

have so little influence over the Indian Nations, from which it would appear to me that there is a want of something, somewhere. According to the present method of treating Indians, it is in my opinion utterly impossible to gain the good will, or have any influence with them. It cannot be expected that a Governor, who is also Superintendent of Indian affairs (who perhaps never saw an Indian before he came to the Territory he is to govern) can know what course to pursue toward the Indians, or indeed what instructions to give to an agent. Indians are always fond of novelty, and when they hear of the arrival of a Governor to post off to visit their new Father. The Governor not paying that attention to his visitants that they expected, the Indians return home much disappointed, saying that their new Father is a man of no sense, and did not offer them meat or drink, or any tobacco to smoke, by which means the Indians become prejudiced against the Governor, and in the end [this] leads to something serious. You well know that these little civilities shewn at times to the Indians, have had good effects when affairs of consequence are to be settled between the whites and the Indians.

The British Government have brought their method of treating Indians to a perfect system; they have [a] well regulated Indian department with a store of goods and a blacksmith at every post for their use. No person is eligible for the place of agent, unless he can speak some one of the languages. It would be supposed that an agent thus appointed is acquainted with the manners and customs as also with the different chiefs and Head Men of the different Nations of Indians.

A British Indian Agent will not think it derogatory to his rank to smoke and converse with Indian chiefs, by which means he cannot be imposed upon by designing interpreters, as sometimes happens with us. It is my decided opinion that our Government ought to establish a distinct department for Indian affairs in this country. A principal agent ought to reside at this place with sub-agents at the different posts or garrisons, whose duty it would be to report to the principal agent only, and from him to the Government. With