

and additions to Godfrey's original account, some of them rather far-fetched. As an instance of the care used to "explain" certain ~~extra~~ matters, on page 20 of the pamphlet, under the heading "BENTEEN'S ROUTE," after noting that officer's orders from Custer, Godfrey says; "There is no doubt that Custer was possessed with the idea that the Indians would not 'stand' for a daylight attack, and that some of them would try to escape up the valley of the Little Big Horn...and if so, he wanted them intercepted and driven back toward the village. This idea, and another, that the village might be strung along the valley for several miles, were probably the ones that influenced him to send Benteen's battalion to the left."

Was it?

Has there been a word of testimony to that effect?

p. 9 Did not Custer repeatedly declare his disbelief that the Indians were where they really were? Benteen said: "I considered it a rather senseless order." What Custer thought beyond what he communicated to others can never be known, of course, but his overweening conceit, which refused to accept what the eyesight of both Crow and Ree scouts on the Crow's Nest so plainly saw, must be the only explanation for the course he followed. He KNEW Indians were somewhere ahead, but he seemed to think that they might be anywhere except where they really were.

Up to this point, Godfrey's original story, as related in the Century, agrees ~~with~~ in general with the testimony of the other officers, except where heretofore noted. We now take up a sub-heading in the pamphlet, page 21, "Reno's Fight in the Valley," and soon will see that many of his statements are diametrically opposite to those who took part in that affair, and that prejudice, unfairness and misstatement are all too evident. Near the burning tepee, so often mentioned by officers and writers, Reno received an order from Custer, "Move forward at as rapid a gait as he thought prudent, and charge the village afterward, and the whole outfit would support him." It seems that near this place there had been an encampment of Indians, a small party on their way to join the main body, and that at the approach of the troops they had hastily pulled down their tepees and the women, children and old men were hurrying ahead while the warriors were lingering behind as a rear guard.