

orderly. Capt. Weir was about two hundred yards in my rear. I waited until he came up, then handed him the note. I asked him no questions, and he did not volunteer advice.

Well, by this time I had acquired a tolerably fair 'lay of the land.' If I went back for the packs, I feared much valuable time would be lost. If I halted where I was, waiting for the packs to come up, the conditions weren't being at all bettered, and p. 17 this sight of the 'lay of the land' was sufficiently convincing to me that no Indians could hope to get between my battalion and the pack-train.

So, on I kept the battalion moving, now quickening the pace to a trot, willing to assume an added responsibility as regarding safety of the packs. A couple of miles or so brought me to where Major Reno's battalion crossed the Little Big Horn. That was my first sight of it. There I saw an engagement going on, and supposed it was the whole regiment. There were twelve or thirteen men in skirmish line that appeared to have been beaten back. The line was then parallel with the river, and the Indians were charging through those men. I thought the whole command was thrashed, and that was not a good place to cross. To my right I noticed three or four Indians, four or five hundred yards from me. I thought they were hostile, but on riding toward them I found they were Crows. They exclaimed, 'Heaps of Sioux!' and said there was a big 'pooh-poohing' going on. Just then I saw the advance of Reno's battalion appear on the bluffs, on the side of the river I was then on. I formed my battalion in line, and moved up the bluffs. Then Reno, hatless, came riding down to meet me.

I inquired where Custer was, showing him the order I had gotten. Reno read the order, replying that about an hour ago Custer had sent him across the river with orders to charge a body of Indians in the valley, promising that he would support Reno with the whole outfit; that since that time, he (Reno) had seen nothing of Custer, and knew nothing of his whereabouts, but had heard some firing down the river, and supposed he was in that direction.

Now it had become imperative that I should speedily connect with the pack-train, and Reno dispatched Lieut. Hare, Seventh Cavalry, to go to the train and hasten it along.