

amining for tracks, in case there should be any one of the band lurking about for mischief; but finding all safe, he told me I could go and shoot swan. I had never seen this man before; and, on inquiry, my interpreter informed me that he was a half-breed, the son of a gentleman from Montreal, who had been in the trade many years before, named Ance, and had retired. I went to my shop, opened some packages, and gave him a present, of which he was proud, and was as heavy as he could conveniently carry. I never saw him again. This proved to be the hardest winter I ever met with in my journey through life.

Old Wackhawendutah, or Red Thunder, was one of the bravest, and most universally respected, chiefs among all the numerous Sioux bands. What brought him into such high esteem, may be worth noting. An Ottawa Indian, from Lake Michigan, had, by some means, wandered away from his own country, and joined Red Thunder's band, where he received the kindest hospitality; but his tribe, in Michigan, were at war with the Omahaw Indians, on the Missouri. In their rambling or pleasure seeking during the summer season, though their homes might be widely separated, strange tribes would often come in contact, and have great fun, horse-racing, ball-playing, and very many other means of amusement, with which the whites are not familiar.

On the occasion in question, about two hundred lodges each of Sioux and Omahaws encamped on the great plains within visiting distance of each other. This happened many years before I saw Red Thunder. It soon became known in the Omahaw camp that Red Thunder was harboring one of their enemies, and a party was immediately sent to bring the Ottawa, dead or alive. Red Thunder used every argument in his power to save his *protégé*, but to no purpose. Then taking his gun, he said, "Since you will not permit me to keep the Ottawa, you shall not kill him, but I will," and shot him, the same ball accidentally killing a young Omahaw who was behind the Ottawa. The Omahaws took the two bodies away with them. War was now imminent in consequence of this mishap of Red Thunder's; and, in order to avert the impending outbreak, early the next morning the