

In line with the above paragraphs, attention is called to Godfrey's words concerning Reno's scout which began June 10, 1876, from the camp on Powder River, from which point Gen. Terry had proceeded with an escort to the Yellowstone. Previous to his departure, it was given out that the regiment would be sent up the Powder on a scout; but as it turned out, Terry, for good reasons, ordered that the right wing, under Reno, should be detached for the duty. Custer was intensely displeased that he had not been sent, and as a consequence, there appeared in the July 11, 1876, issue of the New York Herald a bitter attack upon Reno and his scout, in which the writer ridiculed that officer's movements, claimed that he completely disobeyed Terry's orders, suggested cowardice and a court-martial. The caption at the head of this long article was, "A Voice From the Tomb," "an officer who died with Custer."

Now this "voice" was none other than that of Custer himself: he had previously sent two other papers to the Herald, both in much the same vein, and they had been published in earlier issues during the march from Fort Lincoln. As a matter of fact, Reno gained very little information that was not already in possession of Terry, for Gibbon's scouts had already reported the essentials to the last named, and he to Terry.

Reno had with him one of the best if not the very best guides in that part of the country, "Mitch" Bouyer, an Indian with white blood, attached to Gibbon's column, but sent with Reno. The latter was directed to proceed up the Powder to the mouth of the Little Powder, thence westward to the headwaters of Mizpah Creek which he was to descend to its mouth and cross, proceeding westward to Pumpkin Creek and onward to the Tongue which he was to descend to its mouth, where he might expect to meet the rest of the regiment. The great trail he was seeking lay many miles south of the mouth of the Little Powder, and as a consequence he did not strike it until he was crossing to the Tongue on his return. He followed it westward to the Rosebud, and up that stream for a long distance, and in fact, all the information of value that he obtained was gained by this march up the Rosebud.