

weather, the mercurial thermometer failing to register the intensity of the cold, that after the destruction of the village the column returned to Fort Fetterman and the troops were distributed to their various winter stations for shelter.

About the same time that General Crook was preparing to move, as described, General Terry projected an expedition against Sitting Bull's band, but before the Seventh Cavalry could be fully concentrated at Fort A. Lincoln for the purpose, the season became so inclement that it was thought advisable to postpone the expedition until later, the snow being so deep and the number of men badly frozen so great.

The impracticability of operating from the Missouri River against the Sioux, during the winter and spring, owing to the wild storms of Dakota, was fully proven and rendered more than ever apparent the necessity for the large military posts at the mouth of the Tongue River and on the Big Horn, already repeatedly recommended in anticipation of hostilities with the Sioux.

April 28, near Grace Creek, Nebraska, a mounted detachment of nine men of Company A, Twenty-third Infantry, commanded by Lieut. C. H. Heyl, had a fight with a band of Indians, killing one Indian and wounding several others. The sergeant of the detachment was killed upon charging the Indians strongly posted on a hill.

No change having been made in the orders already described, early in the spring Generals Terry and Crook prepared to resume the operations discontinued previously on account of the severity of the weather. At Fort Fetterman, Wyo., General Crook concentrated Troops A, B, D, E, and I, Second Cavalry, Troops A, B, C, D, E, F, H, I, L, and M, Third Cavalry, Companies D and F, Fourth Infantry, and Companies C, G, and H, Ninth Infantry.