

fiction.

After deliberating three weeks on the subject-matter contained in the report of the inspector, the commissioner of Indian affairs, on the 27th of November, 1875, submitted the same to the secretary of the interior, with the recommendation that it be referred to the secretary of war, "for consideration, and such action as may be deemed best by Lieutenant-General Sheridan, who is personally conversant with the situation on the Upper Missouri, and with the relation of Sitting Bull to the other Sioux tribes." The secretary of the interior, on the 29th November, 1875, transmitted the note of the commissioner of Indian affairs, with Inspector Watkins' report, to the secretary of war, for his consideration and action, but expressed no opinion whatever on the subject. On the 3d of December, 1875, the secretary of the interior wrote to the secretary of war, in reference to "the hostile Sioux residing outside of their reservations and remote from any agency." and informed that officer that he had directed the commissioner of Indian affairs to notify said Indians they must remove to a reservation on or before the 31st of January following; that if they neglect or refuse to remove, they will be reported to the war department as hostile Indians, and that a military force will be sent to compel them to obey the orders of the Indian office. Secretary Chandler closed thus: "You will be notified of the compliance or non-compliance of the Indians with this order; and if said Indians shall neglect or refuse to comply with said order, I have the honor to request that the proper military officer be directed to compel their removal to and residence within the boundaries of their