

of the Yellowstone. No one in either the civil or the military arm had any conception of the magnitude of the undertaking. To do this he was given about 700 men of the Twenty-seventh regular infantry, only 200 of whom were veteran soldiers, the remainder being raw recruits. General Carrington was officially designated as commander of the mountain district. He had four pieces of artillery, 226 wagons and a few ambulances. His men were armed with old-fashioned Springfield muzzle-loading muskets, except a few who had the new Spencer breach-loading carbine. A portion of the command was mounted from discarded horses of the cavalry regiment, which was met at Fort Laramie. Pains had been taken in recruiting to obtain a complete outfit of artificers of every description, and they were equipped with tools and appliances needed for the construction of the forts, as well as all of the portable equipment therefor, such as stoves, windows, etc. They also had an outfit of haymaking tools and two steam sawmills. Many of the officers were accompanied by their wives and children, who at the outset seemed to regard it rather as a pleasure jaunt than otherwise. The expedition set out from Fort Laramie on the 14th of June, 1866. It was not planned or prepared for war, but was supposed to be a peaceable enterprise. It was about 180 miles up to Fort Reno and it was not until the 28th of June that the column reached that post. When they first started out from Laramie the Oglalas and Cheyennes protested against their entering their country, but no attention was paid to this. At Reno for the first time Carrington found his progress interrupted and his column menaced with hostilities. A courageous attempt was made by the Indians to stampede the live stock. Carrington was promptly made aware of the fact that it would be impracticable to abandon Fort Reno or try to remove it. It was a tumble down and temporary little place, but he put it in good repair, stockaded it and left 175 men for a garrison. With the balance of his force he left Fort Reno on the 9th of July and marched on, following the Montana trail to the junction of the Little and Big Piney Creeks, branches of the Powder, and selected, after a careful survey of all that region, a location about twenty miles southeast of the present city of