

to October 1891.

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Otis sent a firm reply by a scout and proceeded with the train surrounded by the Indians, who, for a considerably time, kept up firing but gradually fell to the rear. When General Miles learned the situation from Colonel Otis he started after SB and over took him near the head of Cedar Creek, a northern affluent of the Yellowstone. SB sent a flag of truce to General Miles desiring to communicate, and Gen. Miles met him with Chief Gall and several others between the lines. SB shrewdly wished for an "old-fashioned peace" for the winter (when warfare is most difficult), with permission to hunt and trade for ammunition, on which conditions he agreed not to molest the troops. But General Miles's object was permanent peace and the security of the territory then and before dominated by the Sioux, and he told SB plainly that peace could come only by absolute submission. When the interview closed the troops were moved with the intention of intercepting the Indians should they try to move northward, and on the 21st of October another similar interview between the lines occurred.

The Indians undoubtedly intended to emulate the act of bad faith by which General Camby lost his life at the hands of the Modocs, April 11, 1873. Several of their younger warriors, with affected carelessness, gradually moved forward in position to surround the party under the flag of truce. General Miles, observing this, moved back a step or two and told SB very forcibly that those men were too young for the council, and that the "talk" would end just there unless they re-

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turned to their lines. One of them had slipped a carbine up under his buffalo robe, Another muttered to SB, "Why don't you talk strong?" and he replied, "When I say that, I am going to shoot him." Meantime the troops were held in readiness to attack, had any act of bad faith been attempted; even the accidental discharge of a firearm would have precipitated an attack in which all between the lines would have fallen. It became evident, at last, that only force could settle the question, and General Miles said to SB, "I will either drive you out of this country or you will me. I will take no advantage of you under flag of truce and give you fifteen minutes to get back to your lines; then, if my terms are not accepted, I will open fire." With an angry grunt the old Medicine Man turned and ran back to his lines; the whole country was alive with Indians, not less than a thousand warriors swarmed all about the command, which in a slender line extended to protect front and flanks and rear, pushed vigorously forward and drove the Indians from the deep valleys at the source of Cedar Creek, compelling them to leave some of their dead on the battle field which they never willingly do, and then pursued them so hotly for forty-two miles to the Yellowstone that they abandoned food, lodge poles, camp equipage and ponies.

On October 27, more than four hundred lodges, about two thousand Indians surrendered to General Miles, and five chiefs were taken as hostages for the execution by the Indians of their terms of surrender, i.e. to go to their various agencies, SB and his family immediate following, his family and connections by marriage, broke away from the main body during the pursuit and escaped northward, where he was later joined by Gall and other chiefs with some followers.

The estimated number of warriors in this engagement was one thousand. To General Miles and to the 5th Infantry, three hundred and ninety-eight