

~~"The Indian Department called for soldiers to shoot down the Indians whom it had starved into despair. Gen. Brooke said: 'No. What have they done? They are dying. They must live.' He brought us food. He gave us hope. I trust him now to see that we will be well treated. I hope that the despair that he has driven away will never return again. If the army had been with us from the first there never would have been any trouble. The army will, I hope, keep us safe and help us become as independent as the whites."~~

Red Cloud did not have a very high opinion of Sitting Bull. "He was nothing," said the old chief, "but what the white men made him. He was a conceited man who never did anything great, but wanted to get into notice, and white men who had something to make by it, encouraged and used him. When they had made him as great as they could, they killed him to get a name by it. The fight at his arrest would have been made (by the Indians) for any one arrested in the same way. If he was a little man, he was a man, and should not have been murdered uselessly. What is worse, many good men were killed, also. The soldiers came in time to prevent more murders, but too late to save all. If the army had wanted to arrest him they knew how to do it, and never would have done it in that way. You see how they are doing here. The agent does not interfere with the army, and the army saves lives and does not do anything cruel. No Indian wants to fight; they want to eat, and work and live; and as the soldiers are peace-makers, there will be no trouble here. The Indian Department has almost destroyed us. Save us from it. Let the army take charge of us. We know it can help us. If this can be done, I will think that all this late trouble has been only a storm that broke the clouds. Let the sun shine on us again."