

you for your Collection; but as the Riccarrees have taken possession of the Mandan village they have appropriated nearly everything, and it is impossible therefore to obtain what I otherwise would have procured for you. I have sent you, however, one thing which you will peculiarly value,—the famous *war-knife* of your old friend *Mah-to-toh-pa*, the war chief. This knife and its history you are familiar with.

“I have also sent a very beautiful woman’s robe, with a figure of the sun painted on it, a grizzly bear’s-claw necklace, and several other articles, the best I could obtain. . . . On reaching here I learn that amongst the Assiniboins and Crees about 7000, and amongst the Blackfeet 15,000, have fallen victims to the disease, which spread to those tribes.

“Of the Mandans between forty and fifty were all that were left when the disease subsided. The Riccarrees soon after moved up and took possession of their village, making slaves of the remaining Mandans, and are living in it at the present time.

“A few months after the Riccarrees took possession they were attacked by a war-party of Sioux, and in the middle of the battle the Mandans, men, women, and children, whilst fighting for the Riccarrees, at a concerted signal ran through the pickets and threw themselves under the horses’ feet of the Sioux, and, still fighting, begged the Sioux to kill them ‘that they might not live to be the dogs of the Riccarrees.’ The last of the tribe were here slain.

“Yours truly,

“KENNETH M’KENZIE.”

I might not have enumbered my work with the above certificates and extracts of letters in my possession, were it not that the very Company who have been the cause of the destruction of these people, to punish me for having condemned their system of rum and whisky selling, and to veil their iniquities, have endeavoured to throw discredit upon my descriptions of the religious ceremonies of the Mandans, and to induce the world to believe, contrary to my representations, that a large proportion of the Mandans still exist, and are rapidly increasing under the *nourishing auspices of the Fur Company*.

There is no doubt whatever that a few straggling Mandans who fled to the Minatarrees, or in other directions, are still existing, nor any doubt but that the Riccarrees, since the destruction of the Mandans, have occupied to this day the Mandan village, under the range of the guns of the Fur Company’s fort, and are exhibited to the passers-by and represented to the reading world