

* * Perhaps it ill becomes us to censure the dead, but the whole unfortunate affair arose from the direct disobedience of orders, on the part of Fetterman and his men."

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CHAPTER XXXIV

Red Cloud Continues His War on the Fort - Montana Trail Rendered Impassable by Hostiles - Red Cloud's Great Feat in Subsisting His People in Hostile Country - Numerous Attacks on Phil Kearney - Determination to Destroy the Fort - Attack on Wood Camp - Powell's Heroic Resistance - A Miraculous Repulse - Awful Loss to the Hostile Forces - Red Cloud Undismayed, Keeps up the War.

After the annihilation of Fetterman's forces Red Cloud, who was in personal direction of the affair, though all of his sub-chiefs and the chiefs of the Cheyennes and Arapahos were present, having come down from the camp with the intention of ambushing the wood guard, conceived that their success had been so stupenduous that the soldiers would at once set out to make a desperate retaliation. They, therefore, hastened back to their camp on the head waters of the Tongue and though it was mid-winter, and frightfully cold, they resolved to break up the camp at once and scatter in small bands. The Arapahos went to the Yellowstone, the Cheyennes trailed through to the west of the Big Horn Mountains and the Dakotas scattered down the valley of the Powder and Tongue Rivers. No further attacks on the military were attempted in the neighborhood of Fort Phil Kearney until the succeeding summer, but a small band under Small Hawk and Crazy Horse proceeded to the neighborhood of Fort Reno and from the end of February harassed and annoyed the soldiers at that post, holding it in about the same state of siege that the Phil Kearneys had been during the preceding autumn. Though not attacking the fort at the Piney in force Red Cloud kept it under constant surveillance, and almost daily his scouts were seen in the vicinity and the nervous apprehension of attack under which soldiers and civilians alike lived, wrought upon their fears and made the situation almost unendurable. There were sharp scraps near Fort Reno on February 27th, April 26th and 27th, May 23rd and ³⁷²May 30th. On June 12th Yellow