

the French Canadians; that he talked French, and that he had been converted to Christianity by a French Jesuit, named Father De Smet. How true this may be is uncertain, but probably there is some foundation for it.

One thing about Sitting Bull is certain; he is an Indian of unusual powers of mind, and a warrior whose talent amounts to genius, while his stubborn heroism in defence of the last of his race is undeniable. Cruel he must be; that is from the instincts of his race; a general of the first natural order he must be, to set the United States at defiance, as he did for the last ten years. That he was able to do this so long was owing to his skilful use of two advantages,--a central position surrounded by "bad-lands," and the quarter circle of agencies from which he drew supplies and allies every campaign.

In the face of these advantages and of Sitting Bull's talents as a warrior, the government gave up the fight in 1868. In 1876 it was determined to try one more campaign against Sitting Bull. We shall see how it succeeded.

The Sioux war originated in injustice and cupidity, and especially in the lust of gold, excited by the famous Black Hills expedition. The rush of miners to the Black Hills was a direct consequence of the weakness of our government, and its lack of control over the turbulent frontier population, When, however, the Sioux formally resolved on war, it became absolutely necessary to attack them, to hinder them from attacking the frontier settlements, and prevent an indiscriminate massacre of innocent and guilty alike.

Three separate columns were, therefore, assembled in the Northwest. The first, under General Crook, was to strike north from Fort Fetterman; the second, under General Gibbon, to march westwardly from Fort Ellis, in Montana, two hundred miles to the northeast; the third, under General Terry, was to march southwest from the little village of Bismarck, in the north of Dakota Territory. All three were to converge on the sources of the Yellowstone River. In this country it was reported that Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse,