

less than three hundred Indians were killed or disabled. Major Powell, by his coolness and firmness in this most creditable affair, has shown what a few determined can effect with good arms and strong hearts, even with such temporary defensive arrangements as are almost always at hand, and that it is always safer, leaving out the questions of duty and professional honor, to stand and fight Indians than to retreat from them. Had this party attempted to fall back, every one would have perished. As it was, it lost one officer and two enlisted men killed.

Lieutenant Jenness, a most excellent young officer, fell while affording to his men a fine example of coolness and daring in the performance of his duty.

His loss is regretted by his command, by whom he was greatly esteemed and loved.

On the 17th instant, Lieutenant Davis, of the Pawnee scouts, sent out with ten men to reconnoitre near Plum creek, Nebraska, fell in with a greatly superior force of hostile Indians. He gradually fell back until re-enforced by Captain Murie and thirty men of his Pawnees, when they re-crossed the Platt river and were soon attacked by over a hundred Cheyennes and Sioux.

Captain Murie coolly held his fire until within proper distance, when he quickly charged and dispersed them, following them in a running fight for ten miles, killing fifteen, certain, and it is believed more; wounding a good many, and capturing two prisoners, thirty-one horses and mules, and a large number of blankets, saddles and other property.

Our only loss, one horse killed and five wounded. Captain Murie, Lieutenant Davis, and their brave Pawnees, are entitled to great credit for this most decided success.

The general commanding regrets that the commanders in these several affairs have not given the names of the enlisted men who most distinguished themselves, that they might be recorded in this order. It is not too late to remedy this apparent injustice, and the commanders concerned will, on receipt of this order, report the desired names to these headquarters.

Hereafter, in all reports of engagements, the names of enlisted men distinguishing themselves will be embraced in the report.

By command of Brevet Major General Augur:

H. G. LITCHFIELD,
Brevet Lieut. Col., A. A. A. G.