

By Sum Indans there was a Large Band of the Natives Incampd on the Banks of the River about Two Hundred Miles above me Which Wanted to Sea a trader. I Conkluded ameatley [immediately] to Put a Small asortment of Goods Into a Cannoe and Go up to them—a thing that never was attempted Before By the Oldest of the traders on Account of the Rudeness of those People who ware Nottawaseas By Nation But the Band was Cald Yantonoes⁶⁴—the Cheafe of the Band allwase Lead them on the Plaines. As I was about to Imbark the Cheafe arived to Give me an Invatation to Cum up and trade with them. I agreed and we Seat of toGather—I By water and he by Land. I was Nine days Giting up to thare Camp. The Cheafe arived Befour me—his Rout was Shorter than Mine by Cuting across the Plaines. When I arived within three Miles of ye Camp it Beaing Weat Wather and Cold I Incampd and Turned up my Canoe Which Made us a grand Shelter. At Night it Began to Snow and frease and Blowe Hard. We ware then on a Larg Sand flat By the River Side. Earley in the Morning the wind took the Canew up in the Air—Leat hir fall on the frozen flat and Broke hir in Pecis. I was then in a Sad Situation. About Noon I Perseaved a Number of the Natives on ye Opaset Sid of the River Aproaching me—Sum on Horsback—Others on foot. When thay Came Near finding the Situation we ware in thay forded the River and offerd me thare Asistans to take my Goods up to thare Camp. I was Glad and Exepted thare offer. We Marcht on with Our Loded

⁶⁴ The Yankton branch of the Dakota was probably first mentioned by Le Sueur in his classification, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, pp. 193, 194. Its habitat lay west of the M'dewakantonwan (or Spirit Lake) band, who usually were encountered near St. Anthony Falls, and upon the plains of Vermillion, James, and Big Sioux rivers. Pond would seem to have been the first English trader to venture among them. When Lewis and Clark ascended the Missouri in 1804, they met the Yankton Indians, whose trade was mostly in British hands. Although rude and uncivilized they were more friendly than other Dakota bands. To the number of 3,000, they still dwell on South Dakota and Montana reservations.—Ed.