

the Indian country as among the pleasantest of my life; and if in all my dealings with white men I had found the same sense of honor that characterized my 'savage' friends, my appreciation of human nature would be much higher."*—*Boller*, p. xvii.

"During the whole time that I lived among the Gros-ventres, I never missed a single article, although I took no trouble to keep my things out of sight. My house would often be crowded with Indians; sometimes only one or two would be present; yet if called away I felt satisfied that on my return I would find everything just as I left it."—*Id.*, pp. 239, 240.

1862.—"They [Grosventres and Mandans] are a good people; peaceable, reliable, and honest. They keep as far as is possible the treaty made at Laramie."—*Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs for 1862*, p. 194.†

I can indorse the above opinions, and can say that the Hidatsa are to-day, for Indians, examples in industry, general morality, forethought, and thrift.

§ 21. APPEARANCE.—More than forty years ago we find the general appearance of these Indians thus described by a careful observer:—"The Manitaries are in fact the tallest and best-formed Indians on the Missouri, and, in this respect, as well as in the elegance of their costume, the Crows only approach them, whom they perhaps even surpass in the latter particular."‡ "The Manitaries do not differ much in personal appearance from the Mandans; but it strikes the stranger that they are in general taller. Most of the men are well-formed and stout; many of them are very tall, broad-shouldered, and muscular; the latter may, indeed, be said of the greater proportion of the men. Their noses are more or less arched and sometimes straight. * * * The women are much like the Mandans; many of them are tall and stout, but most of them short and corpulent. There are some pretty faces among them, which, according to the Indian standard of beauty, may be called handsome."§

* From preface. These remarks seem to refer more particularly to the Gros-ventres and Mandans, with whom the author spent the greater part of the time that he lived "among the Indians".

† Report of Agent S. N. Latta to the Commissioner.

‡ Maximilian, p. 179.

§ *Id.*, pp. 395, 396.