REPORTS OF

MAJOR GENERAL W. S. HANCOCK

UPON

INDIAN AFFAIRS,

WITH

ACCOMPANYING EXHIBITS.
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REPLY TO THE REPORT OF COMMISSIONER BOGY, OF FEBRUARY 5, 1867, ENCLOSED UNDER THE FRANK OF THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

Major General W. S. Hancock, U. S. Army, to Brevet Major General W. A. Nichols, Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, March 6, 1867.

Brevet Brigadier General W. A. Nichols, Assistant Adjutant General, Military Division of the Missouri, Saint Louis, Mo.

GENERAL: I have the honor to state that, in the report of the Honorable Secretary of the Interior of the 5th ultimo, in reply to a resolution of the House of Representatives of January 27, 1867, relative to the massacre of United States troops near "Fort Philip Kearney," a copy of which has been sent to me under the frank of the Interior Department, I find among the papers accompanying the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, (Mr. Louis V. Bogey,) and which are classed under the head of "such information as he (the Honorable Secretary of the Interior) may have in his possession, in relation to the late massacre of United States troops at Fort Philip Kearney, and the causes which produced the same, and also as to the causes which, in his (the Honorable Secretary of the Interior's) judgment, have led to the present alarming condition of our relations with the Indian tribes of the interior," extracts of a letter from me, accompanied by the following remarks from Commissioner Bogey: "I also enclose you extracts from a letter from General Hancock to Agent Leavenworth, as an evidence of the animus actuating these military commanders, being document No. 10." (Appended, marked A.)

I transmit herewith a copy of the letter in question from me to Agent Leavenworth, (marked B,) from which Mr. Bogey furnishes extracts, which are so appended together in his document as to make it appear, on reading them, that my letter was quoted entire, and no one unacquainted with the facts could well tell whether the extracts were in a body or
not, or whether there was any thing in the parts omitted which would disclose the object I had in writing such a letter to Agent Leavenworth. As these extracts now stand in the report of Commissioner Bogey, they certainly appear to have been written for the especial purpose of telling the agent only what is contained in them. Yet such was not the case.

My letter to Agent Leavenworth, of January 17, 1867, was written in reply to a communication from him, dated January 12, 1867, (copy enclosed, marked C,) in which he requested me to send troops to a certain point where he then was, as he feared the temper of the Indians, and thought that the force there was not sufficiently strong to control them.

It will be observed that, in my letter I informed him that I could not comply with his request for certain reasons. To further show the motives by which I was actuated at that time in reference to the Indian department, I furnish hereewith (marked D) a copy of a letter from me, dated December 17, 1866, to Colonel Wynkoop, Indian agent, on the subject of the murder of a New Mexican by a Cheyenne, near Fort Zara, about November 10, 1866. That letter explains that my object in communicating with the Indian agents was to have certain Indian murderers, within the limits of this command, arrested and punished; but I preferred to have such action taken by the Indian department, with the assistance of the troops, as I stated in my letter to Colonel Wynkoop, and I only proposed to take steps to that end myself, when I discovered that the Indian department did not accomplish the matter. A case in point was as follows:

A Cheyenne, who was friendly to the whites, had a dispute with a member of his tribe, who was unfriendly to us. The latter said, in substance: "You are a great friend of the whites; I will go and kill a white man, and will see what you say to that." He went out in search of a white man, found a New Mexican, (who comes under the head of "white man" in Indian parlance,) and killed him.

A few days after the murder was committed, a council was held with the Cheyennes by the Indian commissioner or agent, at which Colonel Wynkoop was present. I was informed by several respectable persons who were present, that at the council in question, the Cheyennes were informed that the murderer was one of that tribe, and a demand was made for his arrest, but not in such a decided manner as to make them see the necessity of giving him into our hands for trial and punishment; nor were their presents or annui-
ties withheld, until the murderer should be delivered, but, on the contrary, their presents and annuities were delivered as usual.

Arms were also furnished to the Cheyennes at the same time, probably not in great numbers; but the fact of supplying them with arms to some extent, at that time, cannot be disputed.

Upon receiving the above information, I addressed the letter of December 17 to Colonel Wynkoop, asking him what he intended to do concerning the murder of the New Mexican, telling him at the same time what action I proposed to take in the matter, in case the Indian department failed to arrest the offender. In such case, my intention was to arrest him, and deliver him to the civil authorities, or, if the Cheyennes refused to surrender him, to take hostages from that tribe, and to punish them if they determined to give the murderer refuge; but I only intended to take such action in case of the failure of the Indian department to act in the matter, and it seems very singular, indeed, that such steps on the part of a military commander should disclose the animus which accounts for the present threatening attitude of the Indians in this department towards the Government.

If the Indian department can give no better reasons than these for the present unsettled and unfriendly feeling among the Indians, it is believed that it is not possessed of the most accurate or reliable information on this subject.

The Indians tell us that their agents are not faithful in the discharge of their duties towards them. I know not whether this statement be true or not; but I do know that the Indians are now threatening and dangerous, and that they have committed a number of murders and outrages on the "Arkansas" and "Smoky Hill" during the past year.

At my instance, Colonel Wynkoop made demands upon the Cheyennes for redress, who denied the facts alleged, save the Zara murder, which they could not dispute, for there were witnesses to that murder.

Colonel Wynkoop informed me that, with the exception of the "Zara murder," he believed the Cheyennes were unjustly charged with these offences, (see copy of his letter to me of December 26, 1866, enclosed, marked E,) and the result has been, that in no cases of murders, robberies or other outrages by Indians, within the limits of this department, have energetic steps been taken by the Indian department to arrest or punish the offenders.

In this connection, as further evidence on this subject, I
may state that, at the present time, it is understood that the Kiowas are exhibiting the scalps of seventeen (17) negroes, (soldiers,) and one (1) white man, which they boast of having taken in Texas. Certain chiefs of that tribe, some of whom are known, murdered Mr. Box last summer, in Montague county, Texas, and captured his wife and daughters, whom they treated in the most barbarous and inhuman manner. Nothing has been done by the Indian department to redress these outrages, nor am I aware of any request having been made by that department to the military authorities to arrest or punish the criminals.

I had therefore decided, that, as the Indians who committed the outrages, I have mentioned, are within the limits of this department, I would proceed to arrest for punishment the guilty ones, as soon as I obtained reliable evidence against them. In this respect, I shall now await instructions, since this controversy in reference to the prerogatives of the Indian department has grown up; but it seems difficult to understand how depredations and outrages by the Indians, and the consequent obstruction of our main lines of travel across the plains, are to be prevented, unless those who are guilty of murders and depredations on those routes can be promptly arrested and punished.

Since I am on the subject, I may be permitted to criticise, somewhat, certain statements and opinions of Commissioner Bogy, as expressed in his report.

He says as follows, on page (4) four: "How anybody, military or civil, could possibly object to the order given by special agents Irwin and Bogy to the trader Butterfield, is indeed surprising. The law authorizes traders to deal in arms and ammunition with tribes at peace, and this is all that these special agents say. Their order is correct according to law and reason, and the military should not be allowed to interfere."

If Commissioner Bogy considers that the Cheyennes and Kiowas can be safely supplied with arms and ammunition, I have only to reply that there is evidence now on file against these tribes, for robberies, murders, and other brutal outrages against our citizens, which have not been redressed.

As before stated, the principal chiefs of the Kiowas were engaged in the murder of Mr. James Box and the outrageous abuse of the women of his family. A Cheyenne is guilty of the murder of the New Mexican, at Zara, about November 10, 1866, and that tribe is also charged with the murder at "Chalk Bluffs," September 29, 1866, and with other out-
rages on the Smoky Hill, during last summer and fall. The trader, Mr. Butterfield, has, I presume, traded arms and ammunition to these tribes. If they are peaceful and unoffending, there are no Indians within the limits of this command who are offenders, or from whom arms should be withheld. I am but recently officially informed, that these tribes are now threatening the posts on the Arkansas, and, as before stated, the Kiowas have returned there from Texas, with the scalps of a number of men, whom they boast of having killed.

As no military order was issued in this department prior to January 26, 1867, (which had not reached the Indians at the date of Mr. Bogy's letter,) suppressing the sale of arms and ammunition on the Arkansas, I do not suppose that it will be asserted, that the action of the military authorities, in this respect, had any thing to do with the Indian acts of hostility in this department, although Commissioner Bogy charges that a similar order, by General Cooke, was the cause of all the "present difficulties" within the limits of his command.

All that I have yet had to say to the Indians has been through their agents. Up to this time, no hostilities have been commenced against them for the many outrages they have committed, and yet they are unfriendly, and threaten to begin war upon us in the spring.

On page (4) four of his report Mr. Bogy says as follows:

"Permit me to call particular attention to these reports. The reading of them will satisfy any one of the cause of our present difficulties. All can be traced to the order of General Cooke, of the 31st of July, forbidding the traders from dealing in arms and ammunition; and if we have any trouble with the Cheyennes or Arrapaho's, now, or very recently, quite, all newspaper reports to the contrary notwithstanding, it can be traced to the action of Major Douglass, sustained by his superior officer."

I am at a loss to know who the "superior officer" alluded to in the above passage may be—possibly Lieutenant General Sherman, or myself. Nor can I understand the meaning of Commissioner Bogy in his allusion to Major Douglass, for that officer had taken no action whatever concerning the tribes mentioned. All the demands thus far made upon the Cheyennes, for certain murderers belonging to that tribe, have been through their agent, and not through Major Douglass; and although those demands were not complied with, no instructions have yet been given to Major Douglass, or any other officer, from these headquarters, to take any steps
towards arresting the murderers; nor had Major Douglass, to that date, in any manner, to my knowledge, taken any action which would embroil us with the Cheyennes or Arapahoes.

He has made certain official statements, as to what he has seen, and what he believes in reference to Indian matters, and that is all that he has done.

He is an officer of the United States Army, and is responsible for the accuracy of his statements.

It seems difficult to understand that hostilities would arise from the official reports he has made.

The fact is, that there are other and graver reasons existing for our present troubles with the Indians, than those given by Commissioner Boggy. One of the most important appears to be, that the extension of our great lines of travel across the plains is driving the buffalo away, and thus interfering with the hunting-grounds of the Indians, and with their only means of support. The Government makes no sufficient arrangement to subsist them, when the game has disappeared, and they are obliged to roam over the country after the buffalo, to support themselves. The extension of railroads and other thoroughfares, the military authorities cannot prevent, nor can the Indian department control such circumstances. The only feasible plan, in view of these facts, would seem to be, to remove the Indians entirely from the main lines of travel across the plains, to place them on reservations, (as suggested by Commissioner Boggy on pages 4 and 14, and long before recommended by other military commanders as well as by myself,) and, if necessary, feed them. They should then be required to remain on their reservations, and not be permitted to roam at large; and to this end (as the Indian department has not the force necessary to control them) they should be placed under the charge of the military authorities.

Indians have no regard for Indian agents, save so far as they may be useful to them. They only fear and respect force.

The troops stationed in this department are now employed on the plains, for the purpose of guarding the overland routes, and in preventing, as far as they can, acts of hostility by the Indians.

It would simplify my movements very much indeed, if I am instructed to wait for the Indian department to inform me, when I am to punish outrages committed by Indians in this command, and if such is to be the case, I should like to know it as soon as possible, for I am at present preparing an
expedition to the plains, principally for the purpose of making a display of troops, which would encourage and confirm friendly tribes in their submission to the Government, and deter the refractory and guilty, who are known to be among them, from continuing their murders and depredations; and if the views of the Indian department (as expressed by Commissioner Bogy) are to govern in this matter, I had better not go, for outrages and hostilities might occur in my presence, which it would be due to my position to notice.

There appears, also, to be so much misapprehension existing as to the relative prerogatives of the military authorities and the Indian department in reference to Indian affairs, that it would be well to have an authoritative decision on the subject, clearly defining their respective jurisdictions.

If it is supposed by Mr. Bogy, that the military commanders have any desire to open hostilities with the Indians, save in so far as they are compelled to do so, to prevent outrages or depredations occurring within the limits of their commands, I believe he is greatly mistaken. Our officers and troops, who have so recently engaged in a long and bloody war, have no inclination to commence fresh campaigns unless duty requires it. Nor, I presume, do officers of high rank, who have held large and important commands, wish to enter into wars against the Indians, when their forces would consist of but a few regiments, at most, and where so little distinction could be gained, unless it becomes absolutely necessary to do so for the purpose of maintaining peace and protecting the citizens within their commands. At this time it is particularly undesirable to enter into such operations, when it is well known, that a body so large and influential as the Indian department stands ready to cry, "Another Chivington massacre," should any of the Indian murderers and depredators be punished by the military commanders; or to say (if no hostilities occurred) that such expeditions were a useless and extravagant waste of money.

