

light develop all. There is an almost entire absence of the stock traits of European war pictures. The physiogomy of the work is realistic and Western.

I only saw it for an hour or se; but needs to be seen many times--needs to be studied over and over again. I could look on such a work at brief intervals all my life without itring. It is very tonic to me. Then it has an ethic purpose below all, as all great art must have.

The artist said the sending of the picture abroad, probably to London, had been talked of. I advised him if it/p.119/went abroad to take it to Paris. I think they might appreciate it there--nay, they certainly would. Then I would like to show Messieur Crapeau that some things can be done in America as well as others.

Altogether, "Custer's Last Rally" is one of the very few attempts at deliberate artistic expression for our land and people, on a pretty ambitious standard and programme, that impressed me as filling the bill./p. 120 (as marked)

The Indians, of course, were but too well advised in regard to Belknap's sweeping orders among traders, as it drove away many who for years had been trading honorably among them. Some of the wily chiefs and warriors had named the Secretary of War "The-Heap-Big-Steal-'em-Chief." "He no good; he steal 'em/all,"<sup>p.130</sup> was a frequent ejaculation. Thus, even the Indians shared with the brave little army of the frontier in the demoralizing effects of the short-sighted policy of the War Department, and divided with its officers the contempt with which they regarded the selfish, dishonest head of the War Department. Indians, as a rule, are shrewd traders, especially when they have an equal chance with the white men. In those days they would nick-name the trader "Steal-Chief," on account of his holding his appointment under Belknap.

No less demoralized were the Indians in the Northwest, particularly along the Upper Missouri, when President Grant made his tyrannical orders and changes.