



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Ratified treaty no. 246, Documents relating to the negotiation of the treaty of May 15, 1846, with the Comanche, Aionai, Anadarko, Caddo, Lipan, Longwha, Keechy, Tahwacarro, Wichita, and Waco Indians....

Washington, D.C.: National Archives, May 15, 1846

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/466HE3PJGYBU58H>

As a work of the United States government, this material is in the public domain.

For information on re-use see:

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

RATIFIED TREATY NO. 246

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF THE TREATY OF
MAY 15, 1846, WITH THE COMANCHE, AIONAI, ANADARKO, CADDO, LIPAN,
LONGWHA, KEECHY, TAHWACARRO, WICHITA, AND WACO INDIANS

C.S.A. Merrill, L 2594

5/11/41

Mr. G. Lewis
Washington
July 13, 1846

Submitted treaty negotiated
with Comanche & other
wild tribes of the Prairies,

for Report. See - B. 2738-46

Treaty sent to Secy of War, July 14-46

Recd. 14 July 1846

to Secy of War
Copy sent with Treaty
July 14th 1846. See Report
Book No 5. p 100

5-15-46

Globe Hotel

Washington

July 13th 1846.

Sir

I have the honor herewith to transmit a Treaty of Peace and Friendship made and concluded on the 16th day of May last at the Council Springs State of Texas, on the Brazos River, with the various tribes of Indians inhabiting the Western Prairies on the borders of Texas, to wit, the Comanches, Tonies, Onadaktis, Ladod, Lipans, Tonkawas, Keechies, Tonka-car-ro, Wichitas and Alacoo.

When we started on this mission we hoped and believed that four or five months time would enable us to accomplish all the great and benevolent purposes which it was intended to affect. In this we have been disappointed -

Causes of delay that could not be foreseen have created a necessity for a greater consumption of time and larger outlays than we had expected at the outset. Heavy requisitions have been made upon our patience, our perseverance and our tact to counteract these difficulties and bring our mission to a successful issue. We have had to contend against long standing prejudices against the faith of the White man - against the selfishness of bad men upon the frontier who consider their occupations gone when salutary restraints shall be put upon the trade and intercourse of the Red and Whitemen - 117

Renegades from the friendly tribes have attempted to excite the prejudice and distrust of the Prairie tribes against the U. States by representing us as having been sent among them to disseminate disease through the presents we were to give them - They are intruders upon the hunting grounds of the Prairie Indians and know that a wise organization under Treaty stipulations upon the borders of Texas will cut them off from the privilege of hunting upon their ground and from the impunity ^{with} which they now perpetrate their villainies upon the frontier settlers upon the credit of the Prairie tribes. Hence this and various other misrepresentations equally groundless were industriously circulated to defeat the success of our mission.

Another great cause of delay was the difficulty of finding the various bands of Comanches, the master spirits of the Prairies and without whom a treaty would not be worth the time of making it. - They are scattered from the Rio Grande to the Arkansas River and never remain longer than four or five days at any point. We had to send runners amongst them and when, after much delay, they were brought into council at "Comanche Peak" the place of meeting first designated, and after they had heard our "talk" and approved it, yet they insisted that they should return to their people to consult and bring them into council that they might hear for themselves

what was said. In this whim we were compelled to indulge them altho against our wish. We had no alternative but to break with them and to return to Washington, and that would have brought the tomahawk and scalping knife upon the defenceless settlers, women and children all along the frontier.

After the Chiefs had heard our "talk" and were returning to their people, some of their warriors, who knew nothing of our visit or its purpose - and who were ignorant of the new relation of Texas to the U. States committed murders and thefts upon the frontier. When the Chiefs heard of these things they were alarmed and would ^{not} return to the Council till explanations and promises of forgiveness had been made - all this had to be done through runners at a distance of several hundred miles - this was a cause of much delay.

