

the 'paradise' of these wild Indians, but it is known that he had journeyed through Montana, where the general sentiment then was and had for years been in favor of wresting the unceded Indian country and the Black Hills from the Sioux, and he, no doubt, heard terrible stories about Sitting Bull and the other unnamed 'head men' who inhabited the valleys of the Yellowstone and Powder rivers, from multitudes of voices, who were anxious for an Indian war, the result of which, in addition to the profits made therefrom, would in some way result in opening the Sioux country to the lawful occupation of the whites.

There was a remarkable coincidence occurred at this time. Generals Sheridan and Crook both happened to be at Washington/<sup>303</sup> when Inspector Watkins was there. It is not improbable that these gentlemen and the Indian inspector talked about Sitting Bull and other contumacious Indians on his route, and he would naturally have confidence in the judgment of military gentlemen of such large experience as they were, in relation to Indian affairs. It was known that the suggestion of a winter campaign against "hostile" Indians was claimed as an original idea by Gen. Sheridan, as early as September, 1868, and he believed that he had or ought to have it patented as his own, and the feasibility and efficacy of such a campaign would be likely to strike the inspector at once. Not having familiarized himself with the details of the treaty of 1868, the inspector was not aware that these "wild and hostile bands of Sioux" had the right guaranteed to them by its terms to roam and hunt in the valleys where they then were, and in all other parts of the unceded Indian country, as long as game abounded, and hence was forcibly struck with the idea that in the extravagance of their claims and alleged contempt for our troops, they were contumacious,