

the same stream. About 11 o'clock a. m., / Custer motioned to Reno to come over to him, and Reno crossed the creek and Custer told him that the village was only two miles ahead and was running away. "To move forward at as rapid a rate as he thought prudent and to charge afterward, and that the whole outfit would support him." No further communication was had with Custer, but it is manifest that his plan of support was to proceed down the east side of the creek and create a diversion by striking the lower end of the village. Benteen was at this time moving off to the left on his scout, and Custer, having discovered the location of the village, sent a messenger to him to return quickly to join his command. After Reno's last consultation with Custer he moved forward rapidly and crossed the creek about two miles from that point, where he halted for about ten minutes to get his forces in order. It was now nearly 1 o'clock p. m. He was still several miles south of the camp, but there was a large party of warriors directly before him. Reno charged, driving the Indians with great ease down the valley for about two and a half miles, when he discovered that he was being drawn into a trap. He could no longer see Custer or any signs of support; the very earth seemed to grow Indians, who instead of retreating further were running toward him in vast swarms. Seeing that he must defend himself and give up the attack, he dismounted and took a position at the point of a patch of timber which furnished, near its edge, a shelter for the horses, and fought them on foot. He made some progress through the woods, but as he approached the village learned that he was fighting against tremendous odds, at least five to one. The Indians were flanking him and his only hope for escape from total destruction was in flight. There were only a few Indians on the side toward the river, and remounting his men, he dashed across the creek and gained the bluffs on the east side. He lost three officers and twenty-nine enlisted men killed and seven wounded in this attack. This end of the village was in the first instance under the direction of Inkpaduta, but seeing that the main attack was being made in that direction Gall had been sent from the / Uncpapas from the lower village to assist in repulsing the attack at the upper end, and arrived on

S. 10. ell. 1/12