Unusual quantities of rain have fallen during the last winter and spring and the water courses have been up nearly all the time. Indians, with their women and children, will never travel in the rain, and, except in some very urgent case, cross a stream much swollen by rains - this made the Indians very tardy in their movements and caused much delay.

Many of the different tribes arrived at the Council grounds in July and March but

would not agree to go into Council till all had assembled. The distance was too great to allow them to go to their homes and return. We were therefore put to the necessity of feeding large numbers for several months and until the last party arrived on the 12th May. This was the cause of greater outlay for beef, salt &c than we anticipated - It was inevitable, however, and I hope resulted in much good; for in our long and friendly intercourse with them we were enabled to destroy to a great extent their prejudices and to win their confidence - They became our strongest auxiliaries in reconciling those that came in last and enabled us to carry through ~~the~~ our business in Council with less difficulty than would otherwise have attended it.

The Treaty you will perceive is an entire yielding to the protection and control of the U. States and contains larger concessions to the discretion of the President and his agents than usual; and if carried out in its true spirit, I doubt not, secures, for all time to come the peace and safety of the Texas frontier.

Nothing is done directly upon the subject of a boundary line between the red and white men. We were deterred from making any proposition on this subject by the fear of ^{it}

bringing into collision the authorities of Texas
and the Federal Government on account of
the very peculiar and anomalous position of
the two Governments with regard to territory
I believe, however, that all the advantages
of a definite line have been secured by
the discretion secured to the President in
the establishment of military posts trading houses
agencies &c

This I hope will be satisfactory
for the present as I feel great delicacy in
moving in this matter till the arrival of
my colleague, Govr Butler, who has been
detained on the way by indisposition. I
learn this morning that he will be here in
two or three days. At the earliest day
practicable after his arrival you shall
have a full and detailed account of our
proceedings, expenditures &c - or as soon as
I get the papers from him material to a
full report, which he will send in a
few days if he is unable to come himself

Your obt Servt

M. G. Herrin

Hon. W. Medill
Commr. &c

O.S. Maxwell. B 2738

P. McPerry, Comptroller
M. Lewis, Comptroller

Washington

8 Aug. 1846

See - L 2594 - '46

When up to as limit to neg.
-like treaty of Peace to with
the Comanche & the other
Tribes of the Prairie.

Treaty sent to Secy of War
July 14 - '46

Rec. Aug. 16
File

Washington City D. C.
August 8th 1846.

Sir,

Under instructions from your Department of the 12th September 1845, we proceeded to the duties assigned to us, and have the honor to submit the following report.

In point of time, the first named Commissioner, preceded his colleague. He arrived at New Orleans on the 22nd of October, there purchased a small outfit for the mission with some suitable articles as presents, to be used in conciliating the Indians. He proceeded up Red river by land as far as Sherport, and then across the country to Fort Gibson, where he applied in the joint name of the Commissioners, for a company of Dragoons. The Commanding General of the Department declined for satisfactory reasons to yield to the request. The first named Commissioner then wrote to his colleague, apprising him of his want of success in obtaining the Dragoons as they had expected, (as on two former occasions a similar requisition had been complied with.) Thus thrown on our own resources and being unable to obtain aid by way of guard, the Commissioners proceeded as well as they could, to make other arrangements. It would have been imprudent and hazardous for them to venture alone among the Indians without assistants. The Government had an important object in view, and we were without the ordinary and anticipated

