

that canyon and below, assigning the duty to Frank Grouard (his chief of scouts) and, I think, one other scout. Upon their return they reported all sorts of preparations on the sides of the canyon, and in the cul-de-sac at the bottom, for a massacre, if we had gone down a little bit further.

p. 30 "Crook thus took the only course open, and rode back to his wagon-train and sent for reinforcements. He had felt the Indians out very effectively, much to his credit following the safe course. He was on the offensive throughout the fight, took his time to return to his base -- and wasn't whipped.

"I was with Crook in every foray or movement throughout the Sioux war, and am sure that his undoubted courage, absolute devotion to duty, and unequalled experience in Indian warfare, would have led him to persist in his march to effect a junction with Terry on the Yellowstone, except for the needless sacrifice of troops involved in certain further encounters with the savages, whose overwhelming numbers were absolutely unknown until then. Remember, that with every fourth man taking care of the horses in a fight (because you can't fight Indians mounted); also providing adequate protection of the wounded and pack-train, and exhaustion of half his ammunition, Crook was actually in nearly as poor shape to advance as was Custer when he rode to his doom a week later.

"Doubtless the Indians he engaged there would have returned with much larger forces had Crook continued northward; and while I think he was too adroit a campaigner to have duplicated the Custer fiasco, there is no telling how great a loss of men might have been suffered, but for his return to his base."

(Signed) "ROBERT E. STRAHORN."