It was natural for Harrington in his race with Death to do exactly as he did.

Having just been graduated from West Point, he knew comparatively nothing about Indian warfare. It never occurred to him that an American horse can outdistance an Indian pony on level ground. Neither did it occur to him that an Indian pony can outdistance an American horse on broken ground.

Crow Dog, who captured Harrington's horse, said that after the race, it began to decline and died before winter set in. Although the Indian pony grew fat and strong, it was unable to run like it formerly did.