

offense was his refusal to go to the reservation of his tribe, the Uncapapas, at Standing Rock; he wanted to live wild. He was not a chief in that tribe, but was the leader of a small band of about sixty lodges, who held with him the same feelings of bitter opposition towards being civilized. He was in the outskirts of the fight with Custer, but not conspicuous, and shortly afterwards struck out, with his small band, for British Columbia, being subsequently followed, from necessity, by other bands of Sioux. I have seen in newspapers long accounts and narratives purporting to be descriptions of the Custer battle, as related by Sitting Bull, which had, in my opinion, but little truth in them, and historians are cautioned against receiving them as correct. The Northern Cheyennes and the Ogallala Sioux, the former under two or three of their principal chiefs, and the latter under Crazy Horse, as their leaders, did the fighting at the battle of the Little Horn when Custer fell.

With the exception of the incursions of Indians and half-breeds belonging to British Columbia, and their passing through the cattle herds of Montana to kill buffalo south of the Missouri River, the condition of Indian affairs in the Department of Dakota has been favorable during the past year. The eastern frontier settlements are rapidly passing westward, and a year or two will carry them forward until they meet the frontier of Montana, which is advancing in this direction. The Northern Pacific Railroad will be at Fort Keogh in November, and will open up fine grazing and agricultural lands lying on the Yellowstone and between it and the Big Horn Mountains, from

*Sheridan*