

and appeals both by letter and telegram for reinforcements and supplies, and especially for modern and serviceable weapons, had met with but little or not consideration. The officials in the east hugged their treaty and refused to believe that a state of war existed; they appeared to believe that if it did exist that it was the fault of the commanding officer for provoking it. In several instances presents given in the treaty at Laramie were found on the persons of visiting Indians and one captured Indian's pony was heavily loaded with original packages of those presents. Carrington had done nothing to provoke war, he had simply carried out General Sherman's written instructions, sent him as late as August, 'To avoid a general war until the army could be reorganized and increased,' while he defended himself and his command stoutly when attacked. * * * But some of his officers, covertly sneering at the caution of the commander, were burning for an opportunity to distinguish themselves, and had practically determined to make or take one at the first chance. Fetterman and Brown, unfortunately, were chief among these malcontents."

Manifestly no one had yet come to comprehend the stern determination which actuated Red Cloud and his allies in this stand which they were making for the protection and preservation of everything that men hold dear and sacred. From their point of view the very existence of the Indians depended upon the success of their campaign. To permit the road to be traveled and a military post to be maintained meant the total destruction of the buffalo herds, and with the buffalo would go the last hope of the Indians for subsistence. It does not appear that either the Indians or whites had yet arrived at the conception of a time when the government should actually supply rations for their subsistence. Up to this time the Oglalas' highest idea of government assistance was a few blankets and trinkets of an approximate value of \$10,000 or \$15,000 annually for a tribe 5,000 or 6,000 people, a quantity that in no wise supplied or much affected the supply of their/real necessities. Each individual secured through his annuities less than he could secure from the trader for a single buffalo robe. To the Indian the situation was a desperate one, demanding the exercise of all the genius and power of the allied