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and ought to be punished. In this frame of mind, Inspector Watkins was the very gentleman these military officers would be gratified to meet. They had already determined that military operations were necessary, and the coming winter the appropriate time; still it was important to commit the interior department to the measure. Being convinced that the Indians should be punished, and that the proper time to do it was in the winter, Inspector Watkins said:

"The true policy, in my judgment, is to send troops against them in the winter, the sooner the better, and whip them into subjection. They richly merit punishment for their incessant warfare on friendly Indian tribes, their continuous thieving, and their numerous murders of white settlers, or white men wherever found unarmed. . . . The government owes it to these friendly tribes in fulfillment of treaty stipulations; it owes it to the agents and employes whom it has sent to labor among the Indians at remote and inaccessible places beyond the reach of aid in time to same; it owes it to the frontier settlers, who have, with their families, braved the dangers and hardships incident to pioneer life;⁵⁰⁴ it owes it to civilization, and the common cause of humanity." The reasons given by the inspector, though numerous, are stated with great brevity as well as force, inspired, as he no doubt was, by a comparison of opinions with these military gentlemen. The local Indian agents dispersed on the Upper Missouri and in Montana did not seem to be aware of the condition of things as stated by the inspector. Their annual reports, made that fall, have nothing of the sort in them, and from an examination of these it is difficult to escape the conclusion that much that the inspector said was