Commissioner Bogy states that "no Indians will buy two guns," and seems to think that this is a sufficient reason why the sale of arms to them should not be restricted. If he means by that statement, that no Indian will carry two long guns, (muskets or rifles,) I can understand him; but from the following extract of a report made January 13, 1867, by Major H. Douglass, 3d United States infantry, commanding the post of Fort Dodge, Kansas, it would seem that Indians will purchase more than one fire-arm at all events, and that some of them are in possession of as many as three revolvers.
Major Douglass says as follows on this subject:

"The issue and sale of arms and ammunition, such as breech-loading carbines and revolvers, powder and lead, (loose and in cartridges,) and percussion-caps, continue without intermission. The issue of revolvers and ammunition is made by Indian agents, as being authorized by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the sale of them, in the greatest abundance, is made by traders. Butterfield, an Indian trader, formerly of the Overland Express, has the largest investment in Indian goods of all the traders. He has sold several cases of arms to the Cheyennes and Arapahoes. Charley Ruth, a trader who lives at Zara, has armed several bands of Kiowas, with revolvers, and has completely overstocked them with powder. Between the authorized issue of agents and the sales of the traders, the Indians were never better armed than at the present time. Several hundred Indians have visited this post, all of whom have revolvers in their possession; a large majority had two revolvers, and many of them three. The Indians openly boast, that they have plenty of arms and ammunition, in case of trouble in the spring.

"The Interior Department does not seem to appreciate the danger of thus arming these Indians. The evils of presenting a revolver to each of the chiefs of bands would hardly be appreciable; but when the whole rank and file are thus armed, it not only gives them greater courage to murder and plunder, but renders them formidable enemies."

It would appear from these figures, that the views of Commissioner Bogy, in reference to Indians purchasing but one gun, do not carry much weight with them. Revolvers and carbines are dangerous in the hands of enemies, as well as muskets and rifles.

Mr. Bogy, on page 5 of his report, says that "the newspaper reports daily seen are generally false. One of these, connecting the name of Mr. Comstock, who is known to be one of the meanest and most worthless fellows on the frontier, although reported to be an interpreter, scout, and guide, all of which is false; he is neither one of these things, but a gambler and thief."

I can agree with Commissioner Bogy, in his statement as to the unreliability of newspaper reports generally; but as Mr. Comstock is employed by the Government as an interpreter and guide at Fort Wallace, in this department, I wish to say, that Commissione rBogy is incorrect when he asserts
that Comstock is not engaged in such capacity. He may be a "gambler and thief." I know nothing concerning his private character; but I do know that his recent report concerning the presence of large bodies of Indians on the "South Fork" of the Republican, and on the "Smoky Hill," have proved to be correct, and are corroborated by other witnesses. He is trusted by the commander of his post and by Brevet Major General Smith, commanding the district of the Upper Arkansas.

In conclusion, I request that, inasmuch as the report of Commissioner Bogy in relation to these matters has been published for general circulation, this letter may be forwarded to the War Department, and that, on a suitable occasion it may be given the same publicity as that accorded to the document of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, which is calculated to do much injustice to myself, as well as other officers in the military service.

I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WINF'D S. HANCOCK,
Major General U. S. A., Commanding.

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A.

Extract from a Letter to Colonel J. H. Leavenworth, United States Indian Agent, from Winfield S. Hancock, Major General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, Jan'y 17, 1867.

It is not unlikely that a demand will be made, before long, upon the Cheyennes to redress some grievances. When that time arrives, you will be notified of the fact.

They will be allowed some time to consider and talk over the matter. If you have any fear of the result leading to hostilities, you had better place yourself at Fort Larned or Fort Dodge, as you may think best.

If you can get any evidence concerning the reported murder of the Kaw by Bents' band of Cheyennes, please furnish the same to me, as I am collecting all the evidence I can in relation to the outrages committed by that tribe.

Your remark, that Indians should not be allowed to visit
military posts, save on business, is perfectly correct as a rule, and I will call attention to that matter.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) WINF'D S. HANCOCK,
Major General Commanding.

A true copy.

(Signed,) W. S. MITCHELL,
Captain and Aide-de-Camp.

Official copy.

JAMES W. DIXON,
2d Lt. and A. Ass't Adjutant General.

B.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, Jan'y 17, 1867.

Col. J. H. LEAVENWORTH, Indian Agent:

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th of January, enclosing copies of treaties with the Cherokees, and with the Cheyennes, Arrapahoes, and Apaches. I do not see any thing in the latter treaty which defines their reservation. If you have any information on this point, I should be pleased to have it, or to be informed where it can be had.

I should also be gratified if you would, at your leisure, send me the number of the Indians in each of your tribes, giving the names of the prominent chiefs, and stating the locality of the headquarters (winter and summer) of those tribes.

In reference to your application for a company of troops at Fort Zara, I can only state, that it has been in contemplation, at some time, to establish a post there, but it cannot be done at present. It is proposed to concentrate a considerable body of troops, at an early date, and it is considered that sending a company to Zara would interfere with that object.

