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THE SULLY EXPEDITIONS

by

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It is my purpose to recall briefly some of the military operations in northwestern Iowa and South Dakota in pioneer days, and give some of the reasons for and the things that lead up to the Sully Expeditions of 1863 - 4.

I came to Sioux City first on the 28th day of July, 1856. At that time the treaty for the Dakotas had been made with the Indians, but the proclamation opening it for settlement had not been issued, and that country was still in possession of the Indians. Large bands of the Yankton Sioux were camping at Sioux Point across the Big Sioux River west from the Brughier homestead, which is located to the left of the trestle work as you go to Riverside on the street cars. At that time it was not uncommon to see fifty or more of these Indians on the streets and around the residence part of the city, where the more prosperous came to trade with the merchants their beaver, otter, mink and muskrat furs and the pelts of elk, antelope, fox, wolves and like animals, and where the women came to sell their handiwork, such as beaded moccasins, purses and cushions, and tomahawks and pipe made from the pipe stone of the pipestone quarries near the town of Pipe Stone, Minnesota, and where the indolent came to beg for something to eat. The lady of the house, upon entering frequently found an Indian standing in her best room, unheralde and usually dressed in his native garb, with his blanket drawn over his left shoulder and drawn closely around his body and under his right arm, leaving the latter free, who by the work-