

Gen Marcy was unduly excited, with regard to Indians, during his stay here. It was a matter of common remark. I dislike to state this, and if the imaginary position assumed by Gen. Marcy that I with the force I have, have neglected to keep the road open (a mere assumption like the buildings, a conclusion "in the add captadum") did not compel me, in the respect, which I have to my own position I would not state it. The 300 Indians which he alludes to in his report, when the facts become known dwindle down to Sixty who merely made a demonstration on his train, but did not "attack" it, attempted to carry off an officer who was riding some distance in front, and failed to do it, though wounded him badly, fired a few shots at a great distance and (as Gen. Marcy said to me) accidentally struck a man through the lungs, inflicting a mortal wound. I told Gen. Marcy that there were three "war parties" out, but only on above this Post. I ascertain while with the Commission at Medicine Lodge Creek, that the party which hovered near his train was "Little Robe's band of Sixty men. This body magnified in the report to "300 Indians" was all and on this basis the report would convey the impression that this country was swarming with Indians.

The same body of Indians seen at different times might justify the assertion though a mistaken one and I have no doubt that Gen. Marcy's error was owing to this fact. A few mounted Indians showing themselves from time to time, from behind ridges and hovering on the flanks of a train (especially if there are no flankers out would appear as a great number.

The country was however not swarming with Indians and not "infested" in the sense in which Gen. Marcy uses that term. I was notified by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs of these war parties and the direction they had taken but too late for me to intercept them as the information went first to Fort Larned and did not reach me until the Indians had crossed the river going north. All the five bands of Dog Soldiers had returned to Medicine Lodge Creek to trade (?) with the commissioners, only amounted to (I counted them) 450 warriors, there were but three small bands out when Gen. Marcy passed, and he only saw one of