to the most lamentable loss of Lieutenant Kidder with a party of ten men and one Indian guide.

I have heretofore stated that I went in person to Fort Sedgwick on the 6th of June, awaiting the arrival of General Custer with six companies of the seventh cavalry, ordered across from Fort Hays. General Custer reached Fort McPherson on the 13th of June, and on the 15th and 16th I went in person to meet him, and started him over to the Republican to scout it to its head, and to come in for supplies at Fort Sedgwick or above. The appearance of Custer's force on the upper Republican at once quieted matters on the Platte, but the Indians became more active on the smoky hill, and having returned to St. Louis, and learning that Custer had sent to Fort Wallace for supplies on the 27th of June, I sent orders to him through Colonel Litchfield at Omaha, General Augur's chief of staff, in these words: "I don't understand about General Custer being on the Republican awaiting provisions from Fort Wallace. If this be so, and all the Indians be gone south, convey to him my orders that he proceed with all his command in search of the Indians towards Fort Wallace, and report to General Hancock, who will leave Denver for same place today." Colonel Litchfield transmitted these orders to Colonel Potter, commanding Fort Sedgwick, who gave them to Lieutenant Kidder with a detail of ten men and an Indian guide, to be delivered to General Custer at his camp on the Republican, to the south and west of Fort Sedgwick. Before Lieutenant Kidder had reached General Custer's camp, the latter had broken camp and started under his first orders for the Platte, reaching it at a point to the west of Fort Sedgwick, where he received a copy of the foregoing orders, and started back at once for Fort Wallace. On his way across he found the skeletons of Lieutenant Kidder's party, all of whom had been killed by Indians; (General Custer's report of this has already been sent to you.) General Custer, on reaching Fort Wallace, left a part of his command, and with the rest came into Fort Riley without orders, for which he is now under trial on charges preferred by General Hancock.

It would swell my report beyond all reasonable limits were I to attempt to give in detail all the operations of the troops in my command, but the above, with the reports of Generals Terry and Augur herewith, and the official reports already on file in your office, will be as full as the case calls for; and I will now only refer to such other matters as seem to me pertinent to the occasion.