

fled into Alberta following the Custer affair. Chief Gall and Crow Wing, whose military ability was responsible for most of the Indian successes during the campaign of 1875 and 1876, despised him for the coward he was, and, deserted him after the battle of the Little Big Horn.

His ability to evade the white men's forces and remain off the reservation was one of the qualities which attracted many followers who loved to hunt and loathed the restraint of reservation's narrow confines. Even after he had surrendered in July, 1881, and had given his promise to live peaceably, he was the greatest menace the whites had to contend with.

His own medicine having failed during his sojourn in Canada, with the result that his following largely left him, he was on the lookout for some means of regaining his power. He found it in a mysterious, spiritualistic movement imported by an exhorter, Kicking Bear, presumably from Mexico. Sitting Bull saw the possibilities of such a doctrine on against the aggressions of the whites to the limit.

In brief, this religion taught that the ghosts of their fathers were gathering to aid them in their fight against the aggressions of the whites and gave promise of a day when "the white man would be no more to lay his hand on the bridle of the Indians's horse and the red men of the prairie would rule the world." The army of their fathers' ghosts were being led by the Messiah who once came to live on earth among the white men and was killed by them, and who, after long forgetting his red children, had turned to their aid, Sitting Bull told his people.

This religion gripped the Indians, always believers in spirits, as might be expected. They accepted the promise that the ghostly reinforcements of their fathers would come to their aid when the next winter was passed. They participated in ghost dances, wild and terrible orgies in