It is not unlikely that a demand will be made, before long upon the Cheyennes, to redress some grievances. When that time arrives, you will be notified of the fact. They will be allowed some time to consider and talk over the matter. If you have any fear of the result leading to hostilities, you had better place yourself at Fort Larned or Fort Dodge, as you may think best.
If you can get any evidence concerning the reported murder of the Kaw by Bent's band of Cheyennes, please furnish the same to me, as I am collecting all the evidence I can, in relation to the outrages committed by that tribe.

Your remark, that Indians should not be allowed to visit military posts, save on business, is perfectly correct as a rule, and I will call attention to that matter.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) WINF'D S. HANCOCK,
Major General Commanding.

A true copy.

(Signed,) W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and Aide-de-Camp.

Official copy.

JAMES W. DIXON,
2d Lt. and A. Asst Adjutant General.

C.

AGENCY OF KIOWA AND CAMANCHE INDIANS
OF THE UPPER ARKANSAS,
FORT ZARA, KANSAS, Jan. 12, 1867.

Major General Hancock, Commanding Department of the Mis-
souri, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas:

GENERAL: Enclosed please receive two treaties, one with the Cherokee nation of Indians, and one with the Apaches, confederating them with the Arrapahoes and Cheyennes. They are but a small band of only about fifty lodges. General, I see, by the papers, that there has been a fearful massacre near "Fort Phil Kearney." I hoped, when the report first reached me, it was exaggerated, but it came too well authenticated not to believe it. I therefore have to request that you will return the picket-guard, now at this post, to Fort Larned, and send a full company of infantry from Fort Harker, to take its place. The round house and hospital building, both of stone, are ample to give them and officers large and comfortable quarters. With two teams wood can be procured with ease. It will give more strength to Larned, and show to the Indians that troops are near at hand. A few days since a party of about sixty-five Cheyennes, with whom were George and Charley Bent, constituting a war party,
came from Black Kittle's band and camped near here on the Walnut Creek. Charley Bent came, with some thirty of the party, to this agency, and stated they were going to hunt the Pawnees. A few days after they returned, reported they had a fight with the Pawnees, and had killed one. Since then reports say it was a party of Kaw Indians. They attacked near Fort Harker, and wounded a Kaw; stole forty-nine ponies. This I only give as a report. I am satisfied that the Cheyennes and other Indians have got the news of this "Fort Phil Kearney" matter, and it is from this conviction, I make the above request. The Cheyennes are very intimate with the Kiowas of my agency, and I am anxious to prevent any such outbreak as the one reported. I think still, as I stated to you in my letter when in Leavenworth, that Indians should not be allowed to visit military posts unless on business. They should not be allowed to know the strength at each. The active movements of troops leads them to exaggerate their number. I am expecting quite a number of Kiowas here, or at the Big Bend, soon, and should be glad to have the movements of the troops indicated above made, if possible, at an early day.

I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) J. H. LEAVENWORTH,

U. S. Indian Agent.

A true copy.

(Signed,) W. G. MITCHELL,

Captain and A. D. C.

Official copy.

JAMES W. DIXON,

2d Lt. and A. Asst Adjutant General.

D.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, Dec. 17, 1866.

Colonel E. W. WYNKOOP,

U. S. Indian Agent, Fort Larned, Kansas:

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of November 24, in reference to Indian matters, and also asking my approval of establishing your agency at Fort Larned, as well as an order to obtain what can be consistently granted by the military authorities, in the way of assisting you to fulfill your duties. I consider that Fort Larned
would be a suitable place for your headquarters, and will therefore approve your application. Please inform me in what manner you wish the approval, whether directed to the Secretary of the Interior, or simply an order from these headquarters, authorizing you to place your headquarters on the reserve at Fort Larned. You will have to give me a more detailed statement of the facilities you desire from the military authorities, for the purpose of assisting you in fulfilling your duties.

Some time since (I learned the facts too late to inform you on the subject before your interview with the Indians, in reference to charges of depredations, &c., made against them) a murder of a New Mexican was committed by a Cheyenne in the neighborhood of Zara. From the facts of the case, as reported, it was an unprovoked murder, requiring that the culprit should be delivered to the civil authorities for trial. I would respectfully request that you inform me, what action you have taken in the matter, and whether a demand has been made for said Indian. If you cannot obtain his person, I will take measures to do so, at a suitable period, and if he is not surrendered will make war upon that tribe. I am awaiting a detailed report on the subject, and will also await your reply, as I am anxious to ascertain the truth before proceeding to such extremities. I consider that the action in such cases should always, if possible, be through you, in reference to the tribes under your direction. I am also continuing the investigation of the depredations committed on the Smoky Hill route last summer, and the evidence strongly indicates that the Cheyennes are implicated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) W. S. HANCOCK,
Major General Commanding.

