

Noted

#130

MS 113

When news of the Custer catastrophe was received at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, General Miles and the Fifth Infantry were ordered to go immediately to the scene of the hostilities, and on an autumn day when Lieutenant Otis and his men were escorting a train of supplies from Glendive, Montana, to the cantonment they were attacked by such a fierce body of Indians that the soldiers had hard work to keep their horses from being stampeded and the train from being captured. They finally beat back the Indians, and while there was a momentary cessation of hostilities a messenger rode out from the Indian ranks waving a paper, which he pointedly dropped on a hill in sight. It was picked up and handed to Colonel Otis, who read it.

Yellowstone.

I want to know what you are doing traveling on this road. You scare all the buffalo away. I want to hunt in this place. I want you to turn back from here. If you don't, I will fight you again. I want you to leave what you have got here and turn back from here.

I am your friend,

Sitting Bull.

I mean all the rations you have got, and some powder. Wish you would write as soon as you can.

Having read this remarkable document, doubtless written by some half-breed at Sitting Bull's dictation, the colonel sent a scout to Sitting Bull to say that he intended to take his wagon-train through to headquarters in spite of all the Indians alive, and if Sitting Bull wished a fight he would be glad to accommodate him. The train started again, and the Indians promptly resumed their attack, but the combat soon ended in a truce, as the Indians said they were tired and hungry and wanted to treat for peace.