

"Neuwied, Prussia, December 20, 1866.

"To MR. GEORGE CATLIN.

"Dear Sir,

"Your letter came safely to hand, and revived the quite forgotten recollections of my stay amongst the Indian tribes of the Missouri, now thirty-three years past.

"The Mandan tribe, which we both have known so well, and with whom I passed a whole winter, was one of the first to be destroyed by a terrible disease, when all the distinguished chiefs, Muh-to-toh-pa, Char-a-ta, Numa-ka-kie, etc. etc., died; and it is doubtful if a single man of them remained to record the history, customs, and religious ideas of his people.

"Not having been, like yourself, an eye-witness of those remarkable starvations and tortures of the *O-kee-pa*, but having arrived later, and spent the whole of a winter with the Mandans, I received from all the distinguished chiefs, and from Mr. Kipp (at that time director of Fort Clarke, at the Mandan village, and an excellent interpreter of the Mandan language), the most detailed and complete record and description of the *O-kee-pa* festival, where the young men suffered a great deal; and I can attest your relation of it to be a correct one, after all that I heard and observed myself.

"In my description of my voyage in North America (English edition) I gave a very detailed description of the *O-kee-pa*, as it was reported to me by all the chiefs and Mr. Kipp, and it is about the same that you told,—and nobody would doubt our veracity, I hope.

"I know most of the American works published on the American Indians, and I possess many of them; but it would be a labour too heavy for my age or eighty-five years, to recapitulate them all.

"Schoolcraft is a writer who knows well the Indians of his own part of the country, but I do not know his last large work on that matter. If he should doubt what we have both told in our works, of the great Medicine festivities of the *O-kee-pa*, he would be wrong, certainly.

"If my statement, as that of a witness, could be of use to you, I should be very pleased.

"Your obedient

"(Signed) MAX, Prince of Neuwied."