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2812
CHEYENNE

MICHELSON, TRUMAN (Collector).

Narratives about Cheyenne origin, religion and history, written in English by William Abe Somers. n.d. MS. D. S. by Somers, with A. notations by Michelson. 8 pp.

Includes statement by Somers, "I have lived over 45 years with the Cheyennes . . . . ."

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12b

Somers.

[Somers talking to me.]

You and I both have intellect and hearts, we need these to consider in what way we can do the best to live. My people who are here before you in this great County, are precisely the same. I can see evidently that those of you before us in business are men of age and dignity. And people of that kind have good judgments and consider well what to do for this day. I infer from that, those of you who are here and there to consider what will be the resort of next the coming generation, as we are now not much different from any other race of people.

What law? Whose laws is it that prevents us, from these

2/ laws that have formulated by the wise men of this Country.

I am glad, to say that we also live upon the Earth and the things which come from above, and both have the same thought and desires in that respect that you the white people have. What I wish to see you is this, remember this is the Country where they are borned, where they have acquired all their property, their Children's Children, and their homes; You have come to enjoyed the Country, Killing the buffaloes from our land, until now we can stand it any longer. We must fight for our Country at least one before you can have it, said the Chief, "Now from the time, in 1833"

3/ our position was, when we first made treaties with the Government of the U.S.
our own lives and our customs were about to end.
The game upon which we lived was fast disappearing. The Whites were closing around us and nothing remained for us, but to adopt their ways and have same rights with them, if we wished to save our people from fighting.
The government promised us aid the means necessary to make our living out of our land and to instruct us how to do it. and many other things to support us until we could take Care of ourselves. We looked

4/ Forward with hope to the time when we could be as independent as the Whites and have a voice in the Government. This was surely the result of mistaken policy on the part of the Government. The result of land business, The " " unfulfilled promises, and the result of supposing the Indians to be children and treating as such.

1st Somers

Where are the Cheyenne tribe of Indians come from? and what is their religion? In reply to these Questions, will say, that there are great many people in this Country who know very little or know nothing about the ways and the religon of this people and where they were from. These statements will cause of somewhat interest in of some one, because it will be true. I have lived over 45 years with the Cheyennes and know facts according to their tradations.

Some one, say that the Indian religon is older than the Christian. A white man, say, that before the great Cheyenne prophet came you have no religion, in fact that this is not so. When the prophet came there was no white man but medicine men of their own

over

2nd after the Cheyennes came to see the buffaloes, there was a prophet before that who brought the holy bundles to them, our story teaches. that the prophet was a chief, raised by the tribe, who brought out the buffaloes to them when many years in starvation. This was donned in the heart of this Country when there was no strangers but the Indians, the, Corn, buffaloes, elk, moose, at one sex, were first seened at the bottoms, what is now known as the Black Hiles, of South Dakota, The history teaches thats when the prophet and the buffaloes first seened, a great many generations past before the White men came to enjoyed the Country and worpship to our own Religons

over

3th

through, "Sweet Root," who brought us corn and all the fowls of the air - and taught us what is going to come hereafter, before that these same people of Cheyennes came to the North, from the north-east, about 500 years ago, perhaps more than that. It can be further proven that the Cheyennes belong to the race of Algongmans*, which used to live on the Northeast of Canada. It is hard to express these facts, for they are historical an can earsely be proven. The Indian region, or Prophet brought can not be older than 600 years. The white mans region as we call it, dates 6,000 years back. When the Indian had

* i.e. Algonkin says got this from old man in southern Cheyenne F.M. Not by white man

4th no religon and so as we know that there is no such thing as Indian religon, but every tribe used to worship different gods, as they like, that they do not know any thing about "a Father in Heaven." This leads us that the White Man, had no religion, But there is only one Gods religon given to all men alike and every tribe will have to work and get a religon before God -

per W. A. Womack.

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