

numbers were coming for the purpose of carrying on a war along the Missouri valley, where there were not soldiers enough to offer an effectual resistance. In this event the condition of the friendly Indians did not warrant them in adhering to a support of the government. Every argument was used that they could comprehend to show them the fallacy of war and wisdom of peace, and every precaution taken to leave no point unguarded that could tempt a plundering proclivity. About the time I entered my protest against the abandonment of this place by the military was the critical period. Up to that time the hostile Indians had played their game well with these Indians. But they failed to play their best trumps at the right time; they lost the trick and the government won the game. I regard the crisis passed, although some danger exists that the hostile Indians may make a raid through this section some time during the coming autumn before going finally into winter quarters. My views relative to the danger which has existed of trouble with those located in this section, together with some of the influences probably at work liable to produce a rupture, having been spoken of in my monthly report for May and June, current, I deem it unnecessary to reproduce them here.

Considering the many disadvantages and disappointments which have attended the farming operations of these Indians, I think the progress they have made very remarkable. A very general desire to plant seems to prevail among the Lower Brules, Two Kettles, Minneconjous, Sans Arcs, Lower Yanctonnais, and Blackfeet; also one of the principal chiefs of the Uncpapa band has expressed to me a desire to locate with about 35 lodges. This is a cheering evidence not only of a desire to maintain terms of friendship with the government, but also to better their own miserable condition and avert some of the suffering which visits them every winter like a terrible scourge entailed upon their existence, carrying many to the grave. Indians have an natural aversion to every kind of manual labor, save alone such as attaches to the pursuits of war and the chase. For a man to perform any other kind of labor is to them an hereditary notion of inferiority; the chase is their natural vocation, and it is not surprising that they are slow to renounce it, for a certain fascination