

Chivington. Suffering by the treatment received, and exasperated, these Indians sought the aid of the warlike Comanches and Apaches; then followed combinations for mutual protection, and perhaps of hostile design, which more or less affected all the tribes of the plains. It was to remedy the then unfavorable condition of affairs that commissioners were sent to the Platte and Kansas, who succeeded in negotiating the treaties heretofore noticed. But it is evident the arrangements made were not satisfactory to all of the Indians. As resistance was offered by a part of the Indians at Fort Laramie in 1866 to the right stipulated in the treaty then concluded to open a road through the Powder river country, so opposition was made by a portion of the Cheyennes at the treaty of 1865 to the granting the right of travel through their hunting grounds, by the Smoky Hill river route. The main dependence for these Indians for support is the buffalo, and they feared it would be cut off by the whites travelling through their country where the buffalo then ranged. Thus it may be understood why many of them became disaffected and disposed to commit wrong deeds. True, depredations were numerous, and in several instances life may have been taken, yet the opinion is held by this office that matters were not so difficult of settlement as to require a large military force to be sent against the Indians, and the adoption of measures calculated in their execution to inflict wrong and suffering upon the innocent, and yet fail to reach the guilty. The military branch of the government, however, viewed these matters differently, and undertook to do the work of correcting existing evils and restoring order by show of armed force.

Preceded by the announcement to their agents that the military were able to chastise any tribes who should molest people crossing the plains, and that the Indians would be required to keep off the main lines of travel, a large expedition, under General Hancock, marched into their country, some of the results of that expedition, as far as this office has been advised, were, the destruction of a large village of Cheyenne and Sioux, the burning of its effects, and the dispersing of its terrified occupants. The agents in charge of the Arapahoes, Cheyennes, Apaches, Comanches, and Kiowas, insist that it cannot be shown that hostile demonstrations were