

CHAPTER XXXII.

Bad Conditions on the California Trail - Spotted Tail Mischievous - Open War on the Plattee - Building Montana Road - Red Cloud Comes Into Prominence - Holds Colonel Sawyer's Party in Siege - Refuses to Permit Roads Built - Red Cloud Meets Treaty Commissioners - Refuses to Treat - Spotted Tail Signs and Remains Faithful - Red Cloud on the War Path.

After the terrible punishment which Harney administered to Little Thunder and his band of Brules at the Blue Water in the autumn of 1855, and the terror which that campaign carried to all of the Teton bands, the rigor with which he handled them in the treaty making enterprises of 1856, and the establishment of Fort Randall that year, induced good behavior on the part of the Brules and the Oglalas until towards the time of the Minnesota outbreak, in 1862. This excited all of the Indians to a fresh uprising, but did not especially affect the western Tetons until the autumn of 1863. At that time they renewed their outrages upon the great overland routes between the Missouri River and the Pacific coast. Frequent attacks were perpetrated upon immigrants, stage passengers and telegraph operators that fall, but the authorities did not appreciate the magnitude of the movement from the Indian point of view, believing them to be acts of irresponsible bands maddened by liquor, not infrequently sold to them by outside traders, and that the tribes would eventually punish these outlaws and maintain their former relations of amity and good will toward the government and the people, but this hope proved groundless. Emboldened by exemption from the swift and certain punishment which should always follow such acts of wanton cruelty and lawlessness, and believing, no doubt, that the general government, by reason of the continuance of a great and formidable rebellion and civil war, would be unable to chastise them for their crimes, these outrages rapidly multiplied, and finally culminated in open war. The atrocities perpetrated by the Brules and Oglalas upon the lives and property of unoffending and defenseless emigrants during the autumn of 1863 and