

friend to Buford. Who will be the next to speak?" He then advanced, and shaking hands with me, sat down by my side, great drops of sweat rolling off his face. Though a leading warrior, and always foremost in battle, he was never before known to make a public speech, and I had ⁷⁰ his assurance that I was the first white man with whom he had ever shaken hands. He afterwards proved of invaluable service, but has since died at Standing Rock Agency, Dakota, where he was known, through the misinterpretation of his name, as the Crow King. Two others immediately volunteered, and the next morning, leaving the camp, where they were, for the first time in five years, in the midst of buffalo, I started with them for Buford, where we arrived on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1880.

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CHAPTER VIII.

Demoralization of The Gall's band at Poplar Creek; The garrison re-enforced; Indudicious steps taken by Major Ilges; Attack upon Chief Gall's camp; Disastrous results averted by the prompt action of Chief Gall and Patriarch Crow.

On our way we had stopped at Poplar Creek, where I had an interview with Chief Gall, who informed me that many of his followers were becoming demoralized through the machinations of some of the so-called friendly Chiefs at the Agency, who wanted them not to go to Fort Buford to surrender, but to be enrolled as members of their bands at that Agency; dwelling upon the fact, as an inducement, that the Poplar Creek Agency was much nearer the buffalo range than the Agencies below in Dakota. He further informed me, that unless measures ⁷² were taken to restrict the Agency Chiefs, when the time / came to