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They still occupy at this time an isolated position, presenting a thinly settled frontier in every direction, with a restless people branching out in search of a better place, or of better mines. To defend them perfectly is an utter impossibility, and all we can do is to aid the people in self defense until in time they can take care of themselves, and to make roads by which they travel or bring their stores from the older parts of our country as safe as the case admits of.

This brings me to the consideration of the question of the Indians, who, nomadic and predatory bands, infest the whole country described, sometimes in one place and then in another. These Indians are universally, by the people of our frontier and of our isolated Territories, regarded as hostile, and we, the military, charged with general protection of the infant settlements and long routes of travel, have to dispose our troops and act as though they were hostile; while by the laws of Congress and the acts of our executive authorities, these Indians are construed under the guardianship and protection of the general Government, through civilian agents.

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Indians do not read, and only know of our power and strength by what they see, and they always look to the man who commands soldiers as the representative of our government. The complaints of short payment by the agents are universal, and the Indians themselves would be more likely to receive the ample annuities supplied by Congress if the Agents were required to make the semi-annual subject to the inspection and control of the military commanders, who, as a rule, are not so liable to be corrupted by the chances of gain and speculation as temporary appointees.

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But the wandering Sioux, who rove

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from Minn. to Mont., and down as far as the Arkansas, have done acts of predatory hostility almost impossible to foresee or to prevent. In like manner

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I propose the coming year, (with your consent, and with that of the Secretary of the Interior, in whose control these Indians are supposed to be,) to restrict the Sioux north of the Platte, west of the Missouri river, and east of the new road to Montana which starts from Laramie for Virginia City by way of Foes R. eno, Phillip, Kearny, C.F. Smith, &c. All Sioux found outside of these limits without a written pass from some military commander defining clearly their object, should be dealt with summarily. In like manner I would restrict the Arapahoes, Cheyennes, Comanches, Kiowas, Apaches, and Navajoes. south of the Arkansas and east of Fort Union. This would leave for our people exclusively the use of the wide belt, east and west, between the Platte and the Arkansas, in which lie two great railroads, and over which passes the bulk of travel to the mountain Territories. As long as these Indians can hunt the buffalo and antelope within the prescribed regions we will have the depredations of last summer and worse yet, the exaggerations of danger raised by our own people, often for a very base purpose. It is our duty, and it shall be my study, to make the progress of construction of the Great Pacific