

troop. On the following day the Commissioner had a thorough inspection of the kits, quarters, arms, ammunition, &c.

On the 8th of July, I left Fort Walsh with the Commissioner to take over the command at Wood Mountain, to which place the headquarters of my division had been lately transferred.

WOOD MOUNTAIN.

On the 13th of July the Commissioner, self and escort arrived at Wood Mountain. I took over the command from Superintendent Walsh, who left with his detachment for Qu'Appelle on the 15th July.

ARREST OF WHISKEY TRADERS.

On the 18th of July, I arrested and fined two men, Blondin and Marchand, \$200 and \$50 respectively and costs for trading and having intoxicating liquor illegally in their possession. The liquor, thirty gallons of whiskey, was also seized and spilled.

THE SIOUX.

Since my arrival here I have had frequent interviews with the hostile Sioux, when I urged upon them the necessity of accepting the terms of surrender offered by the Americans. On the 18th of July, the Chief "Spotted Eagle" came to see me. I had a long council with him and informed him of the message I had received from the "Queen's Council House." At the conclusion of our talk he said he would return to his own country and surrender. His words were:—"Now that there is to be no more blood spilt upon the American side, I will shake hands with the Americans strong and live in my own country." The old warrior went from here to the Yankton Camp on the Red Water Creek, where he remained until October, when, with about sixty-five lodges, he surrendered to the American authorities at Fort Keogh.

DEPARTURE OF THE SIOUX.

From the first interview I had with Sitting Bull, after my arrival here, I noticed that he wished, whatever his reasons or objects might be, to delay the surrender of the hostiles. I therefore concluded to break his influence with the camp; consequently, on subsequent occasions instead of treating him with exceptional deference and addressing myself especially to him in council, I spoke to the people generally, telling them not to allow any one or any set of men to prevent their accepting the American terms of surrender. I explained how much their women and children would benefit by such a step; that whatever they as men thought, or whatever prejudices any particular man had respecting the Americans, they would be cruel to their families if they longer rejected the offer, now that starvation was imminent in this country and that they could not hunt south of the line without a constant dread of attack from the American troops.

This and similar arguments constantly used not only in council but whenever I met any of the Indians, no matter what their standing, soon began to have an effect upon the camp, in fact so great an effect that Sitting Bull and his soldiers had to prevent lodges leaving several times by force. You will remember my having so reported to you not long since. About three weeks ago the whole camp arrived near the fort; Sitting Bull upon arrival came at once to see me; by his conversation and manner it was plain that he felt his influence was fast waning, and although he told me, as he had often done before, that he was going soon to surrender, one could see that he wished to delay as long as possible.

On the 3rd of December, I had a long talk with Low Dog. He said: "I want you to tell me all about the message you have received from the Queen." I did so and impressed upon him how foolish the people were to remain here and starve,