

They are lofty and independent in their attitude and language to Gov't officials, as well as the whites generally, and claim to be the Sovereign Rulers of the land. They say they own the wood, - the water, the ground, and the air, and that the white men live in, or pass through their country, but by their sufferance.

They are rich in horses and robes, and are thoroughly armed. Nearly every warrior carries a breech loading gun, a pistol, a bow, and a quiver of arrows.

From their central position, they strike to the East, North, and West, steal horses and plunder from all the surrounding tribes, as well as frontier settlers, and luckless white hunters, or emigrants who are not in sufficient force to resist them. And fortunate indeed is the man who thus meets them, if, after losing all his worldly possessions, he escapes with his scalp.

And yet, these Indians number, all told, but a few hundred warriors, and these are never all together, or under the control of one chief.

In my judgement, one thousand men under the command of an experienced officer, sent into their country in the winter, when the Indians are nearly always in camp, and at which season of the year they are the most helpless, would be amply sufficient for their capture or punishment.

The Gov't has done everything that can be done, peacefully, to get control of these Indians, or induce them to respect its