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Bismarck, did not reach / me until the 20th, when a dispatch came, as follows:

Headquarters Department, of Dakota
Fort Snelling, Minn., Oct. 20, 1880.

Mr. E. H. Allison, Bismarck, Dak.

Sir:- You will proceed with all possible speed, back to Fort Buford, where you will find specific instructions awaiting you. Relays of horses have been placed on the road.

A. H. TERRY,
Brig. Gen. Com'dg.

The distance from Bismarck to Fort Buford was two hundred and forty-five miles, which I made in a little less than thirty-five hours³⁰, changing horses eleven times. Reaching Buford, I found Maj. Brotherton restored to cheerfulness by the successful termination of his efforts to have me continue the work which gave so much promise of finally putting an end to a long and disastrous Indian war.

Before setting out on a second visit to the hostiles, and, in-as-much as I was now acting under authority that could not³¹ be disputed, I deemed it prudent, absolutely necessary in fact/to demand certain conditions to be observed., and strictly enforced by the Military Authorities in that Department. First, that I should be left free to act on all occasions, as my own judgment should dictate. Second, that I should receive full and unqualified support in any measure that, in my judgment, became necessary. Thirdly, that no movement of troops in the field should be made without my knowledge and approval. Receiving assurance that these conditions would be observed, I made careful and deliberate preparations for my second visit to the hostiles. I had a wagon loaded with provisions, consisting of hard bread, sugar, coffee, bacon, and tobacco. I selected four of the best mules in the Quartermaster's stables, to draw the wagon. Private Day, Co. E, 7th Infantry, volunteered as teamster, dressed in citizen's clothes. Many of the old timers at the Fort tried to dissuade him from going with me, declaring that he would never come back alive; that it was³² only the act of a madman to take