

the Tongue, Powder, Big Horn and Rosebud country, looking for the hostiles, but everywhere the Indians skillfully slipped away and avoided an engagement. General Sheridan says: "It seems to be impossible to force Indians to fight at a disadvantage in their own country. Their sagacity and skill surpasses that of the white race.* * *It is difficult for me to follow them (Terry and Crook and Miles) in this precarious pursuit of a dissolving enemy." On the 5th of September General Crook reported from Heart River that the trail of the enemy had so scattered that it could not be pursued further. He therefore started for the Black Hills, making Custer City his objective point. On the 9th of September, at Slim Buttes, he struck American Horse and in the engagement the old chief was killed, and the next day Crazy Horse fell upon Crook and harassed him upon the march clear into the Black Hills, but there was no decisive engagement. Call and Sitting Bull, with a very small detachment of the hostiles, had crossed the Yellowstone and proceeded north toward Canada. It is probable that they did not have more than 100 or 150 warriors with them. On the 26th and 28th of October Terry successfully took the arms and ponies away from the Indians at Standing Rock and Cheyenne agencies, and on the 23rd of that month Crook disarmed the Indians at Red Cloud and Spotted Tail. General Miles was sent on a scout north of the Yellowstone in the vicinity of Fort Peck, / ⁴³⁸ and on the 21st of October had a council with Sitting Bull in person. Sitting Bull said he wanted "an old fashioned peace with privileges of trade, especially in ammunition." On the next day he had another council with them, in which Sitting Bull and Call and several other prominent Indians took part, and while they professed a desire for peace, gave no assurances of good faith, and an engagement immediately followed. The Indians were driven from their camp and across the Yellowstone, a distance of forty-two miles, being rapidly pursued by the troops, and on the 27th five of the principal chiefs surrendered and were at once sent as hostages to Fort Snelling, as surety for the return of the entire camps, composed of about 2,000 souls, to the Cheyenne River agency. Sitting Bull and Call, with their personal followers, escaped and went into Canada, this closing the