

P Godfrey says: "These Indians did not act as if surprised by the appearance of troops, but simply kept far enough in advance to invite pursuit." This was a misinterpretation on Godfrey's part perhaps; they did not hurry for two reasons: one was the proximity of ten or twelve thousand of their fellows; the other, as already stated. It would seem that Custer had at last waked up to the fact that there were really Indians ahead, and there were indications they were in force, but again his conceit is exhibited. With him are Bouyer and four Crow scouts who knew every acre of the land along the Little Big Horn. Did he consult them? There is no evidence to that effect; he was self-sufficient, all-sufficient. Bouyer had been angered by his taunt, "If you are afraid--" and it is not likely that he offered any advice. We shall see how Custer "supported" Reno.

#### RENO STARTS THE ATTACK

Quoting Godfrey: "Reno's battalion moved at a trot to the river,... (Reno) now sent word to Custer that he had everything in front of him, and that the enemy was strong....~~Reno~~ Reno moved forward in column of fours about half a mile, then formed the battalion in line of battle across the valley, with the scouts on the left. After advancing about a mile further he deployed the battalion as skirmishers." As a matter of fact, the distance from the ford where Reno crossed, to his skirmish line, was nearly three miles instead of one-and-a-half miles. After leaving the ford and out of the deep loop formed by the river at that point, the battalion advanced at a gallop, with the Indian scouts on the extreme left. There were just thirteen of them on that battle-line, not forty, as Godfrey's account would infer, and not twenty-eight or twenty-two, as others have said. A long and careful study of all authorities shows that on that day thirty-three Indian scouts were with the regiment, of whom twenty-one were Rees, four Dakotas, two Pikunis (the Jackson boys) and six Crows, all except the last six, classes by most of the writers as "Rees." Of this number, four Crows were with Custer, one Ree had been detailed with the packs, another, (Stabbed) was scouting a side trail in the rear, and several had fallen behind by their ponies being worn out, and in this connection, all the Indian scouts had traveled many more miles than the soldiers, and had had much less sleep. There were several who did not cross the Little Big Horn with Reno at all, and

p. 10