

the distance whom we supposed were Indians, and it is evident that they supposed we were Indians. When we started to advance they started to retreat. After going about two miles they came to a place where the water from the side hills had washed out quite a deep ditch. In their haste to scale this ditch one of the horses missed his footing, fell in, and was unable to extricate himself. The rider, a young lad of fifteen or sixteen, had secreted himself under the bank. When we arrived so that he could see that we were not Indians he made his appearance and we learned that the horsemen sighted were a small party of cavalry company organized at Des Moines and sent out to scout in that country, then camping near the head of the Sioux River. The third day the ambulance corps returned and we started on the trail they had made for Spirit Lake, where we found our comrade convalescent, but he was not well enough to go home for six weeks after that, and then there were no regular or public means of transportation. The citizens throughout the territory where the troops were supposed to bring protection were always ready and cheerfully willing to lend assistance without expectation of any compensation, so they agreed voluntarily to take this wounded comrade home when he was sufficiently recovered to go, and did so by relays from Spirit Lake, to Patterson, to Cherokee, to Melbourne, his home.

For the purpose of replenishing our larder the command remained at Spirit Lake a few days. The men spent their time fishing. At the end of this period they started for Sioux City by the way of Patterson, Cherokee and Melbourne. At Cherokee a heavy wind and cold rain added much to our discomfort. Two