Martin Charger, leader of the band that rescued the Shetak victims, captured

by the Santees in the Minnesota Massacre, was related to my brother Mark's wife.

I first met Charger at the Cheyenne Agency in 1876, when the government took the arms

and horses away from the Indians. I was the interpreter for Lieutenant Hugh L. Scott,

the officer in charge of disarming and dismounting the Indians.

Charger's story of the rescue follows:

"We first camped near the hostile band, after which we presented ourselves to

Chief White Lodge, who claimed one of the white women as his wife. When we told him

our errand, that we had come for the captives and would not depart without them, his

son abused me and declared I was a traitor to my own people. I told him I had always

been a friend of the whites and disapproved of the war.

"He asked me, 'Didn't you promise my father and the other chiefs that the Two

Kettle band would help us fight the whites?'

"I denied making the promise and repeated that I had always been a friend of

the whites. There was a long and abusive argument, after which we told the hostiles

they might as well give up the captives, for which we would give everything we had,

even if it left us naked. At that an Indian brought a little white girl to me.

Without a word he placed her hand in mine and then took my best horse, saddled and

bridled, and rode away with him.

"White Lodge's son then turned to his father and said, 'You have lied to us.

You told us that Charger and his entire band would help us fight the whites. For

that reason we killed some of the whites. If the whites get us, they will hang us

with those they intend to hang at Mankato.'

"Then the son went away and took by the hand the white woman his father claimed

as his wife and said, 'Mother, get up and come to your friends. You have suffered

enough.' Leading her by the hand, he brought her to Four Bears and me. After that

it was not difficult to get possession of the other captives."

                                        Scott

I shall now relate what took place between Scott and Charger when the latter gave