

garrison at each agency. Was this scheme concealed from the secretary of war? The agreement made by the Sioux commission with the agency Indians, guaranteed to each individual protection in his rights of person, property, and life. The military officers at Red Cloud, Standing Rock, and Cheyenne river were all aware of this provision in the agreement, and some of them, at each place, attested the execution of the paper. Were they aware at the time that they, in the near future, were to be called upon to assist in despoiling these Indians of their property? These are pertinent questions, involving as they do not only the personal honor of each officer, but the character of the service for frankness and open and fair dealing.

The ostensible object of this war was to compel Sitting Bull and his followers to come into an agency, remain upon the reservation, and cease from depredations. If this step were proper, it is quite apparent that the Indians had not such notice as to enable them, if they had been willing, to comply, before they were turned over to the war department. It is not out of place to hear a word on this subject from the Indians. Bear-stands-up, a Brule chief, went out from Spotted Tail agency to bring home some relatives of his wife, and their women and children. He was moved to do this because of the progress of the war. He returned home on the 25th of June, 1876. He found among the "hostiles" a few northern Cheyennes, some Yanktonais, Arickarees, and Gros Ventres. He must have left the "hostile" camps nearly a month before he returned. He supposed there were of the "hostiles" some two thousand, made up chiefly of those Indians who were excluded from coming to the agencies when the war first began, by the military order requiring them to surrender their arms and ponies. As the troops approached the