

the cow, and intended to do so. In addition to the muskets of the men, the expedition had two pieces of cannon, and they were not without stimulant, the interpreter being in such condition that he talked to the Indians in a very indiscreet manner. He told them, among other things, that the soldiers had come to "cut the d_____d hearts out of them;" that they had come to kill Indians, and intended to do so. The troops went into camp, unlimbered their guns, and fired them, as well as a volley from their muskets. They killed one, and mortally wounded several of a band of Brulé Sioux, when the Indians became aroused and advancing toward the troops, the latter retreated, /¹⁵⁸ followed by the Sioux. In the conflict the lieutenant and all his men were killed. The Indians, without waiting longer, for the arrival of their agent, went to the warehouse near by, where their annuity goods were in store, took them, and separated for their homes. Although able to have stormed Fort Laramie, and taken away all its military stores, they did not commit any violence on the fort or its inmates. The secretary of war did state that they had designs on the fort, with the intention to seize all the public and private stores there, but there was no foundation for such statement. On account of this affair Congress authorized an addition of three regiments to the regular army, and then followed General Harney's "Sioux Expedition." The crowning act of General Harney's campaign, and which he pompously styled the "Battle of the Blue water," took place on the 22d of September, 1855, in northwestern Nebraska or northeastern Wyoming. He heard that a Brulé band of Sioux, of which Little Thunder was principal chief, was with his braves, and women and children, encamped at this point, and moved immediately for them, and at half-past four o'clock in the morning commenced an attack on this unoffending village, the inhabitants of which had no more to do in the affair with Lieutenant Grattan than General Harney had. He threw this cavalry around in the rear of the village, and in the direction the Indians would retreat when he attacked them in front. He says in his official report that the cavalry movement "was executed in a most faultless manner by Colonel Cook, to secure a position to cut off the retreat of the Indians, and was