

Maribault, June 22, 1866.

Sir: I have the honor to report that, in accordance with your request, I have collected such testimony as is within my reach concerning the friendly Sioux who performed acts of bravery in rescuing white captives or signalized in some marked manner their friendship for the whites during the massacre of 1862.

There is positive injustice in the appropriation of so miserable a pittance to testify our gratitude; a much larger sum would not pay the amount which we honestly owe these men. The government was the trustee of the Upper and Lower Sioux. I held several millions of dollars for their benefit - the joint property of the tribes. These friendly Sioux had abandoned their wild life and adopted the dress, habits, and customs of civilization, and in doing this, which placed them in open opposition to the traditions of their tribes, they were pledged the protection of the government. By a mistaken policy, by positive neglect to provide a government, by the perversion of funds due them for the sale of one-half their reservation, by withholding their annuities until two months after they were due, (which was caused by the use of a part of these funds for claims,) by permitting other causes of dissatisfaction to go on unchecked, we provoked the hostility of the wild Indians, and it went on until it ripened in massacre. These farmer Indians had been pledged a patent for their farms; unless we violated our solemn pledge, these lands were theirs by a title as valid as any title could be. They had large crops, sufficient to support General Sibley's army for a number of weeks. They lost all they had - crops, stock, clothing, and furniture. In addition to this they were deprived of their share in these annuities and for four years have