

dying request that they would lay him beside the body of the medicine man who had given the signal for the fight. His request was granted. He raised himself a moment to glance in the face of the dead prophet with a look of hatred, and then seizing his knife with what strength remained to him, plunged it two or three times in the dead body before he could be seized and prevented. When an explanation was asked, he told of the false promises which had been made and the lying prophecy about the "ghost shirt" and the "medicine." He believed now in the utter folly of it, and ere he died wished in his brutal way a brute's revenge.

Meanwhile, the news of the fight spread in all directions. Settlers fled to the forts and near towns. Friendly Indians flocked nearer to the agencies, while unfriendly ones fled to the hills.

Under cover of night, it is estimated that more than 2,500 young warriors who had camped at the agency, fled away toward the Bad Lands.

When the smoke of battle cleared away, when the terrible war-song of the Hotchkiss guns became silent, the anger of the soldiers, so natural at the treachery which had been practiced on them, gave place to sorrow and pity. Over the field of battle, searching the ravines and places of concealment, but always on the watch for that vindictive spirit that prompts a savage to spend his dying strength in killing a foe, the soldiers sought for the wounded, the non-combatants and for prisoners. So as time cleared away the uncertainty and secrecy of the movements of Big Foot's band, there came to light facts which had led many to feel that while its destruction was frightful, shocking the entire country, it was, perhaps, providential. The confessions of prisoners and the boasting of dying Indians has led even General Miles to the conviction that a deep-laid plot existed wherein the Indians of Big Foot's band were to go through the form of surrender and be taken to the agency. There, on an agreed signal, a night attack was to be made by all the warriors at the agency whose secrecy could be relied on. It was hoped and expected by them that by