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Niobrara the next day, October 10th. By dividing my rations both commands could reach Camp Sheridan. At our request Red Cloud with 25 of his chief men came in to meet us at Camp Sheridan. They came very promptly and seemed very anxious to remain at peace. Informed by Major Thornburgh of the place and date he lost trail of the Cheyennes Red Cloud stated that the Cheyennes could be, by that time north of the Black Hills. Red Cloud promised to give up the Cheyennes if any came into his camp. The Indian Agent informed me that Red Cloud's people were very uneasy in regard to the arrival of so many troops in that vicinity and had watched us night and day since leaving the Niobrara. They (the Indians) reported the coming of eight companies of Cavalry (7th Cavalry) and that two of the eight companies were very small ones. This feeling among the Sioux and the scarcity of supplies at Camp Sheridan for so many troops, decided Thornburgh and myself to move to Camp Robinson pending instructions from you. We understood, by your repeating to us the Lieutenant General's instructions to you, that the matter was left to our discretion. We arrived at Camp Robinson October 15, Total distance marched by the main column since leaving this post 265 miles, each company marched much further and faster than the main column, for each company was at times detached for night or day marches.

The main column averaged, during the first four days of the trip, 40 miles each 24 hours. From 20 miles east of Snake Creek Rancho until we reached the Niobrara the march was through heavy Sand-hills. The Sand hills that border the streams and such few water holes as we found do not in any respect differ from the Sand hills away from water, so that until water is actually seen there is nothing in the nature of the country to indicate its presence. Therefore I cannot blame the guides for getting lost or being unable to find water, I am not fully convinced that the main body of the Cheyennes crossed my trail to the rear, or west of me. In sifting the evidence in regard to the reported crossing between this post and Camp Sheridan on the 6th instant, the only thing definite seems to be that 8 or 10 Indians were seen driving a small herd of ponies. The herd was scattered out, but before reaching the road, the Indians collected them in a small column drove them across