

drawn for centuries, and when it again was offered through John the Baptist and through the Son of God, it was cynically rejected. The unity of faith was destroyed and the nation was torn asunder by contending parties.

Does the world today present any other picture? It seems not. The voice of revelation had not been heard for centuries until Joseph, the Prophet, came with a message from heaven. But while the great majority of men grope in the darkness and, now as then, are engaged in internal strifes, he, the herald to prepare the way for Christ, was cruelly murdered for being faithful in the deliverance of the message. Looking at the present condition of the world, the impression becomes strong that a mighty deliverer is needed, who can give new life to society, regenerating it in all its institutions. This deliverer will come, when the Lord appears again in power and glory.

#### THE INDIAN MESSIAH MOVEMENT

THE *Illustrated American* contains a good deal of interesting information regarding the religious movement among the Indians, culled and condensed from a large number of sources. Its article is illustrated by a number of portraits of notable chiefs, the engravings being extra good. One of the likenesses is that of High Bear, one of the principal chiefs of the Ogallallas, whose name has recently figured in the dispatches. He is large featured, the nose being specially ponderous, while the eyes are full and expressive. The mouth is the only feature which indicates a disagreeable trait, showing hauteur, and impatience with anything that would collide with his will.

One of the most striking portraits is that of Kicking Horse, the Indian who asserts that he was carried in the spirit to heaven. He also has a large, rather handsome face, with mild intelligent eyes, and specially pleasant appearance.

Johnson Sides, the Indian who is credited with innocently being the cause of the present agitation, is represented in his portrait as a man of gentle disposition, his face being devoid of the rugged aspect common to his race. He is known as the "Peacemaker."

The countenance of Sitting Bull is a study. It is more like the face of a white man than of an Indian in its general contour, with the exception of the high cheek bones. Na-

tive intelligence and sagacity are expressed in every feature, as well as the deep lines of the face, impressed by habits of intense thoughtfulness. He would be regarded anywhere among observant people, judging from his portrait, as a most unusual man, with many superior points of character. Unprejudiced persons who are willing to put themselves in his place, can come to no other conclusion, on the basis of his career and the traits exhibited by him in the event which terminated his life. This likeness in the *American* bears no resemblance to the miserable caricatures which are printed in the daily journals.

White Eagle, one of the leaders in the religious dances of the Indians, has a characterless countenance. The whole face, including the partly open mouth, disclosing the teeth, bespeaks the fanatic.

We here quote from the article in the *American*, which is headed "The Red Christ:"

"Just when and where the present craze arose is uncertain. The evidence at present obtainable indicates that it has resulted more from a process of evolution than from the preaching of any one man. The first Indian who preached the coming of the Red Christ in a manner that attracted attention was Short Bull, or Sitting Bull, an Arapahoe who must not be confounded with Sitting Bull, the Sioux chief who took part in the Custer massacre, and who was also one of the most prominent leaders in the present agitation. This Sitting Bull, or Short Bull, arrived at the Shoshone Agency, at Fort Washakie, in Wyoming, about a year ago, and announced that he had seen Christ. The Messiah, he said, told of his previous life upon the earth, nineteen hundred years ago, and of how the white people had refused to accept him, and showed the scars on his hands and feet where he had been nailed to the cross. He foretold the removal of the white men, and promised that the buffalo and other game should return in their former abundance. Then the Messiah gave the Indian buffalo meat to eat, and Sitting Bull fell asleep. When he awoke he found he had been transported a long distance in his sleep.

"Indians do not communicate with one another by letters, but send their messages by runners. By word of mouth Sitting Bull's story was made known to many tribes, and a year ago a sort of council was held at a place supposed to be on the shore of Walker's Lake, in Western Nevada. At this council the Messiah showed himself. Representatives of sixteen tribes are said to have been present. Near the camp the sagebrush and rose bushes had been cut off close to the ground over a circle perhaps one hundred feet in diameter. Here is one account of the appearance of the Christ:

"The next day, as the sun was getting low, the people all assembled about this circle, and presently a man was seen walking into it. The people stood about until he had reached the middle of the circle, and then they went in to meet him. He stood in the

midst and talked to them, appearing to be able to talk all the languages and to make himself understood by all the tribes present. He told the people that things were going to be changed; that the game and the buffalo would be brought back; that they should again have their own country, and that the world should be turned upside down and all the whites spilled out. He closed his speech by saying that in the night he should go up to heaven to see God. Next morning about nine or ten o'clock the people again gathered about the circle, and presently the Messiah walked in among them. He told them that he had just returned from heaven, where he had seen God.

Among the Indians present at this council was Porcupine, a Northern Cheyenne, who has since been one of the foremost prophets of this new Messiah. His story is as follows:

"What I am going to say is the truth. The two men sitting near me were with me, and will bear witness that I speak the truth. I and my people have been living in ignorance until I went and found out the truth. All the whites and Indians are brothers, I was told there. I never knew this before. The fish-eaters near Pyramid Lake told me that Christ had appeared on earth again. They said Christ knew he was coming; that eleven of his children were also coming from a far land. It appeared that Christ had sent for me to go there, and that was why, unconsciously, I took my journey. It had been foreordained. They told me when I got there that my Great Father was there also, but I did not know who he was. The people assembled, called a council, and the chiefs' sons went to see the Great Father, who sent word to us to remain fourteen days in that camp, and that then he would come and see us. At the end of two days, on the third morning, hundreds of people gathered at this place. They cleared a place near the agency in the form of a circus-ring, and we all went there. Just before sundown I saw a great many people (mostly Indians) coming dressed in white men's clothes. The Christ was with them. They all formed in this ring and around it; they put up sheets all around the circle, as they had no tents. Just after dark some of the Indians told me that Christ (Father) was arrived. I looked around to find him, and finally saw him sitting on one side of the ring. He was dressed in a white coat. The next morning he told us he was going away that day, but would be back the next morning and talk to us. I heard that Christ had been crucified and I looked to see, and I saw a scar on his wrist and one on his face, and he seemed to be the man; I could not see his feet. He would talk to us all day. That evening we all assembled again to see him depart.

The following morning the Christ was back with us and wanted to talk with us. He said: 'I am the man who made everything you see around you. I am not lying to you, my children. I made this earth and everything on it. I have been to heaven and seen your dead friends, and have seen my own father and mother.' He spoke to us about fighting, and said that it was bad and that we must keep from it; the earth was to be all good hereafter. That we must be friends with one another. He said if any man disobeyed what he ordered his tribe would be wiped from the face of the earth. Ever since the Christ I speak of talked to me, I have thought what he said was good. I have seen nothing bad in it.