

He was informed of the terms of the government, told how he could have peace and that he must bring in his tribe to near the camp of the troops. The interview closed unsatisfactorily and Colonel Miles' column, numbering three hundred and ninety-eight rifles, moved and camped on Cedar Cree, so as to intercept, more easily, the movement of the Indians which was northward, Sitting Bull being told to come again next day.

Whilst the command was moving north between the Indian camp and the Big Dry River, the Indians again appeared and desired to talk. Another council followed between the lines, October 21st, Sitting and a number of principal men being present. Sitting Bull wanted peace, if he could have it upon his own terms. He was told the conditions of the government, which were that he should either camp his people at some point on the Yellowstone River, near to the troops, or go into some agency and place his people under subjection to the government. He said he would come in to trade for ammunition, but wanted no rations or annuities and desired to live free, as an Indian. He gave no assurance of good faith and, as the council broke up, he was told that a non-acceptance of the terms of the government would be considered an act of hostility. The Indians took positions instantly for a fight and an engagement followed, the Indians being driven from every part of the field, through their camp ground, down Bad Route Creek and pursued forty-two miles by infantry to the south side of the Yellowstone. In their retreat they abandoned tons of dried meat, quantities of lodge poles, camp equipage, ponies and broken down cavalry horses. Five dead warriors were left on the field, besides those they were seen to carry away. Their force was estimated at upwards of one thousand warriors.

On October 27th, over four hundred lodges of Indians, numbering about two thousand men, women and children, surrendered to Colonel Miles; five chiefs giving themselves up as hostages for the delivery of men, women, children, ponies, arms and ammunition at the agencies; Sitting Bull himself