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OFFICE OF INDIAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION,

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A CRISIS IN INDIAN AFFAIRS

There are two well defined parties among the Sioux—a fact pertinent to a consideration of the present trouble:—

1st. A progressive party, almost wholly Christian, which has been created and developed under the influence of missionaries, both white and native, of various religious bodies—Congregational, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Episcopalian—who for many years have labored devotedly among these Indians. This progressive party represents the "new way," new ideas, and hopes, the ideas of Christianity and of civilization. It is loyal to the government, peaceable, and steadily increasing in influence, industry and vigor. A few of the native leaders of this party are educated and refined men, while its members as a whole lead exemplary moral lives.

2d. A heathen non-progressive party, looking backward to the days of the buffalo, predatory warfare, and unrestrained freedom, hostile to the advance of civilization, whether among the whites as a menacing force outside the reservation, or among the Indians themselves as a disintegrating force within. The occupation of the heathen party since reservation life began has been the consumption of government rations, dancing, wandering from place to place on visits to friends and relatives. This party has been represented by such men as Spotted Tail, Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, from whom nothing in the line of progress was hoped for or has been obtained. Such leaders were always openly or secretly at enmity with the Government, and with the best interests of their people. They have discouraged or terrorized progressive Indians, have been a thorn in the side of good Indian agents, and the masters of poor ones. It is a fact that cannot be too strongly emphasized that no dangerous