

When Red Cloud, The Man Afraid of His Horses and other principal chiefs of the bands occupying the Powder River country, learned that it was the determination of the government to establish military posts in their country, whether the Indians consented or not, they at once withdrew from the council, and, with their followers, returned to their country and commenced a vigorous war upon all who came into it or traveled the proposed route to Montana. A small portion only of the Indians who were represented at the Laramie treaty remained true and peaceful. Some Oglalas under Big Mouth remained in the vicinity of Laramie and about 1,200 Brules and Oglalas under the chiefs Spotted Tail and Swift Bear went to the headwaters of the Republican River south of the Platte, This they did at the request of Colonel Maynadier, who represented to them that by so doing they could be held harmless from any suspicion of being connected with the hostiles. It is estimated that the Indians occupying the country north of Laramie from the 1st day of July, 1866, to the 21st of December, 1866, killed ninety-one enlisted men and five officers of the army, killed fifty-eight citizens and wounded twenty more, besides capturing and driving away large numbers of horses, mules and cattle.

256

/

CHAPTER XXXIII

Carrington Moves Out to Protect Montana Trail - Red Cloud Camps on His Trail - Unable to Remove Fort Reno - Phil Kearney Built - Red Cloud Constantly Harasses the Soldiers - Daily Skirmishes - Attacks Upon the Wood Trains - Fetterman's Charge and Annihilation - Awful Peril of Fort Phil Kearney - Fetterman Disobeyed Orders.

In furtherance of the plan of the government to perfect and protect the Montana road, General Carrington was instructed to proceed from Fort Laramie northwest to Fort Reno on the Powder River, to dismantle that post and move it forty miles further west, re-erect and garrison it, and with the remainder of his force to go on to a point between Powder River and the Big Horn Mountains, and there establish a new post which would command the valley of the Powder River. He was also to erect two other posts, one on the Big Horn and one at the crossing