

5

of the same feeling, and whatever anxiety was stirred up by the incidents of the day quieted down. While conceding his courage, no one admired the judgment nor the treachery of the Sioux, who fully expected to arouse his tribe to battle, and but for the brave interpreter he might have done so, though sure death awaited him. The attitude of the Snakes, the cool, deliberate action of the chief, the staunch firmness of his warriors and the quiet demeanor of women and children, who were perfectly self-possessed -- not a single outcry from that vast parade save the one cry of defiance that went up spontaneously as the chief raised his gun to take aim at the Sioux. The scene was impressive, as showing the faith that band of warriors had in each other; the entire confidence of their families in them; the self-reliance all through. It was a lesson for soldiers who might never again see such a grand display of soldierly manhood, and the lesson was not lost. Every dragoon felt an interest in that tribe.

Major Chilton told me to report to Captain Rhett, which I did, and he very cordially thanked me, and through me my comrades, for kindness to his family while en route to Fort Leavenworth. He impressed me very much -- was a good officer and a perfect gentleman. He could show kindness to an enlisted man without the risk of invoking undue familiarity.

Colonel Mitchel and his party left for the fort before sunset. As our camp was rearranged, we were between the Snakes and the other tribes, and half of the troop on guard. Every half hour was called thus: "Number one, -- o'clock! All's well!" Morning dawned on peace and quiet. There had been some anxiety for fear the Sioux would make a general break. Bridger told me some time afterward that if they had they would have found every Snake ready. In about a week after the incidents above related we moved thirty-four miles east of Laramie to where Horse Creek flows into the North Platte. It was a better camping ground for this great mass of Indians because of more room, grass and water. Horse Creek came in from the southwest, and on the north side of the Platte was another creek coming in from the northwest, so that the camps could spread out.