How the Gallant Cavalry Leader Was Led Into the Death Trap by the Wily Sitting Bull and His Lieutenants—New Light



Bull and His Lieutenants—New Light
Upon an Old Subject.

HE tragic death of the gallant of the gallant of the gallant of the gallant of the general teerge A. Custer, with five companies of the Seventh United States Cavalry, in the Valley of the Little Big Horn River, in Montana, is of too recent occurrence not to be details of the great disaster, the horrors of which shocked the civilized world, have long since become a part of history, few are familiar with the causes which resulted so fatally to the 'long-haired soldier,' his gallant officers, and men. The writer, from a long association with the Sioux, as hunter, scout, trader, and Deputy United States Marshal, thoroughly acquiring the Sioux language and a knowledge of their habits, has been able to gather data inaccessible to the transient or casual observer.

The name and fame of Gen. Custer had spiend among the Sioux in the early seventies, and the writer can afford no better illustration of the lespeet in which that he was able to cross the then almost maknown country from Fort A. Lincels that be was able to cross the then almost on the Black Hills, through the very heart of their country, with a part of his regiment, without fring a shot.

The Stoux then foresaw that, in a short time, they would lose their choicest hunting grounds, an event which, when consummated, they traced directly to Gen.

Custer.

Exaggerated reports from the campfollowers of Custer's army soon had the effect to stir up the minds of the adven-

was resolved to send out a party to make a sortie, to discover their strength and engage them if practicable. This was continued from day to day, in the hops of drawing the enemy into some ground where an ambush could be laid. This has the they had been decoyed into the canyon of the Rosebud the fate that awaited Custer would have fallen on Crook.

Afterthis was a series of the control of the canyon of the Rosebud the fate that awaited Custer would have fallen on Crook.

Crook.

After this unsuccessful move it was decided to go closer to the mountains, to the end that the wounded could receive better care and have cold water to bathe in, etc., and also that their religious rites



SPOTTED TAIL.

and annual sun-dance could be performed, and here we find them camped near the mouth of the Little Big Horn River, where the ill-fated Custer overtook them. The chiefs and head warriors were now in daily council and consultation, the wily Sitting Bull and his able assistant, Rain-in-the-Face, counseling prudence and strategy, the impetuous Crazy Horse (the Custer of the Sioux advising a charge and a riding down of the enemy by sheer force of numbers, a part which he fulfilled to the letter later on. The column under Gen. Alfred Terry was advancing steadily along the Yellow stone River. The Sioux were kept informed of his movements by soles and



CUSTER'S LAST CHARGE.

turers from the States, the nardy miners from Colorado and California, and the hunters, trappers, and frontiersmen of Wyoming and Montana, which resulted in a desire to visit the new Eldorado. Parties were formed by stealth, and led by the most daring spirits, and in spite of the fact that the Sioux, who were now sustained by the military, were noting every move, several succeeded in gaining the goal and a realization of their dreams.

reams.
The Government now decided upon a hange of tactics. A treaty was made for he cession of the Black Hills, a treaty hat was never ratified by the leading hiefs, and very indifferently kept by the objects.

whites.

Whites.

It is a gents at the different agencies were instructed to call in all of the Indians then away hunting and to inform them that their right to hunt in Wyoming and Montann had expired. The Sious failed to comply with these orders, and in March, 18f6, Gen George Crook took the field against them



SCOUT BARTLETT.

twelve companies of cavalry and t forty scouts (of whom the writer one), mostly frontiersmen and half-

about torty scouts (of whom the writer was one), mostly frontiersmen and half-breeds.

The General succeeded in meeting and completely destroying a Sioux village on Powder River, Wyoming. This had the effect to turn the more timorous Indians toward the agencies, and the most warlike, under the leadership of Sitting Bull, Gaul, Rain-in-the-Face, Crazy Horse, and other sub-chiefs, toward the north. Until this time the Indians had been living in a semi-state of war and peace, but now the lines were drawn, the gauntlet accepted, the war pipe was sent to the various camps, and as early as May, 1876, a village of nearly 7,000 Sloux, Cheyennes, and renegades from other neighboring tribes had assembled on the Yellowston River.

All was Aller and the security which their numbers afforded. Game was very plentiful. Their horses were in prime condition for the chase or for war. Games of chance and ashleties were freely indulged in. Racing, training, and friendly contests with rifle and bow and arrows were of daily occurrence. The children of nature were enjoying only such aports as nature had taught them.

Racing, training, and friendly contests with ritle and bow and arrows were of daily occurrence. The children of nature were enjoying only such sports as nature had another them.

