

concealed the fact of the departure of these warriors, but in most cases, they had continued to issue rations as though the Indians were present. He also said that he had feared such a movement from the agencies, and as early as May, had asked that power should be given to the military to have supervision over the agencies, to keep in all who were then there, and all out who were then out and "hostile." There is no doubt that some young men did leave the agencies at the time ammunition was denied them, and joined Sitting Bull; but most of those with him, not of his own band proper, were from those who, being out on the hunt, when the order for dismounting and disarming the Indians absent was promulgated, and hence not permitted to return without submitting to the loss of their arms and ponies, did not return to the agencies. The charges made against the agents by Gen. Sheridan are not sustained by any known facts, and as to the temper of the agency Indians, he had himself assured Gen. Sherman as late as May 29, 1876, that nearly every Indian, man, woman, and child, among them was at heart a friend. This he stated only three weeks before the affair on the Rosebud.

We next have the battle of the Little Big Horn, which took place on the 25th of June, between a portion of the forces of Gen. Terry, under Gen. Custer, and the Indians under Sitting Bull. The result of this sad affair is known to the whole country. The press has designated it a massacre. The attack was made by Gen. Custer, and not by Sitting Bull. It was in broad daylight. Gen. Custer, in pursuance of orders which met with his own approbation, having invaded the home of the Indian chief. The story is a sad