2
means of effecting it. The experience of one of the Commissioners on former occasions had satisfied him of the necessity of availing ourselves of the sympathy and confidence, existing every where between the Indian races. Let them meet together at any time, not as hostile adversaries, and this mystical affinity of blood exhibits itself in a way calculated to touch the feelings of the most indifferent. In selecting their guards, and other agents of their Missions, they had more than common advantages, in availing themselves of the services of influential persons connected with tribes living under friendly treaties with the United States. Some of these Indians were gentlemen of intelligence, and were capable of appreciating in its largest sense, the true objects of the Missions. Under such circumstances, they did not hesitate as to the propriety and policy of employing the friendly delegations that accompanied them. And their influence was very great - perhaps more than any other that was exerted; not only from the cause alluded to, but these friendly representatives served to overcome the unfortunate influence of secret emissaries, who were in the habit of going in advance, and with the discontent of renegades, would spread alarm, and sow the seeds of jealousy against the purposes of the white men who might be sent to induce the wild tribes to enter into friendly treaties. In the sequel, these friendly representatives, consisting of Two Cherokees, three Chickasaws, two Creeks and two Seminoles, with their interpreters, cooks &c. were our best and most efficient agents

to counteract such secret and unfavourable influences.

At Coffee's Station, where the Commissioners met, we became more fully satisfied of the hazard of attempting to penetrate the Indian Country without an adequate force for our protection. The Indians, from many accidental causes, had become suspicious and discontented. We thought it prudent and proper, again, to address an application to Gen. Arbuckle for a guard of Dragoons. The application being refused, we set about forming our plans, and succeeded in organizing a force to enable us to proceed. It should be remarked that before this time, (which was January) we had taken preliminary measures towards our ultimate purpose. As early as November we reached the Indian Country, and had sent out runners ahead of us, to invite the different tribes of wild Indians to meet us at the Comanche Peak, on the Brazos. Contrary to our calculations, these runners became deterred from going among the wild tribes, who were represented as having been greatly exasperated and hostile to the authorities of the United States. These rumours were no doubt put in circulation by the refugees and renegades from other more civilized tribes, for the purpose of giving themselves all the advantages of their selfish situation. They value very much the incidental advantages of their irresponsible position, and are disposed to resort to any means to maintain it. Although they are not acceptable to those on whom they have obtained themselves, still they are ~~able~~ able to do great mischief. Some measures should be taken to remove them. Having been disap-

pointed from the causes alluded to, of meeting the
 Chiefs at the time first appointed, which was
 the full moon in January, we again sent forward
 two sets of runners with small presents for the
 Indians, with assurances that our purpose was
 peace. One set of runners swept the country on
 both sides of the Colorado, the other the country
 on the Brazos and the head of the Trinity. The
 Commissioners with their party, took a more direct
 route for the Comanche Peak, hoping to get there
 before the second appointment for the assembling
 of the Indians, which was the full moon in
 February, to have every thing in the greatest
 possible state of forwardness, in order that
 all unnecessary delay and expense might be
 avoided in concluding our Council with the
 Indians. Our Indian guide, however, ^{proved} entirely in-
 -sufficient of the Country; led us across the Brazos
 fifty miles above, and one hundred beyond
 the Comanche Peak, near the waters of the Col-
 orado, before we discovered our mistake. Our
 guide was discharged, and we took the most
 direct route according to our judgement, to
 the "Peak". While lost between the Brazos and
 Colorado we encountered a party Tacos and
 Keschis who had been on a marauding expedi-
 -tion to the frontier of Texas. Supposing us
 to be Texans, and that we came to make war on
 them, they stole twelve of our horses and mules,
 and gave evident demonstrations of hostility.
 As soon however as they ascertained who we were,
 and what our purpose was, they not only restored
 our horses, but expressed great regret for what
 they had done. In this we believed them sincere.

