

PROTECTION FROM INDIANS.

CHAPTER XVI.

A MEMORIAL TO THE HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF WAR, ASKING FURTHER PROTECTION FROM INDIAN INVASIONS ON OUR SETTLEMENTS AND MILITARY POSTS IN DAKOTA TERRITORY.

To the Hon. Secretary of War of the United States :

Your memorialists the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota beg leave most respectfully to represent, that well authenticated reports have reached the capital of said territory, that on or about the 21st of December, 1866, a command of about ninety United States troops stationed at Fort Phil Kearney in said territory, were attacked by a large body of Indians, about five miles from said Fort, and the entire command massacred.

Praying for protection from Indians.

And your memorialists would further represent, that but a few days previous to the report of said massacre, Major Lyman, a gentleman of intelligence who has been acquainted as a trader and otherwise with the Sioux Indians of the upper Missouri for several years, reports them in a hostile attitude towards the whites in the border settlements of said territory ; that on the 3d of January inst., a gentleman arrived at this place with information that some one hundred and sixty of the Santee Sioux Indians were in two bands on the Big Sioux, but could not learn the cause of their being in that vicinity, as they were within some thirty or forty miles of the military post at the Big Sioux Falls known as Fort Dakota.

Your memorialists would further represent, that it is the opinion of those best acquainted with the Indians of the upper Missouri, that they are assuming a more hostile attitude towards the settlers in said territory than has been manifested for the past two or three years, and are now only awaiting for the

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coming spring weather, to repeat in Dakota their murderous massacres at New Ulm, in Minnesota.

Your memorialists would therefore ask, that a sufficient number of troops be added to those now in said territory to meet any emergency of the kind anticipated.

Your memorialists would ask that for the safety of the capital of said territory, that there may again be one or more companies of soldiers stationed at Fort James, on the Dakota river, as this is near the hostile war path of the Sioux Indians, and would afford the settlements of the Missouri valley great protection.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

Approved, January 10th, 1867.

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CHAPTER XVII.

A MEMORIAL TO GENERAL U. S. GRANT, RELATIVE TO
INDIAN MATTERS IN THE NORTHWEST.

To General U. S. Grant:

**To General
Grant for mili-
tary protection.**

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would respectfully represent, that entertaining serious apprehensions of a general outbreak among the hostile Indians of the northwest, especially those located in and adjacent to the valley of the upper Missouri, during the coming season, we deem it highly important and essential to the welfare and security of the pioneer settlements in this territory, that a much larger force of troops be forthwith sent to guard and protect our borders from their threatened invasion and depredations. In support of our claim for additional military