

48

with instructions to search for and bring in a party of hostiles reported to be hidden in that direction. The detachment returned to camp same evening, having traveled about 16 miles, and bringing 18 hostiles, among them 4 bucks, nearly all of them badly frozen and frost-bitten, and all of them in the most destitute condition.

The prisoners taken in the engagement of the 2d instant, 305 in number, together with 162 ponies, were sent under guard (Company F, Seventh Cavalry, commanded by Capt. J. T. Bell to Fort Buford. They left this post on the 6th, reaching the latter place on the 10th. Rations and transportation were furnished them by me.

The hostiles whom Lieutenant Woodruff had brought in, together with 6 other warriors whom I had meanwhile arrested, were forwarded to Fort Buford under charge of Capt. T. B. Dewees, Second Cavalry, on the 11th instant, he having arrived at this post on the 8th instant with his company and in charge of supply train.

Owing to the very implicit instructions imposed upon me relating to non-interference on my part with Sitting Bull's camp, on Milk River, and about 50 miles distant from here, my command has remained in camp since then, with the following exceptions:

On the morning of the 17th instant I was informed by courier from Scout Allison who had meanwhile proceeded to the vicinity of Sitting Bull's camp, that the latter with 43 lodges had escaped across the lines, taking his leave on Milk River, on the 11th instant, also that the balance of his followers, 51 lodges, under the leadership of Crow King, were making their way to Wolf Point en route to Fort Buford, for the purpose of surrendering to the commanding officer of that post.

Accompanied by First Lieutenant Woodruff and two enlisted men of the Fifth Infantry, I started on the 18th instant for Wolf Point, arriving there same evening. Here I ascertained that Allison with his Indians was still 25 miles distant and above, unable to move beyond a few miles daily by reason of