

THE SIOUX OR DAKOTAS

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(Collections of the MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Volume III)

Pages 290-294.

November 9, 1875, E. C. Watkins, inspector of Indian agencies, made complaint to the Indian Bureau, that Sitting Bull and other Indians in the unceded territory, who had come under his observation in his recent tour, were making raids against friendly Indians and the white settlers of Montana. He mentions no instance or proof of their raids on the whites, and, as the courts of our country have constantly declared we have no right to punish one Indian for murdering another, even when far from their reservations, it is hard to see how we are under obligation to make war on them for fighting each other in their own country. His whole report reflects the view of the miners who coveted the gold of the Indians. He says the true policy is to send troops against them in winter, the sooner the better, and whip them into subjection. This was done. December 3d, the Secretary of the Interior writes that he had instructed the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to notify Sitting Bull and others outside their reservation that they must remove to the reservation before the 31st of January, 1876, and if they neglect to do so they will be reported to the War Department as hostile Indians. The honorable secretary entirely ignored several important facts, namely: 1. That these Sioux were in an unceded country, into which we had solemnly promised no white man should go without their permission. 2. That we had already taken from