

sacks coffee, and - barrels sugar. With this small amount of provisions sufficient numbers were kept from the hunt to cultivate their corn. With regard to the religious and educational interests of these Indians, as well as my views with regard to the policy of the department generally pursued towards them, I respectfully refer you to my unpublished annual report of last year.

Some of the Sioux Indians having taken up arms against the government, and coalescing with other hostile tribes, continued a savage war from many years, it may not be improper for me to state as briefly as possible some of the causes which in my judgment have impelled them to the course, and the surest policy to adopt to win them back to a support of the government, and secure a reliable and permanent peace with this powerful and naturally warlike tribe. But a few years ago the entire Sioux nation was at peace with all whites; a white man could travel from east to west from north to south, so far as their domain extended, and feel that he was in a land of friends and safe. Now no one ventures a mile from a post without an escort or a fleet horse and a good revolver. To those familiar with the past ten years' history of these Indians this state of affairs is not surprising. It is very natural result of the causes which have been at work during this time. Mutterings of discontent, fears of the encroachment of the white man have been arising and increasing throughout the Sioux nation since the Yancton cession of 1858, when they saw a large tract of their country, ²⁵⁴ embracing some of their best hunting grounds, snatched from their possession; and later, when the discovery of gold in the distant west caused a stream of immigration to flow through the Indian country, they became fully aroused to the danger which seemed to menace the destruction of their game, their means of support, and eventually the loss of their entire country. Then it was that the hostile portion of these bands, making common cause with other tribes and bands, began the savage war signalized by the most revolting arts of barbarity. It was not for other wrongs the white man had done them; it was not for revenge, nor yet from any innate desire to spill the blood of whites; but it was to drive back this immigration and save their country. We have had but little trouble