Filled with the strange new hope inspired by such language, and despairing of finding truth or help in the white mand, the Indians eagerly adopted the new doctrine and the now famous "Messiah Craze" reached its fullest development. In a succeeding chapter will be related the tragic events to which it had led, together with some reflections on the policy which has led to so frightful a cost in suffering and death. /p.551/

In 1889 Congress, without consulting the tribes of the Sioux, appoin od a commission, of which Ex-Gov. Foster, of Ohio, and Gen. Geo. A. Crook were distinguished members, for the purpose of "buying" an enormous tract of land belonging to what was then their reservation. Again and again the Indians who were the responsible leaders of the tribe refused to consent, but the commissioners, by securing the signatures of Indians of all grades, obtained an apparent consent of the majority of the tribe.

The Sioux have no written proof of the promise made them two years ago by Ex-Governor Foster and his colleagues, but they have the testimony of many witnesses who heard the words of the whites, which were forgotten by the speakers almost as soon as uttered. Among other things, the commissioners promised that the one million pounds of beef per year which had been struck out of the annuity list should be returned; that thirty school-houses should be erected upon the reservation; that they would do all in their power to have more flour, cloth, wagons and utensils issued annually; and that the whites should be prohibited from entering the bounds of the reservation. General crook took a strong position against the errors committed by the others in making hasty /p.553/promises that signatures to the bill might be secured. Against the integrity and personal character of the commissioners nothing can be said. It is their ignorance of Indian nature and their frivolous and careless methods in the consideration