

"Where you don't see no Injuns there they're sartin to be the thickest." For a long period the Indians did not attempt anything like an open attack, but contented themselves with such predatory attacks as have been related. These of course rendered the construction of the buildings slow and unsatisfactory. The wood trains were subject to almost daily attack, and it was found necessary to erect a block house at the wood camp. Of course, these attacks were repelled with force, but it was almost useless to go out against them, for with the appearance of the soldiers the Indians dropped out of sight as if by magic, and day after day the detachments returned without having fired a gun. General Carrington himself pursued one band nearly to Tongue River in the hope of recovering some beef cattle they had succeeded in running off, but finding that the Indians were about to flank him he beat a hasty retreat, arriving at the fort in safety. "On the afternoon of December 6th the lookout on Sullivant hill signaled that the wood train had been attacked, and Captain Fetterman, the senior captain in the fort, was detailed with forty mounted men, including fifteen mounted cavalry under Lieutenants Bingham and Grummond, with Sergeant Dowers, a veteran of the civil war, to relieve the wood train and drive the Indians toward the Peno valley; while Carrington himself with about a score of mounted infantry would sweep around the north side of Lodge Trail hill and intercept them. The Indians gave way under Fetterman's advance, hoping to lure the troops into an ambush, but at a favorable spot they made a stand. The fighting there was so fierce that the cavalry, who by a singular circumstance were without their officers, gave way and retreated headlong along the valley toward the ridge. The mounted infantry stood its ground and under Fetterman's intrepid leadership was making a brave fight against overwhelming odds, the number of Indians present being estimated at more than 300. It would have gone hard with Fetterman, however, had not Carrington and the first six men of his detachment suddenly swept around a small hill and taken the Indians in reverse. The general had advanced under fire and meeting the fugitive cavalry had ordered them to fall in the rear of his detachment. The rear detachment and Fetterman soon joined Carrington, and through the combined parties the Indians were compelled