

"Little Wolf said in reply, "Since I left you at Red Cloud we have been south and have suffered a great deal down there; many have died of diseases which we have no name for, our hearts looked and longed for this country where we were born; there are only a few of us left and we only wanted a little ground where we could live; we left our lodges standing and ran away in the night, the troops followed us, I rode out and told the troops we did not want to fight, we only wanted to go north, and if they would let us alone we would kill no one; the only reply we got was a volley; after that we had to fight our way, but we killed none who did not fire at us first. My brother, "Dull Knife" took one half of the band and surrendered near Camp Robinson; he thought you were still there and would look out for him; they gave up their guns and then the whites killed them all; I am out in the prairie and need my guns here; when I get to Keogh I will give you the guns and ponies, but I cannot give up the guns now. You are the only one who has offered to talk before fighting, and it looks as though the wind which has made our hearts flutter so long would now go down. I am very glad we did not fight and that none of my people or yours are killed; my young men are brave and would be glad to go with you to fight the Sioux."

One or two others followed with similar remarks, they were suspicious and the idea of giving up guns at once startled them, and in the fear of this to them immediate danger forgot the future and failed to ask me any questions about staying in the northern country. I therefore held them to the terms as long as I deemed judicious and then compromised on my wagons as the place of giving up guns, to which they agreed. I felt that from this time out they would camp where I told them and I could reverse our present position and though I had no fear whatever of any trouble,