

Referring to this remarkable series of incidents, General Merritt says that in 1877, occurred the wonderful retreat and defense of Chief Joseph with the Nez Perces, pursued by General Howard and his command from Idaho Territory to Montana, a distance of more than thirteen hundred miles, along which, at different points, were intercepting forces, which hacked and cut at the Indians, till at last, reduced in numbers and equipment, they surrendered to an intercepting force, part of the original pursuers being present at the surrender. It was a wonderful pursuit, pluckily persisted in, in the face of every possible hardship; but who can do justice to the labor, courage, and endurance of the retreat? How intensely interesting would be an account from Chief Joseph, if he had the pen of a ready writer and could make his own report! his feints, stratagems, and ambuscades; the meeting and battling with intercepting forces, or the avoidance of these and escape across difficult and unknown country, until finally, deceived only in reference to the character of the country he was seeking and the friends he was to meet, he was brought to bay like a hunted lion, terrible even in his death struggle.

It was on the 5th of October, after fighting several days, that Chief Joseph handed his rifle to General Miles, and, with impressive dignity said, pointing to the sun:

"From where the sun now stands I fight no more against the white man."