After travelling about two hundred miles down the
 waters of Little river, a tributary of the Brazos
 in a direction south of east, we met about the
 10th of February, with a Comanche Camp, the
 head men of which informed us that we were
 below the Comanche Peak, and about two days
 ride from the Brazos. We went immediately to
 the Brazos, where we saw several hunting
 parties of Indians, from whom we learned for
 the first time, that our second set of runners
 seeing the impossibility, on account of constant
 rains and swollen streams of the Indians getting
 to the "Peak" by the full moon in February, had
 very wisely and properly postponed the meet-
 ing until the full moon in March. We then
 pitched our camp on the Brazos for the purpose
 of recounting our horses, and getting a supply
 of provisions for our men. This was absolutely
 necessary, as our horses and men were worn out
 and exhausted, from excessive fatigue and
 short allowance; the horses having subsisted
 for several weeks on nothing but the shabby
 grass of the prairie, and our men had depended
 the same time upon such game as our hunters
 had chance to kill, which afforded but a bare
 subsistence. While encamped here several
 parties of Tomis, Onadarcas, Cadocs, Ton-
 kaway and Lippaus, on their way to the
 "Peak", joined us. They were hungry and with-
 out provisions, and they claimed the fulfil-
 -ment of our promises, made through our
 runners that they should be fed after they joined
 us, until the Council closed. We could not
 refuse, and procured such provisions as were to

6.

be had from the nearest settlements, until we reached the Peak, where we were to meet a supply of beef by contract. As soon as our horses were able to travel we started for the Peak, arrived there and found a number of Indians had already assembled, amounting together with those we carried with us, to several hundred. Here the Treaty might have been concluded, but from the disinclination of the Chiefs or Head men to enter into any permanent treaty arrangement before consulting their people, and without having their leading War-Captains; and as many of their people, as possible to hear what was said and done. They represented that treaties had been concluded before and promises made to the Chiefs in Council; that they had reported these things to their people, and for the violation of faith, in the fulfilment of any stipulation or promises on the part of the White men, (and they had been frequent) they were held responsible. They were therefore unwilling to do anything definitely until they had consulted their people, and brought as many to the Council as would come. They also suggested the "Council Springs" as a more suitable place for the rejoined meeting, as affording more abundant subsistence for their horses, and greater facilities for procuring provisions for themselves. In all these things we had to indulge them. Accordingly a portion of the Indians, with five or six of our men, with each party as security of our good faith, started to scour the whole Indian country for the purpose of notifying the Indians,

7
of the time, place and purpose of our next meeting
which was appointed for the full moon in April.
But long continued and unprecedented rains
high waters, and the ungovernable aversion
of the Indians to travel in the rain or to
cross water courses when much swollen, so
retarded their movements, that delay was
unavoidable. Other untoward events were the
cause of much delay. Some of the hunting
parties of the Comanches, without knowing
any thing of our visit or purpose, or of the new
relation of Texas to the United States, had com-
mitted depredations on the Texas frontier, and
when their Chiefs heard of it, they became
alarmed and would not come into Council
until runners had been sent several hundred
miles and peace offerings exchanged as a
pledge for their security and kind treatment
while in Council. The interested and selfish
purposes of unprincipled men upon the Indians,
and evil reports of renegade Indians had to
be met and counteracted. All these things
produced delay, and our meeting did not take
place until ^{about} the middle of May. The bulk of
the Indians that were at the Peak, accompanied
us to the Council Springs, and remained until
the close of the Council; there were acquisitions
to their numbers almost daily from the various
tribes; which swelled our subsistence account
to an amount greatly beyond our calculations
at the outset. It must not be supposed, that
while we were at Council Springs we were un-
employed. Indeed, from the time of our arrival
there, until the conclusion of the Treaty, here-

after to be noticed, was a period of our greatest troubles and difficulties. Daily communications and constant attention had to be maintained with the Indians, and one of the Commissioners at this time was ill. During an excursion in the month of March in which he had to be very much exposed, he contracted a disorder, which continued to increase in violence until he was compelled to take his bed about the 1st of April; and from that time he could give little more than the aid of his advice and council on all the essential matters involved in pending negotiations.

Both he and his colleague saw the importance of their peculiar situation, and they were under every obligation to make the most of it. The solicitude and apprehension, which were entertained at a very critical period, for the Army under Genl. Taylor's command cannot be forgotten.

