Sitting Bull

Central Superintendency, Field Office Papers, Letters Received.
John D. Miles to William Nicholson, Supt. of Indian Affairs, Lawrence, Kansas.
C & A Agency, Darlington, I. T. August 4, 1876.

I have the honor to report the arrival at this Agency on the 29th ult from the Red Cloud Agency, three (3) Cheyennes - young men - "Dry Hide, Red Cloud, and Howling Eagle." They were first required to report to Col. Mizner, Commanding Fort Reno, where they were disarmed and dismounted and afterwards turned over to me with Sand Hill and White Antelope's parties. They report having been on the way only fourteen (14) days. They say they ran on to a large party of Indians (believed to be Utes) on the head waters of the Republican who gave them a close chase, capturing all their ponies but one and very nearly capturing their party. Afterwards they were obliged to walk most of the time as only one could ride and it was with some difficulty that they could obtain necessary food. Their moccasins soon gave way and they were left barefoot. They report that Dull Knife and Hawk, Northern Cheyennes, are still at the Agency and talk of coming south. They say that numerous messengers (2) had arrived from the Hostile Camps at the Red Cloud Agency and report that in the Crook fight some time ago 8 Sioux and 3 Cheyennes were killed; among the latter was "Little Shield," formerly from this Agency and one of the O. F. Short and German/sic/ murderers. Yellow Horse, son of Sand Hill, was in the engagement, but escaped unharmed.

Messengers arriving from the Custer fight brought in with them to the Agency sugar, coffee, arms, horses, and some scalps around which dances were kept up. I enclose herewith a diagram which will give some idea of the Custer fight from an Indian standpoint as related by these Indians who heard messengers relate the fight - the red line will indicate Custer's approach to the camp of about 50 Lodges on the Rose Bud who being apprised of his approach made a hasty march to the Little Big Horn going into camp at the extreme north end of the main Sioux and Cheyennes camp. Custer, crossing the Rose Bud, discovered the deserted camp and took the trail as indicated by the red line, attacking the last mentioned camp ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ just before daylight killing some men, women, and children. The camp stampeding or retreating in the direction of the main camp and just at day break Custer came down on the camp with a charge, but in the meantime his attack had been sounded throughout the entire camp and preparation had been made for his reception. So will be seen by the red line Custer led the charge from the camp of 50 Lodges in the direction of the main village, but was met with such a terrific fire from the Indians who had by this time gained superior advantage from the hills as to force him into and across a big "slough" or "bayou" (a point well known to all the northern Indians) in which