

liar has no business trying to compete with him in the lying business! -- This is a fact.

Therefore -- I found in his statement in Harper just what I knew I should find, viz. -- an altogether different one from the first statement given out by him immediately after his escape -- when the facts were fresh in his memory. His reputation was so bad that General Terry -- good man that he was, would not permit him to command "E" troop, 7th.Cav.--to which he was entitled -- and to this he was not lost when "E" Troop "went up"; -- only, had De Rudio been in command of "E" -- as he should have been but for Terry's orders, Gen. Custer would not have taken that troop, but would have saddled it on Reno or me,--- this to a dead certainty! "E" being commanded by Lieut. E.A.Smith, a henchman of Custer's -- and a friend of Gen. Terry. -- Smith wasn't worth a tinker's d--n, -- but he was better than De Rudio!

You may think I do not know all about these things; but remember, my dear boy, that I had soldiered with these fellows for many years, and I knew them as well as I know my A.B.C.'s.

For instance, in 1869, Gen.S.D. Sturgis displaced 1st. Lieut. A.E.Smith as regimental Qr.Mr. for lying to him, concluding, that as he, Sturgis, was new to the regiment, that 'twas better so to do than to commence his 7th. Cav. life by court-martialing the old officers of same, though, the proof against Smith was absolute. Smith was a creature of Custer, and Sturgis knew what a scoundrel Custer was pretty nearly as well as I did, and came prepared with a stack of proofs he had acquired in Texas against him. Custer was Maj.Gen. of Vols. Comdg. Division when Sturgis was Lieut.Col. 6th. Cav. Comdg. Regt. -- in same Div.-- The turn of the wheel broke up the Vol. business and custer was then simply Capt. 5th.Cav. and Sturgis as Lieut. Col., became in command -- and responsible for the payment or rather approval of the contracts Custer's Qr.Mr. of Div. had made. -- Well, from Gen. Sturgis' account of enormities of the rascalities of same, to me, there was nothing left for him to do but to report the facts to the Dept. Comdr.; which he did -- and when fate sent Sturgis to same regt. with Custer, his 2d. in command, knowing the man, he came prepared for war.

That, he found at once, but in such a disguised manner that it took Sturgis a full year to get at its core, is simply history: -- but he got at it, and strange to relate, through the treachery of Lieut. A.E. Smith to Custer; -- but Custer never knew this. Barry, with Custer in command, the fellows who wouldn't kneel to him -- and hurra for him, just had to accept a sure enough monkey and parrot time of it, but, that those same monkey and parrot fellows didn't strain every nerve to help save him and his command at the Little Big Horn, who, none but liars and poltroons can ever imagine such, -- and from having been on the field and thro' talks of yours with "Gall", you know more of this than I can tell you. -- and nothing of it was more surely than it was simply an impossible feat so to do, even had Reno known where Custer was, he couldn't have gone to him, why? there were too many Indians in the way and on the lookout, and Custer and his force had then already been disposed of. Gall, Crazy Horse, et al, had nothing to do but to turn their attention to Reno's column.

As I commenced this scrawl with De Rudio, I'll wind up same by saying that I'd believe him without oath just as I would with oath. Nil.

Kind remems. to Mrs. Barry. Yr. friend, BENTEEN.

P.S. Do you want De Rudio's Lie on the Plains sent back?

In addition to these letters, other Custer and Battle of Little Big Horn memorabilia were exhibited at the Round-Up by:

LELAND D. CASE: Books pamphlets and other printed material.

EVERETT D. GRAFF: An original copy of the issue of the Bismarck (D.T.)

Tribune, which printed the first full account of the Custer disaster.

ELMO SCOTT WATSON: A collection of photographs of Custer and other Seventh