

depths in some directions while childishly shallow, according to our standards, in others. These people had gone very close to a baptism of blood; they

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had seen destroyed in an instant the power of Sitting Bull; his medicine had proved altogether useless and ineffective, and their ideals were thus upset. So it was that, they came in to the agency and talked gravely and calmly enough of what had happened and speculated upon what was happening elsewhere. Those of their relatives and friends who had fled from the reservation, scattered by the Sitting Bull affair, were few in number, comparatively, and they got no sympathy from those who were left. But they were excited under their cover of indifference and required careful handling -- not that they had any notion of leaving the reservation but because the events that had transpired might adversely effect their attitude with regard to civilization.

With the guidance of affairs of their reservation, the necessity for giving proper care to the families of the people killed and the other conditions to which I have referred, it was a strenuous time at the agency. Through it all the chiefs and influential men, chiefly, Gall, Grass, Gray Eagle and other men of influence could be depended upon and they exerted a most benign influence on the rest of the people, and I had little apprehension as to the future within the confines of the reservation -- if only the pernicious influence of the fault-finding busybodies and fakers outside did not have a baneful effect. All sorts of stories were spread through the press and many efforts were made to make it appear that I was not in sympathy with the military and that the war department was not satisfied with my handling of the disaffected Indians. But the official reports of the military men and the comments of the superior officers put a quietus on all this.