It was generally understood that his small force was surrounded by an overwhelming body of Mexicans. His situation in any point of view was certainly full of imminent peril. The Indians looking at the mere demonstration of numbers, were manifestly excited by such a state of things; the constituted authorities of Texas saw the importance of guarding against the outbreak of Savage violence, and under a resolution of their Legislature, the Governor of Texas deputed two special messengers to apprise us of the necessity of maintaining a control over the Savages by every practical means in our power. Genl. Taylor, with a becoming vigilance, seeing the great danger of the savages taking a part in the War at such a

junction, either by murdering their white neighbors from a supposed impunity from danger, or by joining the Mexican forces, also sent a despatch to the Executive of Texas, of which we were apprized by express immediately.

We were then so far distant from any thing like efficient aid, that could have been afforded us, should an occasion have called for it, that we were bound to resort to the most obvious means of security and safety. Under such circumstances what could the Commission-ers do? leave the camp and thereby abandon the Indians to their own wild and ferocious course of policy. This could not have been done in the discharge of their duty, with honor as patriotic citizens, or as official Agents of the Government.

They felt bound to retain their post and make the most of their influence in conciliating the friendship and overcoming any hostile indication on the part of the Indians, which they had reason to fear might be exhibited. To do this they had to resort to more than ordinary exertions. They held a highly important position, that required them to use all the discretions vested in them by their instructions from the Government.

They had not only to make many promises, but were at once compelled to make profuse presents, and resort to unusual expenditures of money to secure themselves and divert and detain the Indians. If they had not taken the course they did what would have been the consequences cannot now be conjectured. It

10

must not be supposed that the savages would have remained entirely passive and neutral; we had many reasons to think otherwise, and it was fortunate at this particular time that many of the influential Chiefs were separated from their people. Under such circumstances their aversion to the contumacious white population could be appeased and thwarted, if not entirely overcome.

The tribes with whom we were in negotiation, at the Comanche Peak, and with whom we concluded a treaty at Council Springs on the 16th May, a copy of which has been sent to the Department, are as follows;

1st. The Comanches who are regarded as the master spirit of the prairie acquired by their numbers and general daring of character. They are an athletic and fine looking race of people, living entirely by the chase and principally upon Buffalo and wild horses.

They make no corn and have no permanent places of abode - they are predatory in their habits ranging as far south as the Rio Grande, and the head waters of Red river, and the Canadian; wintering principally upon the Brazos and Trinity rivers, where they find abundance of green grass all winter for the subsistence of their horses. They make frequent incursions into the northern provinces of Mexico, from whence they derive their best horses; they likewise capture women and children and make slaves of them. It is believed that they have as many as one thousand Mexican children at this time. These Comanches are known upon the Prairie under the

general appellation of Pah-to-eh's and are subdivided into six distinct bands. The separate organization and internal regulations such as Head Chiefs, Councillors, War Chiefs and Captains are as follows:

1st Yam-pe-ni-coes, or "Root-diggers." They number about five hundred lodges, averaging about seven souls to the lodge, making in all about thirty five hundred souls; they range generally on the head waters of the Canadian and Red rivers.

2nd The Hor'ish or "Honey Eaters," who number about four hundred lodges, averaging about seven to the lodge, making in all about twenty eight hundred souls. They inhabit the southernmost part of the Comanche Country bordering the settlements of Texas. Their principal chief Pah kah ii cah is an excellent man and quite friendly with the whites.

3rd The Co-che-to-eh or "Buffalo Eaters." They have something upwards of three hundred lodges, and number about two thousand souls, and are located principally upon the head waters of the Brazos.

4th The Noonah or "People of the Desert." They have about two hundred lodges and number about fifteen hundred souls. They live upon the open plain or prairie, between the Colorado and Brazos rivers.

5th The No-coo-nees or "People in a Circle." They number about two hundred and fifty lodges in all about seventeen hundred and fifty souls; are located between the Colorado and Rio Grande.

6th The Te-nay-wash or "People in the Timber."