The runners were now returning from the Canadian Northwest, bringing arms, ammunition, and recruits to their cause Everything promised security from want, hunger, and the second of the se

couriers, and nis presence gave no un-easiness. They were accustomed to the white man's mode of warfare, and little thought that Long Hair (the Sioux name for Custer) would leave the infantry to toil on as they might, while he with his cavairy and a few Indian allies, moving by forced and heavy marches, would meet and dare them on ground of their own choosing.

and dare them on ground of their own choosing.

The spot selected by the Sioux for their camp was well calculated for defense, Flanked by deep ravines, and deep and almost impenetrable underbrush in the rear, it was a wild place in nature chosen by the Indians for their preservation.

The first notice of the near approach of troops was given by a few squavs who have been out some distance from camp.



SITTING BULL.

for the purpose of gathering wild turnips (a favorite food with these people). They reported that they had seen a heavy cloud of dust moving toward them, and parallel with the river, and as buffalo always travel at right angles in valleys, so as to cross the streams square, they argued that it must be horsemen. This news was scoffed at by the Ogailalas. It could not be that any foe would be rash enough to move on them in their stroughold; besides, no one but squaws had seen any-thing to cause alarm, and so they gave the story no credence. However, Chief Gaul, always suspicious, determined to send out a few scouts to make an investigation. These returned before midnight with a confirmation of the report that soldiers were coming, gave a good estimate of their numbers, and also reported that they were under the leadership of Long Hair (Custer).

All was now excitement and turnoil in the Indian camp. Orders were issued by Sitting Bull that no lodges were to be struck, but that the squaws should take the old, the crippled and wounded, together with their children, and retreat into the high hills with the stock affirst sign of breaking day. It was decided to make no demonstration until the addisser.

the old, the crippled and wounded, together with their children, and retreat into the high hils with the stock at first sign of breaking day. It was decided to make no demonstration until the soldiers should attack the camp.

Meantime the Faction of the Indians known as the Ogallala Sioux slept quietly on. Nor is this to be wondered at, when we know the the together would be successful to the compression of t

awaiting every soul, toward the point best prepared to meet them, past a part of the now deserted lodges, until the line became necessarily broken to avoid the tepees. Here a portion of their horses became unmanageable at the sight of half-dried meat and untanned skins that everywhere strewed the ground.

In the midst of all this confusion the blood-curdling war-cry of the Siour sounded on their ears, and hundreds of painted savages, heretofore hidden the underbrush, sprang the while Rainin-the-face in the position with his mid-he-face inverse a raking, murderous fire on their flank.

Custer now probably saw his mistake too late; but the splendid courage that always marked the man did not desert him. Both himself and men fought like demons.

"Halt! Dismount!" rang out in stentorian tones, and these were the last orders the gallant Custer ever gave that were obeyed by his men. The firing now became general. The horses, unloosed and maddened by thirst, dashed into the stream, where they were easily caught by the Indians. Groups and squads of dead soldiers here and there marked the spot where some brave captain or licettenant fell while stimulating his men by word or deed (and men with empty cartridge shells between their legs, sitting where they fell, with gun lying close by, went to show how dearly they had sold their lives, for in this awful moment probably no one of Custer's men cheir.



onneral custers.

and, taking in the situation at a giance, ordered his legion to charge.

Let us now close our eyes as the horrible work of butchery goes on. Unaccustomed to such warfare, and overcome by vastly superior numbers, before the sun had fairly reached the meridian the last of Caster's bold riders had succumbed to Mot much remains to be told. The soldiers were hurriedly stripped of their arms and accenterments. The Indian allies, fifteen in number, were scalped, and the field was left to the squaws, who went the rounds with stone war-clubs and tomahawks, brained the soldiers who were not quite dead, stripped them of watches, jewelry, etc., and horribly mutilated their bodies. For some reason, not one white man was scalped.

A thousand warriors had perhaps boasted that the long yellow hair of Gen. Custer should that day dangle at his belt, but owing to the fact that he started on this expedition with his hair cut short he was not recognized by the Indians.

The casualities of the Indians were comparatively small—thirty-six on the field dead. The number dying of wounds will probably never be accurately known, as the village was shortly afterward broken up. Probably seventy would be a fair estimate.

Why Major Reno did not support his

the vines.

p. Probably seventy would be a support his timate.

Why Major Reno did not support his Colonel in the charge or rescue him in retreat, Indian logic can find no answer.

GEO, E. BARTLETT,



In a certain Maine town is a very heavy girl. She is quite sensitive about her weight and it is not generally known, but two mischievous young men wanting to know it, one of them per-maded her to stop and speak with him on the hay sca es. The owner of the scales was in the plot and quickly weighed them. The weight of the man being subtracted, left the amount of 301 pounds for the girl.—[Lowiston Journal.

up that up that are coak.

