

are determined to do their worst. There has been no communication below Fort Union since last fall, It is hardly possible for General Sully to know where these Indians are. The snow is deep, and the distance and dangers to encounter so great that his scouts would hardly venture on so hazardous an undertaking.

There is a camp of Assinaboines five miles from Fort Union, and daily communication is kept up with the Sioux at the mouth of White river. Frenier says scarcely one hour passes but some one goes out or returns from these camps. Frenier also says the whole Cree nation encamped at the Park or Wood, sixty miles from Fort Union. They number fifteen hundred lodges, and are making preparation to fight the Gros Ventres this spring. He also thinks it will be dangerous travelling the Missouri during the months of March and April; that / ³⁰³ steamboats will probably be fired into, and that persons should be prepared for emergencies who attempt it. He further reports that all the whites killed by the Indians during the last two years between Forts Union and Benton has been the work of the Teton Sioux. From the foregoing, it must be evident to your mind that prompt and decided measures should be immediately adopted. I would, therefore, suggest the following: that General Sully be immediately ordered to Fort Union with his available force, leaving enough troops on the route for communication below, making that point his headquarters. If his force is insufficient, that he be reinforced and directed to follow the Indians up closely, giving them no time to kill game for subsistence.

The sight of troops in this section of the country will be of incalculable benefit to the government, while it will strike terror into the hearts of the Indians. I am confident, if these suggestions are followed, the Indian war will be over before the close of the present year.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

Gad E Upson,
United States Indian Agent."