

effected without attracting their attention." When General Harney moved upon the village, the Indians commenced a retreat up the valley, precisely in the direction that Cook's cavalry was coming toward them. The Indians halted short of the cavalry, and General Harney held a parley with the chief, in which he (Harney) stated the causes of dissatisfaction, and "that the Indians had massacred our troops under the most aggravated circumstances, and now the day of retribution had come; that he did not wish to harm him (Little Thunder) personally, as he professed to be a friend of the whites, but that he must deliver up the young men whom he acknowledged he could not control, or they / ¹⁵⁹ must suffer the consequences of their past misconduct, and take the chances of battle. Not being able, of course, however willing, to deliver up all the butchers of our people, Little Thunder returned to his band. I, immediately after his disappearance from my view, ordered the troops to advance. The skirmishers opened their fire around the bluffs, on the right bank of the stream, in a very spirited manner, and gallantly driving the savages into the snare laid for them by the cavalry, which last troops burst upon them so suddenly and so unexpectedly as to cause them to cross instead of ascending the valley of the Blue Water, and seek an escape by the only avenue now open to them....The result of the affair was, eighty-six killed, five wounded, and seventy women and children captured, and fifty mules and ponies taken. The provisions and camp equipage were all destroyed. The troops were eager from the first for a fray with the butchers of their comrades." General Harney omitted in his report, above quoted, to state that he killed a number of women and children, which he did do. Except this omission, we have his own unvarnished story of how he treated an innocent band of Sioux Indians, who were in nowise involved in the sad affair with Lieutenant Grattan's command. General Harney wore the uniform of a brigadier-general in the United States army, and such was his rank, and yet in this report he admits that he set a trap for these hapless people, who were not a war party, but a band of peaceful Indians, men, women, and children, residing at Ash Hollow, on the Blue