They have about four hundred lodges and number about twenty eight hundred souls, making in all fourteen thousand three hundred souls. These people command the Plains and are the principal ones to be treated with and conciliated. In this place it is proper to remark that there has recently been formed an alliance and acquisition to this band, from two bands of Indians heretofore inhabiting the Northern provinces of Mexico, known as the *Essee que tes* and *Muscalares*; the first numbering about thirty five hundred souls and the latter about five hundred. They have heretofore been at war with the Comanches but recently become their allies, and are now at war with Mexico. We did not see any of the former tribes, but received messages from their chiefs, of their friendly disposition, and their wish to come under our protection.

The Chiefs of the latter tribes were in attendance and are now planting corn on the St. Saba, a tributary of the Colorado. Both of these tribes are the same people in language, manners, habits &c as the Lippons of Texas.

The other little bands, viz: *Witchetaws*, *Tow yash*, *To woc o mis* *Ke chis* and *Wacos* are inconsiderable in number and degenerate in character. They do not exceed one hundred and fifty ^{souls} each - they plant corn and pumpkins for their own use, and raise some for trade. They live in villages, and have temporary huts made of skins and straw.

The *Witchetaws* and *Tow yash* live on the north side of Red River in the *Witchetaw* mountains. The other three tribes reside upon the

Bravos, about one hundred miles above the Comanche Peak. They informed us they had lost their numbers by the Small pox and repeated wars with the Texans. They have the reputation of being the best horse thieves in the prairie.

Next are the I, o, mies, An no dar coes and Caddoes. They live upon the Bravos, about forty miles below the "Peak," reside in villages and their houses are made of straw, and are comfortable. They plant corn, pumpkins &c. The aggregate of the three tribes is about fifteen hundred souls; they have intermarried with each other and become identified as one people controlled by one Chief.

Next are the Ton que wais, and Lip-pans, the first number about seven hundred souls, the latter about one hundred and twenty five. They reside near San Antonio in Texas, and have been uniformly the friends and allies of Texans. They rely upon game alone for subsistence, they do not cultivate the soil or have any stationary place of abode. They are extremely depraved in their habits, great drunkards and fond of gambling; most of them speak the Spanish language with great fluency. The vice of drinking ardent spirits is common only to those two tribes and the I o mies, An no dar coes and Caddoes. The rest of the tribes do not indulge in the vice of intemperance, but the vice of gambling is prevalent among all the other tribes to an alarming extent. These tribes all speak or understand the Spanish language, and seem to have imbibed from them the habit of gaming. In their religious

14

or superstitious ceremonies they are observant to a painful extent. They all recognize an overruling or controlling spirit, but have limited or no knowledge of the worship of the living and true God. They use their women as servants or slaves, compelling them to perform all the drudgery of life; like all savages they have three or four wives; the women providing for the men, and the men living in comparative indolence.

We will here recapitulate the number and names of all the different tribes, and give the aggregate of the whole which will stand thus - - - - -

Comanches	14,300
Essequanties & Mucalares	4,000
Witchetaws & Towyach	300
Wacos, Keechis & Simshonies	450
Tonies, Annodares & Cadocs	1,500
Tonguiva & Lipans	850
Numbering in all	21,400

It is believed that all of the above tribes could not muster more than four thousand warriors. They do not act in large numbers, rarely above one or two hundred men engage in the same enterprise. Besides the tribes enumerated above, there is one other tribe, in friendly intercourse with the United States and her friendly Indians on the Rio Grande, numbering about four thousand souls; they reside high upon the Canadian river between that and the Arkansas, extending their rambles to the Rio Grande towards Mexico. Through our runners we received friendly messages from these people with a request to meet next fall in Council to hold a friendly talk and smoke the pipe. They are,

15

to some extent in intercourse, with the Comanches, and form a link in the great chain of the prairie Indians.

