

Headquarters Powder River Expedition,

Cheyenne, W. T. January 8, 1877.

To the

Asst. Adjt. General.

Mil. Div. of the Missouri,

Chicago, Illinois.

Sir:

At the close of the Big Horn Expedition in October and while at Red Cloud Agency I became satisfied that many of the Indians from that Agency had been led to leave there by the reported appearances of large herds of buffalo on the Rosebud and Powder Rivers. When, therefore this expedition left Fort Fettermen, November 15th, 1876, I expected to move against the band located in that country under Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull. It transpired however that before this time the greater majority of buffalo had disappeared, if indeed they had been there in great numbers at all, from that locality so that Sitting Bull with several bands from the northern Agencies moved north down towards the Yellowstone.

Each of these warriors seemed to be alive to the necessity of splitting up into smaller bands and so far as practiceble getting rid of all the mouths to feed they could, surrendering such useless warriors and their families as they could while the leaders and worst cases remained out as a nucleus for next summers work. Of course this was not foreseen, but if it could have been and the surrender of all or none been made the ultimatum, I believe the surrender of all would be a certainty.

My spies, who came in when the command reached Cantonment Reno,