

more loyal, contented, and peaceable community did not exist in the province.

Now let us inquire, What is the present position of these Indians? Disheartened at the frequent rebuffs they have received, and the favor shown to those who would overthrow the very foundation of their prosperity; disgusted with the disregard of its pledged word which the government has shown; believing and knowing that in all right and equity they have a title to the lands and ought to be consulted regarding them; that the arbitrarily apportioning of reserves before their homes are secured and their hunting and other claims settled, and the forcible taking of all lands by the government; but, above all, their being placed under a law and rule which relegate them to the position of wild, illiterate tribes, will render it impossible for them to maintain their position, much less advance. Therefore, it is that they have combined to prevent the infliction of this intolerable yoke, but in thus combining they have not forgotten that they are Christians and owe allegiance to the King of kings.

The combination is not against law and order, nor does it spring from a spirit of disloyalty or any objection to bear the burdens of citizenship. It is a combination against the infliction of a cruel and uncalled-for injury, an injury, they have good reason to believe, which will, if inflicted prove the death-blow to their retaining their individuality in face of advancing civilization. The means they would use are such as good men need not be ashamed of, but they are heavily burdened. Around them are tribes having the same interests, but without the same principles to guide them, and whom they have to restrain while at the same time they fully sympathize with them. Then, on the other hand, the apparently harsh and uncalled-for action of the government from the beginning of these troubles is exasperating and makes it still more difficult for them to maintain this position. What the Indians are asking for may be summed up thus :