

few exceptions, particularly in regard to the alienation of land.

I am heartily in favor of giving the War Department of the government full and *entire* control of the Indians, for several reasons :

*First*—The officers of the army are appointed for life, conditioned upon good behavior ; and this relieves them from the temptation of trying to become rich in haste, lest they be removed from office on the incoming of a new administration.

*Second*—These officers would have every incentive to conduct matters in such a manner as to avoid hostilities. The army suffers great trials and hardships in case of an Indian war, and there is no glory to be won in fighting Indians. The great majority of army officers, and I think I may say *all* who have had any experience with Indians, are of the same opinion as Major-General Wool (from whose report I have quoted)—“ that if the Indians were fairly and justly dealt with, we would have no trouble with them.”

*Third*—There would be no more Indian agents whose only qualifications for the place consist in being good political wire-pullers.

*Fourth*—All provisions and supplies for the Indians would pass through the same inspection as supplies for the army, and there would then be none of the present inspectors who, for reasons known to themselves (and surmised by others), allow the contractors to purchase poor, old, and worthless cattle at from three to five dollars per head (about what their hides