stripped from the dead body of the General by one of my braves who afterward wore it until his death, and was buried in it. I did not learn this, however, until after the death of the brave. 586/587

"On the night after the battle our tents were struck and we started northward, expecting an attack on the following day. My warriors were very tired, and had the pursuit been an active one we would, no doubt, have been overcome. Had not Major Benteen joined forces with Major Reno when we had the latter surrounded in the woods, there would have been few soldiers left in the three commands to tell the story of their disaster.

"No one can tell who killed General Custer, it is impossible because of two facts: (1) None of my braves knew Custer, and (2) the tumult and smoke of the battle were so great that combatants were often obscured entirely, and the fighting was therefore promiscuous. None of my people ever boasted to me that they had killed Custer.

"I have now told you all that I know in regard to the fight with Custer. I can't see why the white people hold me responsible for his death; the soldiers attacked us and we fought to defend ourselves. If all my people had been slaughtered the whites would have been glad. I am now at peace, however, and do not want to speak ill of the government. I hope our peace may endure. I have only one ambition now, and that is to live the remainder of my days with my children and people. I feel that my life will not long endure: a lung trouble has afflicted me for more than a year, and seems to grow gradually worse. Many offers have been made me to travel through the country and show myself, but no inducements could prevail. I never rode on the cars and fear such travel would make me sick; besides, I would not trust myself with the whites, who would starve me. My delight is to have my children with me every day, and here among my people will I die." 587/588