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For two miles in every direction around the agency were the teepees of the friendlies. Ten years ago nearly all the Sioux were living in hide or canvas lodges. Now the most of them live in good, substantial houses, many of which are decorated with pictures and ornaments. Every Dakota owns a tepee, but uses it only during summer hunting excursions. The youngest children were born in log houses, and even the older persons are so accustomed to good dwelling that they feel ill at ease in a canvas lodge. Consider therefore, the sufferings of these people crowded together in frail tents, with insufficient clothing, with no fuel to be had nearer than the timber-covered bluffs eight miles away, and the half starved ponies able to haul but small quantities of this. /page 560.

They pleaded in vain with the agent to allow them to return to their log houses. The children were sick with colds, many had diphtheria, and several died. Fortune smiled upon them by giving a month of the most beautiful weather in the fall, but fearful storms have since swept upon them with scarcely an hour's warning. Blizzards may spring up inside of thirty minutes; the thermometer has been known to fall fifty-eight degrees inside of an hour upon the reservation. Even the most stoical man must be moved when he contemplates the terrible suffering, not to mention the loss of life and property, that must needs accompany a Dakota storm.

The anti-Messiahists were perfectly aware of the danger that threatened them. Not long ago the wife of one of the greatest chiefs said:

"Why are we detained here? My husband, my brother, my cousin are not going to join the dancers in the Bad Lands. There is not a family in this large camp" (of one hundred and ninety-five teepees)"that does not watch over at least one sick child. The coughing and crying of poor distressed babes keeps us all awake at night. It is two miles from here to the government buildings, and, should a great blizzard swoop down upon us, many women