Old Indian traders of good standing were removed without cause, and for no reason but to make room for a lot of petty politicians from Philadelphia who were merely subordinates to aid Orville Grant, a brother of the President, in his unhallowed schemes of legalized plunder.

Indian reservations were extended regardless of the protests of old settlers and squatters, whose rights were utterly ignored--all for no other purpose than to increase the domain and, consequently, the profits of the newly-appointed trader.

If an old trader was allowed to hold his position at all, it was in consideration of paying the newly-appointed trader a stipulated sum. When first approached for negotiations upon the subject, the newly-appointed trader would invariably say, "We will see Orville Grant about it; you know he fixes things."

Such open dishonesty on the part of the high officials of the nation naturally had a very great tendency to demoralize the already discontented and half-tamed warriors. Small wonder, then, that they demanded of the government better treatment for themselves. Nor was it to be wondered at that they often made declarations and direct charges against the whites that their hunting-grounds and buffalo were being stolen, and dishonest traders forced upon them, to rob their squaws and papooses in the regular way of trade. There is no question in regard to the Indians losing/p.131/what little confidence they ever did have in the general government, after these high-handed operations in and about their agencies.

More than one warrior became disgusted with this previously unheard-of management, and left his tepee in charge of the old men and women, and took to flight on his fleet pony to join Sitting Bull's camp. There is no doubt among Western men, who are well informed in frontier matters, that this disgraceful management was the cause of swelling Sitting Bull's ranks in the campaign of 1876, so well known throughout the country as "Custer's last battle."

The evil results of the example of such unprincipled dealing on the part of