

It was Catlin's record of the Indian legends that inspired Longfellow to write "The Peace Pipe" in "Hiawatha:"

"On the mountains of the prairie,  
On the great Red Pipestone Quarry,  
Gitche Manito, the mighty,  
He the Master of Life, descending,  
On the red crags of the quarry,  
Stood erect, and called the nations,  
Called the tribes of men together.  
From the red stone of the quarry,  
With his hands he broke a fragment,  
Moulded it into a pipe-head,  
Shaped and fashioned it with figures;  
From the margin of the river  
Took a long reed for a pipe-stem,  
With its dark green leaves upon it;  
Filled the pipe with bark of willow;  
With the bark of the red willow;  
Breathed upon the neighboring forest,  
Made its great boughs chafe together,  
Till in flame they burst and kindled;  
And erect upon the mountains,  
Gitche Manito, the mighty,  
Smoked the calumet, the peace-pipe,  
As a signal to the nations.  
And the smoke rose slowly, slowly,  
Through the tranquil air of morning,  
First a single line of darkness,

