

of the Deluge was saved. The square, the medicine-lodge, with its four poles in front, surmounted by sacrificial effigies, and the ark, as they may be seen at Fort Berthold to-day, seem to be the almost exact counterparts of those which were seen in the old Mandan village at Fort Clarke, in 1832 and 1833, by George Catlin and the Prince of New-Wied, if we are to judge by the drawings they have given us. Within the temple and around the ark, the Mandans still perform the ceremony of the *Okeepa*, which Catlin so accurately describes. The awful severities of the rite have, however, been somewhat mitigated since his day.

The medicine-lodge of the Arickarees is larger than that of the Mandans, and is used for a greater variety of ceremonies. Some of these performances, consisting of ingenious tricks of jugglery and dances, representative of various hunts, we might be inclined to call theatrical rather than religious. Probably these Indians consider them both worshipful and entertaining. It is often hard to tell how much of a religious ceremony is intended to propitiate the unknown powers, and how much to please the spectators.

The Grosventres, or Hidatsas, have no house especially devoted to their "medicine". Some of their minor rites are performed in ordinary dwellings, in temporary houses, or in the open air. Their most important ceremony is conducted in a structure of willows erected for the occasion around a tall forked log. After the ceremony (described in § 22), the log, or pole, is left standing until the forces of nature throw it down. Several of these logs, in various stages of decay, may be seen on the prairie between the village and the cemetery.

§ 8. FORTIFICATIONS.—Many travelers have described their towns as being fortified,* sometimes with walls, but usually with ditches and stockades, or with stockades alone. The latter system of defense was in use at the village of Fort Berthold until the winter of 1865, when they cut down the palisades for fire-wood; and they have never since restored them. The presence of United States troops in their neigh-

* Lewis and Clarke, pp. 69, 70, 72, 73, 74, 82, 84, etc.—Maximilian, p. 342.—Catlin, N. A. Indians, pp. 73, 204.