

strong enough to conquer them. The United States troops are held in contempt, and surrounded by their native mountains, relying on their knowledge of the country and powerful endurance, they laugh at<sup>302</sup> the futile efforts that have thus far been made to subjugate them, and scorn the idea of white civilization. They are lofty and independent in their attitude and language toward the government officials, as well as the whites generally, and claim to be the sovereign rulers of the land. They say they own the wood, the water, the ground, the air, and that white men live in or pass through their country but by their sufferance. They are rich in horses and robes, and are thoroughly armed. Nearly every warrior carries a breech loading gun, a pistol, a bow, and quiver of arrows."

The inspector said that these wild Indians are but as a drop in the bucket compared with the great body of the Sioux who he admitted had accepted the peace policy, and were keeping the covenants of their treaty. He said the wild Indians "number, all told, but a few hundred warriors, and are never all together, or under the control of one chief." He suggested that one thousand men "under the command of an experienced officer, sent into the country in the winter, when the Indians are nearly always in camp, and most helpless, would be amply sufficient for their capture and punishment." He said they were the dread of the frontier settler, the luckless white hunter and emigrant, and fortunate was the man "who meets them, if, after losing all his worldly possessions, he escapes with his scalp." As the inspector did not state that he had lost any of his worldly possessions, and as he appeared at Washington with his scalp in its place and secure, it is presumed he was not in