

"Hunting Sitting Bull"

by General Gibbon

From: THE AMERICAN CATHOLIC QUARTERLY REVIEW, Volume II. From January to October, 1877. No. 8. Hardy and Mahony, 505 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

During their six months' absence in the field the objects attained by them were not at all proportionate to the efforts put forth, but should any feel inclined to criticize too closely our want of success by indulging in sarcastic calculations as to how many millions of dollars are required to kill one Indian, the only answer that can be made is--the truth of which is well recognized in the army--that war is far more costly than peace, and that it never has been, and never can be, a paying speculation. Wars are always costly, and, like commercial operations, the larger the transactions the more cheaply, generally, are they conducted. And it may be safely asserted that, considering the circumstances, Indian wars are in proportion no more costly than any other kind of wars. It is very certain that in Indian wars the labor performed is far greater than in so called civilized wars (as if war in any shape could be called civilized!), whilst the troops engaged have not even the poor consolation of being credited with "glory," a term which, upon the frontier, has long since been defined to signify being "shot by an Indian from behind a rock, and having your name wrongly spelled in the newspapers!" Hence, if the American people do not wish to spend money they should not go to war. Doubtless many well-meaning people will say, "That