

most distinguished chiefs of his time, and whose early career gave such promise of success.

What he would have been under other circumstances, and away from the contaminating influences and examples of the white settlers, can, of course, only be a matter of conjecture. He fell so soon after his rise, that we are left somewhat in doubt as to the genuine nature of the power by which he rose. There was very little in the circumstances and history of his nation while he remained as its acknowledged head, to call forth large energies and develop great traits, had he possessed these quantities in ever so eminent a degree. The relations existing between the Indians and our own Government, were, in the main, conducted with so much fairness, and such regard shown to their wishes and welfare, that they had no just ground for hostility to us; and I found, in fact, that there existed, almost universally among them, kind and loyal feelings towards us as a nation, and there was a very general readiness to acknowledge the word of their Great Father as law.

The hereditary feuds existing between the Chippewas and Sioux, were at this time held in check by the power of our Government, and a repetition of the bloody wars which had been the yearly history of these two nations for centuries, rendered difficult or impossible; and thus these avenues, almost the only ones open to a savage chief, were effectually closed to the aspiring ambition of Hole-in-the-Day, whatever may have been his desire or his ability to pursue them.

It is not impossible, that the chafing and unrest of his energies, confined and hampered, as they were, for want of an adequate theatre for their exercise, may have contributed to that course of life, which led so rapidly to his fall.

Had the theatre been open to him, I have no doubt he would have been successful in realizing the utmost limits of his ambition. Nature had stamped her mark upon him. The Indians, his brethren, who, whatever else they may lack, do not lack a quick apprehension of character, showed their appreciation of him in the name they gave him.