

just named, because they are the first with whom we traded, which has given them a good supply of guns. As he had not undertaken the enterprise in the sole view of the beaver trade, but to learn thoroughly the quality of the different mines which he had formerly discovered, he told them that he was sorry he had not known their ideas sooner; that it was clearly just, as he had come expressly for them, for him to settle on their land; but the season was too far spent to retrace his steps. He then made them a present of powder, balls, knives, and a fathom of tobacco, to invite them to come as soon as possible to the fort that he was going to erect; that there, when they were all assembled, he would tell them the intentions of the King, their master and his.

The Scioux of the West have, according to the reports of those of the East, more than a thousand cabins. They do not use canoes, cultivate the earth, or gather wild oats; they generally keep to the prairies between the Upper Mississippi and the River of the Missouri, and live solely by hunting.

All the Scioux in general say that they have three souls, and that after death, that which has done good goes to the warm countries, that which has done evil to the cold countries, and the other keeps the body. Polygamy is in use among them; they are very jealous, and sometimes fight duels for their women. They handle the bow very expertly and were several times seen to shoot ducks on the wing. They make their cabins of several buffalo-skins, laced and sewed together; they carry them everywhere with them; in each cabin there are ordinarily two or three men with their families. They are all great smokers, but their mode of smoking differs from that of the other Indians; there are some Scioux who swallow all the tobacco smoke, and others who, after having swallowed and kept it for some time in the stomach, eject it through the nose.

On the third of the same month, he received at the fort several Scioux, among whom was Ouacantapai,¹ chief of the village.

¹This name (also spelled Wakandapi and Wahnkantape) means "esteemed sacred." It was evidently a name of distinction, and handed down for many generations; for Neill mentions it (*Hist. Minnesota*, p. 166, note) as borne by one of the head men at Red Wing in 1850.—ED.