

as *surviving Mandans*. The policy of this is easily understood, and the reader who has paid attention to the foregoing certificates and extracts of letters, added to my own testimony as an eye-witness, will have no difficulty in drawing correct conclusions as to the peculiar customs and the cruel fate of the Mandan Indians.

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Every reader of this work will have a knowledge of, and a respect for the names of Cass and Webster, who were familiar with my works and also with Indian history and Indian character.

*Letter from GENERAL CASS, American Ambassador to France, and since,  
Secretary of State of the United States of America.*

“Légation des États-Unis à Paris.

“Dear Sir,

“No man can appreciate better than myself the admirable fidelity of your Indian Collection and Indian book, which I have lately examined. They are equally spirited and accurate; they are true to nature. Things that *are*, are not sacrificed, as they too often are by the painter, to things as (in his judgment) they should be.

“During eighteen years of my life I was superintendant of Indian affairs in the North-west Territory of the United States, and during more than five I was Secretary of War, to which department belongs the general control of Indian concerns. I know the Indians thoroughly. I have spent many a month in their camps, council-houses, villages, and hunting-grounds; I have fought *with* them and *against* them; and I have negotiated seventeen treaties of peace or of cession with them. I mention these circumstances to show you that I have a good right to speak confidently upon the subject of your drawings. Among them I recognize many of my old acquaintances, and everywhere I am struck with the vivid representations of them and their customs, of their peculiar features, and of their costumes. Unfortunately, they are receding before the advancing tide of our population, and are probably destined at no distant day wholly to disappear; but your Collection will preserve them, as far as human art can do, and will form the most perfect monument of an extinguished race that the world has ever seen.”

“To GEORGE CATLIN.

“LEWIS CASS.”