race and restore to the Indians their former possessions, with the buffalo and antelope, took violent possession of the minds of the heathen Sioux, who for other reasons were inclined to disaffection; while it is worthy of note that the large body of Christian Indians, whose mental and physical energies had been turned into those wholesome and hopeful channels which Christian civilization provides, were, so far as we have yet learned, entirely unmoved by it.

The hostile chiefs, Sitting Bull, Red Cloud, Kicking Bear and others, made eager use of this belief, which they excited in every possible way, to accomplish their hopes for freedom from Government control. We have reliable evidence from Rev. William J. Cleveland, who is making careful investigation into the causes of the trouble among the Sioux, showing the complicity of a number of the hostile Indian chiefs, and their evident intention of going to war in the Spring. They sedulously nourished the idea among their followers that their "spirit" or "ghost" shirts were proof against the bullets of their enemies.

This Association holds to the opinion that the spoils system of appointment, which has for so many years largely controlled the Indian service, is responsible for the collapse of the authority of the Government and for the hasty call for troops which precipitated the disaster. We do not say that this system was the cause /page 6
of the trouble primarily, but that it was largely responsible for its fatal results. The Pine Ridge and the Cheyenne River Reserves (subdivisions of the Great Sioux Reserve) were very critical points, owing to the presence of many malcontents. Red Cloud at Pine Ridge, Kicking Bear and Big Foot at Cheyenne River, like Sitting Bull at Standing Rock, were storm centers—active breeders of mischief. At Standing Rock, under Major McLaughlin, an experienced and competent agent, the complete authority of the Government was maintained, though not without the death of Sitting Bull with some some of his followers and seven of the Indian police. This victory of