

At the time of the Ghost Dance Sitting Bull had a three days dance and notified all the people of the ceremony to occur. The dance became almost like the Sun dance and was continued from evening until morning and from dawn till night. The people gathered from everywhere for the dance. Thousands came to participate. Then it began to be talked about in the papers and this created trouble at Standing Rock. When the Indians went for their rations each time to Ft. Yates the soldiers were all drawn up with great display and a cannon was hauled out and target practice was carried on. All this was intended to intimidate the Indians. All these details tended to excite Sitting Bull and his people. As the excitement grew, the dance became wilder and more excited. People gathered by the thousands and the dance became more and more like the sun dance which was forbidden by the government. To make the illusions more complete and to verify the dreams which Sitting Bull had in relation to this time couriers would come in on the gallop and address different persons and say, "I saw your father out in the White mountains, risen from the dead," and to others, "I saw your son, etc." Sitting Bull was endeavoring to make the people believe that he was a Christian and believed in the Christ as they did; consequently that a resurrection would come, not in the future for the Indians, but NOW and that the Indians, their ancestors were all risen from the death; all the buffalo, deer and their best dogs were also again alive and that everyone now would live happily for ever and ever and ever as in the older days before the advent of the white people into their country. These couriers would shout that they had conversed with the different ancestors, sons, chiefs, etc. and the people were worked up to a state of wild excitement.

He told them that The Christ had come for the Indians but not for the White people; that the Indians would all rise from the dead but that the white people would not and that soon all the land would again be as in the time of their fathers. The Indians which had joined the Congregational faith were not so much influenced but many of the Roman Catholics were enthusiastic over the dances, and Sitting Bull, because he knew just enough about the Bible to speak with some authority, and because of the faith the people had in him from the other things he had foretold them which had come to pass, relied upon his word. It soon became evident that something serious would result from these