

THE INDIAN MESSIAH.

WE noticed in our November issue that there was considerable excitement prevailing among the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians on account of the reported re-appearance of the Christian Messiah, not this time to save or teach the white people, but solely for the purpose of benefitting the Indians by restoring to them their old customs and possessions. It was a curious idea, and it is difficult to say how it could have originated, but nevertheless it is a fact that the story has spread in an incredibly short time far and wide over the continent, so that from New Mexico and Indian Territory to the south, up to Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia in the north, the excitement among the Indians is steadily on the increase; and many of them seem firmly to believe that the new Christ will wipe out the white people, bring dead Indians to life again, and restore the buffaloes to the prairies. The United States government has taken a serious view of the matter, and already troops are being massed at various points where the action of the Indians appears to be most threatening. Following are a few extracts which we have culled from United States or Canadian papers:—

“The Sioux Indians of Dakota are gradually being worked into a state of extreme excitement by the new craze. Emissaries of the Messiah are now working among the Sioux and Lower Brules, notwithstanding the vigilance of the agency authorities.”

Chaplain Barry, Fort Sully, S.D., formerly of Kingston, writing to a friend, says: “We are anticipating trouble with the Sioux across the river. They can put 9,000 warriors in the field, all well armed. Part of our command moved across the river yesterday.”

“Kansas City, Mo.—C. A. Painter, agent of the Indian Rights National Association, arrived here last evening from the reservation of the Cheyennes and Araphoes, in the Indian Territory. He says the Messiah craze has taken possession of the Indians there, and they have commenced a series of ghost dances.”

“Gen. Miles was asked if he did not regard the situation in the Northwest Indian country as critical. Gen. Miles replied: ‘I have regarded it as critical all the while. It is not a new matter. It is not a new subject, for this religious craze has been going on for over one year, and I have not considered it a trifling matter, but upon the other hand quite a serious subject. I have received a telegram in which Gen. Brooks indicates that he is separating the loyal Indians from the disloyal, and getting those who are well disposed away from the others, separating them so that he can give his attention to the disaffected, diminishing their influence and numbers. The Messiah craze now exists among the wild tribes in the western part of the Indian Territory, and in all the different Sioux camps in Dakota and a portion of Montana, upon the north part of the