

returned to Sitting Bulls house early next morning where I had a long talk with Sitting Bull and a number of his followers. I spoke very plainly to them pointing out what had been done by the Government for the Sioux people and how this faction by their present conduct, were abusing the confidence that had been reposed in them by the Government in its magnanimity in granting them full amnesty for all past offenses when from destitution and imminent starvation they were compelled to surrender as prisoners of War in 1880 & 1881 and I dwelt at length upon what was being done in the way of education of their children and for their own industrial advancement and assured them of what this absurd craze would lead to and the chastisement that would certainly follow if these demoralizing Dances and disregard of Department orders were not soon discontinued. I spoke with feeling and earnestness and my talk was well received and I am convinced that it had a good effect.

Sitting Bull while being very obstinate and at first inclined to assume the rôle of "Big Chief" before his followers finally admitted that the truth of my reasoning and said that he believed me to be a friend of the Indians as a people but that I did not like him personally, but that when I doubt in any matters in following my advice he had always found it well at that now he had a proposition to make to me which if I agreed to and would carry out it would allay all further excitement among the Sioux over this "Ghost Dance" or else convince me of the truth of the belief of the Indians in this new doctrine. He then stated his proposition which was that I should accompany him on a journey to trace from this Agency to each of the other tribes of Indians through which the story of the Indian Messiah had been brought and when we reached the last tribe or where it organized and they could not produce the man who started the story and we did not find the new Messiah as described upon the earth together with the dead Indians returning to re-inhabit this country he would return convinced that they (the Indians) had been too credulous and imposed upon which report from him would satisfy the Sioux and all practices of the Ghost Societies