

as they supposed, a strategic position some two hundred miles north of Ft. Pierre, where the ground was exceedingly rough and broken, and assembled and waited for the approach of their fellow troops. When they were located and the command was within hailing distance, Gen. Sully sent a flag of truce asking for conference and hoping to be able to persuade the Indians to return to their respective reservations, lay down their arms, and keep peace. Several of their chiefs met him in conference, but he was unable to persuade them to discontinue hostilities, and they returned to the camp determined to resist any operation of force. There were said to be six thousand or more warriors prepared to make a strong resistance from their well-chosen and almost impenetrable position, by cavalry. Gen. Sully's force amounted to twenty-five hundred or three thousand men. Although outnumbered two to one, by reason of their several pieces of light artillery and their long range and very powerful guns, a little fighting demonstrated they were more than a match for them.

The battle was commenced, and placing our gunners on a high and strategical position and sweeping the enemies' position with their cannister, and firing many volleys from their long range guns in the direction of the Indians' location. Little resistance was made by the Indians and they at once commenced to retreat. The condition of the country they had chosen for their battle ground made an attempt to pursue them difficult and dangerous. The chance of flanking them and meeting them when they emerged near the timber was equally impractical and, in fact, almost impossible. So they escaped, taking with them most of their belongings, but it was said that many were killed, - how many I do not know. The Indians' inevitable custom is to take