

I have seen generous ladies residing in the neighborhood of the Indian country, when visited by Indians, set food before them and keep renewing the supply, and wondering at the Indians eating so much, whereas they considered themselves bound in politeness to eat all that was set before them.

When Indians become too old and infirm to travel, they build a fire near water, and giving them some provisions and generally a small kettle, leave them to take care of themselves. Many children from exposure and learning them to be great eaters, die in infancy. The practice of leaving the aged to die, applies more particularly to migratory bands on the plains. Indians living about lakes and rivers, where they have canoes, I do not think ever expose them thus, at least I never heard of an instance.

You never see a Sioux Indian, if he is in company, smoke alone. The pipe is lighted and he takes a whiff or two himself, and passes it to his neighbor, always passing it around with the sun. When several are assembled together, you will see a number of pipes going the rounds in the same manner. Their principal subjects of conversation at these times, are their wars, feasts, hunting and their women. A man may have as many wives as he can maintain among the Yanktons; the more he has, the better he is off, as they can dress and prepare the more buffalo robes for market. If an Indian marries the eldest daughter, he is entitled to take the others, as they come to maturity, for wives. But those who do not live in the buffalo range, content themselves generally with two, and many of them with one. I knew one Yankton chief who had six.

When the Sioux women have their *menses*, they are looked upon as unholy and unclean, and are not allowed to remain in the lodge with the family, but are obliged to build a small lodge outside of the other, and remain alone during the time of its continuance, fed in a dish by one of the family, and not allowed, during the time, to enter the family lodge, or touch anything, except the dish in which their food is handed to them, until the