

one, and that no quarter was given is regarded as savage barbarity. Are we sure that Gen. Custer would have given quarter had the tide of battle turned in his favor? Let the fate of Black Yettle's band, on the Washita, November 27, 1868, answer. After the sad affair on the Little Big Horn, Gen. Terry withdrew his command to the mouth of the Big Horn, there to refit and await reinforcements, which were at once sent forward to join him. Troops were also sent forward to strengthen Gen. Crook, who, on the 5th of August moved down Tongue river, in search of "hostile" Indians. He lost the trail, and moved his forces south toward the Black Hills. While on the way, Capt. Mills, of the Third Cavalry, on the 8th of September, discovered an Indian village near Slim Buttes, of about thirty lodges, and laid by that night, and the next morning surprised the village, killing some Indians, taking some prisoners, and capturing a number of ponies. This village was located on the Sioux reservation, and inhabited by agency Indians, who had not been in the conflict. From its stores of dried meat, Gen. Crook procured sufficient to supply his troops with food, and thus he was enabled to reach Custer City, in the Black Hills, where supplies forwarded from Camp Robinson met him. He also detailed Col. Merritt, with a column of troops, to scout down the Cheyenne river, and thence to Red Cloud agency, himself and suite preceding them. The errand of Col. Merritt to the agency was to dismount and disarm the Indians there; but, before his arrival, Gen. McKenzie, from Camp Robinson, had anticipated him, and seized the arms and ponies of Red Cloud's band.

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Gen. Terry broke up his command, sending Col. Gibbon back to Montana, and going himself, with the Seventh Cavalry, to Fort