

beginning to pour into the north-west.

Other sections of the Sioux tribe in Canada, besides that in Manitoba, were those in the Turtle Mountains (afterwards included in the Province), and in the country covered by the Qu'Appelle Treaty. To these also, in consideration of their good behaviour, reserves were given, it being made clear to them at the time that the act was one of grace, and that in reality they had no claim on the Queen's Government. Commenting on these Indians, an official report said: "Upon the whole, they appear to have made fair progress in cultivating the land, and their prospects for the future, had they the advice and assistance of some good farmers for a few years, would be encouraging. Indeed, the Sioux generally who are resident in Canada appear to be more intelligent, industrious, and self-reliant than the other Indian bands in the north-west."

The problem of dealing with the several portions of the <sup>72</sup> / tribe in the circumstances presented few difficulties. The question, however, was complicated to a remarkable degree by the crisis reached after the memorable Custer Massacre in the summer of 1876. How this came about may be told briefly.

A few years prior to the beginning of actual hostilities the country round the Black Hills, by the Yellowstone River, where some of the Sioux had settled, was invaded by a small army of prospectors and miners. Gold and silver had been found there, and the usual "rush" thither took place. Immediately there was a conflict between the two races. On the Indians' part, representations were made to the authorities for protection from the miners who threatened to deprive them of their lands, or, failing this, for substantial compensation. The commission that was appointed to inquire into the matter declared that an armed force was necessary if the Indians were to be brought to terms, and steps were taken accordingly to meet this request. This becoming known to the Sioux, the majority of them answered to the call of the one who had been most prominent in resisting the demands of the Americans. The chief in question was Sitting Bull, who, in addition to his hereditary power, was high in the regard of his