

fit to counsel or direct us as to the A, B, C of our profession. At this, however, no one felt injured, and Col. Custer drifted into saying 'that while HE was willing to accept recommendations from the junior second lieutenant of the regiment, such recommendations must come to him in proper form; and moreover, that he (Custer) was aware that his official actions had been talked of and criticized by officers of the regiment to officers of the Department Staff during the march from Fort A. Lincoln, D.T., and that he now notified all such officers that such criticisms must cease, or that the officers offending would be proceeded against as the regulations of the army provided.'

p. 10 It was then patent to us all for what purpose the 'call' had been sent forth, and as my relations with Lieut.-Col. Custer were not of the warmest personal nature, I was anxious to learn the names of the officers whom he evidently mistrusted. So I said, 'General, will you not be kind enough to inform us of the names of those officers who have so offended?'

Custer stammered slightly and said: 'Colonel Benteen, while I am not here to be catechised by you, I take pleasure in informing you, for your own gratification, that you are not among those officers whom I have alluded to.'

On the morning of the 23d of June I reported to Lieut.-Col. Custer for orders as the new officer of the day. Lieut.-Col. Custer told me the letters of the three troops of the battalion I was to take charge of as guard to the pack-train for the day, and ordered that I was to march the battalion in rear of the last mule of the train. Soon thereafter Lieut.-Col. Custer marched at the head of the column of the other nine troops.

It took exactly one and a half hours to get the pack-train across Rosebud Creek, so by that time Custer's column was all of six miles ahead of my train, and out of sight. For some time I marched the train and the battalion as I had been ordered by Lieut.-Col. Custer, but as the train was much scattered — so much so that I could exercise no control of it from my position in rear of the whole of it, and as I would be held responsible for safety of the same, in case of an attack by Indians, I determined to put the troops in such positions along flank of train, that, in case of attack, the command was prepared to defend it.