

13  
"1. Promises of money not speedily fulfilled. For years the Sioux have had several of these promises given by general officers, United States Commissioners, and Government agents. It takes a long, long time to get the necessary appropriation through both Houses of Congress. No officer or commissioner can transfer his sympathy to our legislators. They, like all legislative bodies, have a way unto themselves. Years and years' pledges to sundry tribes, we own it with sorrow, have remained unfulfilled.

"As to the Sioux, their consent to the great breach of their reservation was by no means unanimous. The dissenters quickly embrace a chance to revenge themselves. Minorities among white men often are dissatisfied and occasionally turbulent. The Sioux minority exceeds the fervor of white legislators.

"When white men have claims against the Government they prosecute them with patience and wait, sometimes for months and sometimes for years, for the essential appropriations. The reactionary Sioux cannot be made to understand the reasons for such long periods of waiting. They interpret them as resulting from forked tongues and bad hearts. For example, after the war of 1876, when certain Sioux Indians were disarmed and deprived of their ponies, all who were not engaged among the hostiles/ <sup>405</sup> were promised payment for their losses. This payment has not yet been completed.

"2. In some parts of our new States the land boom has ended badly, and white men are land poor. They become panicky. They fear a drunken Indian at a brothel or saloon corner. They magnify the situation: 'Indians are near! Indians are insolent! Indians are dancing! Indians are coming! They can wipe us out!' Governors, congressmen, and newspapers are besieged and urged to help.