As to the ransoms of white children who have been seized and detained in captivity, we have to remark that we succeeded in rescuing one white child and three Mexicans. We heard of but three other children of white parents, but it is said that there are a large number of Mexican children. One of the whites is a young man named Lyons who expressed an unwillingness to our runners to withdraw from his association. Of the other two, one is a girl, about seventeen years old, and her brother of the age of ten - known as the Parker children. They have been in captivity of the Yampai Indians, and were on the head of the Washitaw, where our runners saw them last. The young woman is claimed by one of the Comanches as his wife; from the influence of her alleged husband, or from her own inclination she is unwilling to leave the people with whom she associates. The head men seemed to acquiesce in the propriety of her being surrendered, on an adequate sum, in the way of ransom being paid. A large amount of goods, and four or five hundred dollars was offered, but the offer was unavailing as she would run off and hide herself to avoid those who went to ransom her. Measures however have been taken to secure both herself and brother. We were assured by the Chief that he would take measures to have her delivered up to the authorities of the United States, upon the next "fall of the leaves"; and if he

would not yield to the inducements of the can-
 -some money, he would exert forcible coercion.
 In their negotiations and treaties the Commis-
 sioners, have been sensible to the instructions of
 the Government, to employ all the means in
 their power, to effect the emancipation of such
 persons, and to urge upon the Indians the necessity
 of abstaining in future from the capture of white
 persons. By the treaty we have concluded we
 feel that we have acquired important advantages.
 Many of the most influential chiefs seemed to
 place confidence in our promises but had only
 a vague conception of the power and resources of
 our Government. It was important, not only for
 the reasons assigned to retain a practicable control
 over them, at this juncture, but to impress them
 with the greatness of the American Government.
 Hence the propriety of prevailing on them to ac-
 company the Commissioners to the seat of Gov-
 ernment. Two objects were to be effected, by so
 doing. By having them at a distance from their
 homes, and under our immediate charge, they
 were as hostages for the good behaviour of all
 that were left behind. We were satisfied, that
 by coming among us, a favorable impression had
 been made on their minds. They will go back
 impressed with our strength, and their own
 weakness. A fatal delusion has been dispelled,
 calculated to do much good in giving security
 to the frontier settlements. They will no longer
 judge of the numbers of the white men by
 their estimate of their Texan neighbors. They
 have hitherto supposed that the Prairies and
 Buffalo were made exclusively for the red man

17.

on account of his numbers. These constitute the great source of their thanks to the Great Spirit for his special bounties to their race. Many matters that may appear as trifles in review, were vastly important at the time events were transpiring. "The looker on can sometimes see more than the gamester"; and in the same way, in taking a retrospective view of matters connected with our Mission, some may be disposed to place a different judgement upon them, from what we formed, when emergency forced them on our determination.

We can see nothing to change our judgement on the more essential objects and purposes, which it was our joint design to effect. In some matters subordinate, and to be regarded as the means of carrying out our plans, we entertained different views, such as must always be expected to be incident to the agency of two persons acting under a joint commission.

Unless we are mistaken the successful accomplishment of the Mission will, in its results, and not distant results - do credit to the enlightened policy and benevolent humanity that dictated it. Other great and more important measures may reflect higher renown and more splendid brilliancy on the government, but if the treaty should be preserved and carried out, in all its essential provisions, very few other measures will redound more to the real cause of humanity and the security of the frontier settlements. We have done nothing in matters connected with the treaty, but what we felt

ourselves authorized to do, under ample instructions from the government, and let others think as they may, we had to act under great embarrassments, and with comparatively limited means, and that too at a juncture, both critical and ~~un~~auspicious.

An exhibit of our accounts, vouchers, &c and a roll of persons in our employment, only require to be copied to be presented to the Department. All of which is respectfully submitted.

P. M. Butler
In. Com.

Hon. W. Medill
Com. of Indian Affairs
Washington City D. C.

M. G. Lewis
Ind. Commr

