

their ponies ~~as~~ best they could, started barefooted on the morning of the 4th to pursue their journey to this agency. After getting a few miles this side of Niobrara they stopped to rest, and built a fire to warm themselves and parch corn corn to eat. A portion of the women and children went to search for wild beans, leaving the men, three of the women and a child at the camp. Here the soldiers came upon them again, and when the Indians saw them approaching they ran off. The soldiers fired at them as they ran, wounding one woman by a ball through her thigh, and another, with a chilk on her back, by two balls through the child's thighs, one of which passed through the side of the mother. These persons were fired upon as they were crossing the Niobrara river on the ice and through the water. The woman with the child on her back was struck while in the act of getting from the water on the ice. The soldiers then took possession of the six ponies, and the articles at the camp and started back. The squaws and children, who had gone to search for wild beans, were about half a mile below. A little dog belonging to them barked and exposed their hidingplace in the willows to the soldiers, who immediately turned upon them. The unoffending and defenceless three women and a little girl huddled together. The soldiers dismounted and, making up to, deliberately shot them down with their revolvers, by balls through their heads and breasts. Being in the habit of calling things by their proper names, I call this murder. One of the boys, a youth, who was a short distance away, ran for the river, and was pursued by the soldiers. He got into the river through an opening in the ice, and as he raised his head, was several times fired at. After the soldiers left he succeeded in getting out and made his way to this agency. One of the women, the mother of this boy, had three balls enter her forehead and cheek, and her throat cut, and her head half severed by a sabre or knife. Another, the youngest woman of the party, had her cloth skirt taken off and carried away, and her other garments torn off, leaving her body lying naked. The wounded were brought up in the course of the day and all have recovered.