The man who excuses himselt for getting on a tear on the Fourth of July by saying that "it comes but once a year," will usually find enough other holidays that come no oftener to keep him pretty busy sobering up.

A burnt child dreads the fire and he will be putting in his spare time trying to find some way of playing with it without being burned.

It is always the best horse that dies. Pay as you go, and if you can't pay stay at home.

The school ma'am may not be so heavy as the prize fighter, but she is more valuable to the country at large. Some men regard strong drink as their enemy and they bravely resolve to die with their face to the foe.

The time spent in envying your neighbor's possessions would, if put in at work, enable you to make your neighbor envy you.

It is all well enough to tell the boys not to gamble, and to teach them that it is a baneful habit, but it is foolish to tell them that all gamblers lose money. They correctly argue that if one man loses another must win, and they set out with the determination to be the other man.

Pretty Hard on a Peor Sport.

He had just come in from a day's fishing in the perch pool, and was in the act of opening his mouth to tell of his exploits, when his wife, closing the book which she had been reading, said:

"Oh, it's you, George, dear. I'm glad to see you back. It was so dull with you away that I took up the Bible to pass the time, and was reading the Book of Revelations as you came in. That's a wonderful book. And, just think, it says, 'All liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone.' Have you caught anything?"

"No, Mary," he answered; "I didn't—catch—a thing, but I thought as I went out to get fish we might as well have a string, so I called at the fish store and bought these."

She said she was glad to get the fish and talked to him with much cheerfulness; but he was gloomy and preoccupied, and scarcely said a word in reply, and, in a short time, giving the excuse that he was tired, went off to bed.

Poor fellow!

Statesmen in Prospect,

"What a houseful of children you have, uncle," said a gentleman to an old negro, whose cabin swarmed with children of all ages and sizes.

"Yes, sah, yos, sah!" replied their father, proudly, "thirteen in all, sah; en not one too many. Couldn't spar' one. All boys but two, sah, en chances fo' de las' one ob' em to git into Congress. Yes, sah! Taint many men has de chance ob bein' fader to l'oben Congressmen—no, sah!"
Thus is the turning period in the life of the farmer's boy, if there is a grindstone on the place.

There is nothing (unless it be the sewing machine) that has lightened woman's labor as much as Dobbles's Electric Soap, constantly sold since 18th. All grocers have it. Have you made its acquaintance? Try it, A small picture was lately sold at the Hotel Drouot, in Paris, for a hundred france, which on being verified as his work by M. Moissonier, was immediately resold for 18,-000 france.

TEA MANUFACTURE.

for Market.

Each picking of a garden is in India called a "break" and in China a "chop." But an Indian "break" is rarely above a hundred chests, and is often only twenty, Ining war-cry of the Siour their ears and hundred of the process of a whore their ears are fined to read, while Rain from his position with his forced a raking, munderous were probably saw his mistake at the splendid course that rised the man did not desert hismelf and men fought libe Dismount!" rang out in stendid to the special point of the

Pullets Should be Laying.

Young pullets ought all to be laying this anonth. Later hatched ones if not laying by December, will probably, if left to themselves, not lay before spring when eggs are down to 15 cents per dozen. Therefore get the pullets to laying early when prices are highest. Rev. S. W. Squires, of Franklin, Mass., says: "Last winter for twelve hens I used four large cans of Sheridan's Condition Powder. I believe it is the best preparation known to increase egg production. I saved part of the eggs for hatching after forcing the hens four months for all they were worth with the Sheridan's Powder, and I never had a greater per cent. of ferthleeges I can afford to be without the problem of the production of the

Custom House Street, Boston, Mass, (the only makers of Sheridani's Condition Powders, will send for 50 cents, two packs of Powder; or \$1.00 flow packs; for \$1.00 a large \$2\foxed can, postpaid; six cans for \$5.00, express prepaid. A copy of the best Poultry paper for 5 cents. Send stamps or cash.

Queen Mauguerite of Italy makes herself happy at the piano.

"Consumption Can be Cuved,"
Dr. J. S. Conns, Owensville, Ohlo, says: "I have given Scorr's Enursion of Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites to four patients with better results than scened possible with any remedy. All were hereditary cases of Ling discuse, and advanced to that stage when Coughs, pain in the chest, frequent breathing, these cases have increased in weight from 16 to 28 lbs, and are not now needing any medicine."

Queen Victoria has a beautiful touch on the piano. Travelling men smoke "Tansill's Punch." Peat fibre is coming into considerable use in the manufacture of brown paper, being about fifty per cent. cheaper than wood pulp.

Pullets Should be Laying

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