

(the Indians) had been too credulous and imposed upon, which report from him would satisfy the Sioux, and all practices of the ghost societies would cease; but if we found the Messiah, they be permitted to continue their medicine practices, and organize as they are now endeavoring to do.

"I told him that this proposition was a novel one, but that the attempt to carry it out would be similar to an attempt to catch up with the wind that the attempt to carry it out would be similar to an attempt to catch up with the wind that blew last year, but that I wished him to come to my house, where I would give him a whole night or a day and night, in which time I thought I could convince him of the absurdity of this foolish craze, and the fact of his making/page 566/ me the proposition that he did was a convincing proof that he did not fully believe in what he was professing and he tried so hard to make others believe.

"He did not, however, promise fully to come into the agency to discuss the matter, but said he would consider my talk and decide after deliberation. I consumed three days in making this trip, and feel well repaid for what I accomplished, as my presence in their midst encouraged the weaker and doubting, and set those who are believers to thinking of the advisability of discontinuing the nonsensical practices. I also found that the active members in the dance were not more than half the number of earlier dancers, and I believe that is is losing ground among the Indians, and while there are many who half-believe, I am satisfied that I can keep the dance confined to the Grand River district.

"Desiring to use every reasonable means to bring Sitting Bull and his followers to abandon this dance, and to look upon its practice as detrimental to their individual interest and the welfare of their children, I made the trip herein reported to ascertain the extent of the disaffection and the best means of effecting its discontinuance. From close observation I am