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Indians in reports of the Secretary of War and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I have yet to find an old, experienced Indian warrior who did not take it for granted as an obvious fact that the Indians were vastly superior to the whites as fighters. Chief White Bull said, "The soldiers stand still and march straight. It is easy to shoot them." One must not judge Indian warfare by the pictures put out by Hollywood. They were under no discipline and every individual fought as the spirit moved him, or with a group of friends or relatives charged like a herd of buffalo. The Indians were veterans since puberty, whereas many of the white troops were rookies and seldom had a chance for target practice. The officers were never briefed, and as General Sully put it, "knew nothing of Indians save what they had read in novels." This opinion was shared by practically all experienced officers who had fought Indians, as may be seen from their own published statements.

For example, Custer: "no race of men, not even the famous Cossacks, could display more wonderful feats of horsemanship". . . General Frederick W. Benteen: "Good shots, good riders, the best fighters the sun ever shone on". . . General Charles King: "foemen far more to be dreaded than any European cavalry". . . Major Walsh (of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police): "superior to the best English regiments". . . General Anson Mills: "the Indians proved then and there that they were the best cavalry on earth. . . their like will never be seen again. Our friendlies were worthless against them."

These officers all agreed with George Washington, after his experience under General Braddock: "Indians are the only match for Indians." The comments of George Bird Grinnell on Brady and Dodge sufficiently dispose of them as authorities.

As for the wagon box fight, I would refer you to my book entitled Wapath, The True Story of the Fighting Sioux Told in a Biography of Chief White Bull, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, chapter seven. Here you have the Sioux account of this fight. The trouble with most of the whites who wrote on this battle is that they had no conception of the aims, strategy, or tactics of the Indians. It was for this reason that I wrote the book Wapath, with its topical index intended to clear these matters up. Six dead Indians were found on the battle field after the fight. The Indians would have carried these away had it not been for the fire power of the whites, and the fact that most of these dead were near the corral. There were not more than 1000 Indians in the fight, since half the available warriors were many miles away at the hay field battle at Fort C. F. Smith about that time. Red Cloud also was not in this battle, any more than he was at the ~~Butterman~~ Butterman massacre. The object of the Indians at the wagon box was to lure the troops from the fort. It was only after Sgt. Gibson fired at the decoys that the main body of Indians joined the fight. At this fight, the Indians were the aggressors, and therefore had no reason to endure heavy losses. It was only where Indians were surrounded or trapped that their casualties ran to more than two or three percent. They knew nothing