

Washington, D. C. Nov., 9th, 1875

Sir:

I have the honor to address you, in relation to the attitude and condition of certain wild and hostile bands of Sioux Indians in Dakota and Montana that came under my observation during my recent tour through their country, and what I think should be the policy of the Gov't toward them.

I refer to "Sitting Bull's" band, and other bands of the Sioux Nation, under chiefs or "head men" of less note, but no less untamable, and hostile. These Indians occupy the center, -so to speak-, and roam over Western Dakota and Eastern Montana, including the rich valleys of the Yellowstone and Powder Rivers, and make war on the Arickarees, Mandans, Gros Ventres, Assinaboins, Blackfeet, Pagans, Crows, and other friendly Tribes on the circumference.

Their country is, probably, the best hunting ground in the United States, a Paradise for Indians, affording game in such variety and abundance that the need of Gov't supplies is not felt. Perhaps, for this reason, they have never accepted aid, or been brought under control. They openly set at defiance all law and authority, and boast that the United States troops are held in contempt, and, surrounded by their native mountains, relying on their knowledge of the country and powers of endurance, they laugh at the futile efforts that have thus far been made to subjugate them, and scorn the idea of white civilization.