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I.O.R. -1868  
Items on pp. 7-15

From the Report of the Commissioner, Nov. 25, 1868.

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My reasons in opposition are -

1. That the prompt, efficient, and successful management and direction of our Indian affairs is too large, onerous, and important a burden to be added to the existing duties of the Secretary of War.

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2. The "transfer", in my judgment, will create a necessity for maintaining a large standing army in the field.

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3. Our true policy towards the Indian tribes is peace, and the proposed transfer is tantamount, in my judgment, to perpetual war.

4. Military management of Indian affairs has been tried for seventeen years and has proved a failure, and must, in my judgment, in the very nature of things, always prove a failure.

5. It is inhuman and unchristian, in my opinion, leaving the question of economy out of view, to destroy a whole race by such demoralization of disease as military government is sure to entail upon our tribes.

6. The conduct of Indian affairs is, in my judgment, incompatible with the nature and objects of the military department.

7. The transfer to the War Office will be offensive to the Indians, and in the same proportion injurious to the whites.

8. In the report, 7th January last, of the peace commission, after full examination of the whole question, the commission unanimously recommended that the Indian affairs should be placed, not in the War Office, but upon the footing of an independent