

and children would perish before the men could get us into the Great Father's warm houses.

"Look about you! You see a much patched lodge. There are holes in every strip of canvas on the poles, through which the chilly blast penetrates. Our little fire is not large enough to keep the children warm, and were it made greater, the smoke would be so dense we could scarcely remain inside. We cannot haul much wood in our wagons, for the distance to the bluffs where the pines grow is eight miles, and our horses are not strong.

"Oh! why are we kept here? The hostiles should be made to suffer, not us. They caused all this trouble. Why do the innocent suffer while the guilty go unpunished?"

And here the poor woman broke down sobbing. Her lord looked on in silence, bearing, with all the impassiveness of his race, the troubles brought down upon his home by the action of the dancers.

The answer to such appeals was the announcement that at the call of the agent, alarmed at his inability to secure obedience to ^{p.563} his mandate that the dance cease, more troops were coming. Meanwhile, correspondents of eastern newspapers anxious to secure sensational items with which to regale their readers, spread false reports as to the character of the Messiah dance, and in all direction added to the alarm.

The Indians, who had not lost faith in the promised Messiah and who were not conscious of any breach of law or right in their worship of Him, resented the presence of the troops and fled to the Bad Lands, not because they wanted to fight, but because they desired to worship their Great Spirit and be ready to welcome the Messiah, undisturbed by the white man.

No effort was spared to carry out the policy of repression and control which the government had inaugurated, and to secure the collection of all the Indians under the guns of the agency. It was recognized on all sides