near this fort. Big Ribs was the head man and leader of the party. He is an Indian of tried fidelity and has been employed in various capacities on account of his well known honesty and truthfulness.

They ventured forth in the face of perils that the oldest mountaineer in the country would have shrunk from, and after enduring cold, hunger, and hardship, found the Swift Bear and delivered their message of peace. Without this, I do not know how the Sioux could have been communicated with, or the present very favorable aspect of affairs could have been brought about.

Some expression of approbation, such as a medal, or a parchment with a seal and ribbon, from the bureau, which they could be told came from the Great Father, would be very acceptable to them. May I take the liberty to beg your consideration of this, sir, as I think these brave, faithful men richly deserve such marks of honor.