

being able to come into Red Cloud agency while the weather was so cold. Gen. Crook did not leave Fort Fetterman again until the 29th of May, when he started out with his force augmented until it exceeded in numbers the army of Gen. Terry. The latter was then in the Yellowstone valley. Gen. Crook moved slowly, awaiting some Indian scouts that did not join him until the 14th of June. On the 17th of June his scouts reported Indians in the vicinity. In due time the Indians and the troops were engaged in what is known as the "Battle of the Rosebud." These were Sitting Bull's Indians, and so skillfully were they handled on the field, that Gen. Crook found it necessary to retire. He claimed that his troops <sup>310</sup> repulsed the attack, and drove the Indians several miles, but, his Indian allies refusing to go further, it remained for him to follow the retreating Sioux without rations, and dragging his wounded with him on rough mule litters, or return to his train where they could be cared for, and he determined on the latter course, and marched back to his camp on Goose creek. This failure gave Gen. Crook much uneasiness. His casualties were nine men killed and twenty wounded. It was said, that in the fall of 1875, when he was contemplating, and, in fact, initiating, work, looking to a winter campaign against the Sioux, he expressed the opinion that with five hundred troops he could whip the Sioux nation. In the annual report of Gen. Sheridan, he claimed a victory for Gen. Crook, but was compelled to admit that it was barren of results. He said that it was evident that Gen. Crook had not only the band of Crazy Horse to contend against, but that the "hostile" force had been augmented by young warriors from the agencies on the Missouri, and spotted Tail, and Red Cloud; and that the agents had not only