

drove these Indians back upon their main body, which was moving up Cañon Creek. The Indians strongly occupied both the canon and high ground on each side of it, but they were steadily driven by the troops from rock to rock toward the head of the canon when night-fall put an end to the fight.

The loss of the Indians in this engagement and in the pursuit on the following day was twenty-one killed; the loss of the troops was three enlisted men killed and Capt. T. H. French, Seventh Cavalry, and eleven enlisted men wounded; the number of ponies lost by the Indians was altogether about nine hundred.

Early on September 14, Sturgis resumed the pursuit, preceded by a large party of Crow scouts, who killed five more of the rear guard of the Nez Percés and captured four hundred of the entire number of ponies taken by Sturgis command. Worn out by incessant marching, the troops could do little, however, to diminish the distance between themselves and the Indians, every officer and man of the cavalry taken from General Howard's column being on foot, owing to the exhausted  
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condition of their horses. For several days the troops had been wholly without rations, and the limit of endurance had been reached by both men and animals; Colonel Sturgis accordingly discontinued his pursuit and waited for General Howard to overtake him, when both commands were united, and marched together from the Musselshell to the Missouri, reaching Carroll on October 1. General Howard proceeded by boat to Cow Island, leaving Colonel Sturgis in command of the troops.

The night of September 17, Colonel Miles received the communication informing him of the movements of the Nez Percés; he at once started from Tongue River, September 18, and marched rapidly in a northwest direction to intercept the enemy. His force consisted of Troops F, G,