

Good words that had been spoken there to him, and he advised them to go  
 X there at once; that such was the wish of Sitting Bull for whom he was  
 acting and speaking. I then insisted that The Gall and The Crow should  
 get their people ready to move to Fort Buford on the morning of the 2d  
 instant, promising them assistance in rations and transportation. They  
 did not decline to go ultimately, but said it was too cold to travel at  
that time, and The Crow terminated the interview abruptly by telling me  
 I had said enough to him. They fully understood my demand for removal  
 on the 2d instant, and also that I would move against them on that day  
 to compel surrender with force in case of refusal on their part. On the  
 evening of the 1st instant, The Crow went to the house of my interpreter,  
 Joseph Culbertson, and sent me message "that he and his people would not  
 move until spring; that he was tired of talking with me; that the soldiers  
 were cowards and afraid to fight; that they cried in winter and could not  
 handle a gun; and that if I attempted to interfere with his people, there  
 would be trouble; that he was ready to fight me if I wanted to fight."  
 The Gall, later in the evening of the same day advised Mr. Henderson,  
 the post trader, and his employes, to leave the agency at once, as he  
 liked them and did not want to see them killed. He said, "You people have  
 been kind to me in the past, and I do not want to hurt you. To-morrow we  
 will fight and wipe out the soldiers and kill everybody at the soldier  
 camp."

(Sitting Bull)

(Melt team in cold)

Soldiers

It then occurred to me most forcibly that further delay in bringing  
 these hostiles to terms should cease, and that action against them should  
 be prompt and most decisive. I had from my own observation and through the  
 knowledge of officers and scouts obtained a very accurate description of  
 their camping ground, and it will be seen from the accompanying map, drawn  
 by First Lieut. J. M. Woodruff, Fifth Infantry, that the field offered  
 superior advantages to me for the surrounding of the villages, with good  
 shelter for my command during the expected engagement.