Official copy.

JAMES W. DIXON,
2d Lt. and A. Asst Adjutant General.

E.

FORT LARNED, KANSAS, December 26, 1866.

Major General W. S. HANCOCK, commanding Department of the Missouri, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 17, with reference to the location of
my agency, as well as the killing of the Mexican, at Fort Zara, by a Cheyenne Indian, and in reply I would respectfully state, that what I request is simply an order from your headquarters authorizing me to locate my agency at Fort Larned. With regard to the facilities that I desire from the military authorities, for the purpose of assisting me to fulfill my duties, I would solicit to be furnished, at any time that it was absolutely necessary, with transportation, if it could be spared; also with quarters and storage, which at present I do not require, but possibly may in the future.

In regard to the murder of the Mexican at Fort Zara, I did make a demand on the Indians to deliver up the person of the murderer, and reminded them of the terms of their treaty, which required them to deliver up to justice any Indian, guilty of committing any hostile act against the whites. The reply was, that the Indian who committed the murder had not made his appearance among the tribes since the performance of the same, and that they did not know where he was. I asked whether they would fulfill the requirements of their treaty in that respect, if it was in their power. Black Kettle and some others answered, that they would, while others complained that we had two of their children prisoners, which we had promised a very long time ago, and very often, to deliver up to them, and which we had not yet done, and they could not see why they should be obliged to fulfill all their portion of the treaty, while we neglected to fulfill our portion. They also stated, that they did not think it was right for the whole tribe to be held responsible for the act of an individual; that many bad acts had been done by individual white men towards Indians, and they did not hold us responsible for those acts, nor ask us to deliver up the perpetrators, as they knew very well that we would not deliver them up. I told them that I could not answer for the consequences if the guilty party was not turned over, and advised them, as their agent, to do so as soon as possible, telling them that it would be better for them in the future, if they made an example of this man, for if they did not, it would encourage others to commit like acts, until the result would be disastrous to their whole nation. As it now rests, there are some who would respond to our demand, while there are others that would not let them do it. I have understood since, that it is their intention to punish the man. They claim also that the act was committed while the culprit was drunk on white man's whiskey, and that in consequence there is some responsibility resting upon the whites.
Everything remains perfectly quiet and peaceable in the Indian country, and it has been a long time since I have known to exist such a feeling of security.

I have the honor to be, General, with much respect, your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

E. W. WYNKOOP,
U. S. Indian Agent.

Official copy.

JAMES W. DIXON,
2d Lieut. and A. Assistant Adjutant General.

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REPORT OF THE EXPEDITION TO THE PLAINS, COMMANDED BY MAJOR GENERAL WINFIELD S. HANCOCK, U. S. ARMY.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, MAY 14, 1867.

BREVET MAJOR GENERAL W. A. NICHOLS, ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS, MO.

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the troops composing the recent expedition to the plains, which I commanded in person:

It was the intention of the Lieutenant General, commanding the military division of the Missouri, and myself, to have commenced the movement not later than the 1st of March, but owing to impassable roads, high waters, and the consequent difficulty of placing supplies of subsistence and forage at points where they were required, it was found to be impracticable to get the troops in motion, before the 22d day of March, on which date battery B, 4th artillery, proceeded from this point to Fort Riley by rail, and was followed on the 24th by six (6) companies of the 37th infantry to the same point, where they joined four (4) companies of the 7th cavalry and one company of the 37th infantry. The whole force available for the expedition, about fourteen hundred (1,400) men, was then concentrated at Fort Riley, save two squadrons and one company of the 7th cavalry, one squadron of which joined when the expedition reached Fort Harker, (the company joined at Fort Larned,) and the other squadron at Fort Dodge. I arrived at Fort Riley on the 25th of March, and on the 26th issued an order directing BREVET MAJOR GENERAL A. J. SMITH, COLONEL 7TH CAVALRY, COMMANDING THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE MOVEMENTS WERE TO TAKE PLACE, TO GIVE THE NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MOVEMENTS OF THE
troops in the field. On the same day an order was issued directing the troops to march towards Fort Harker.

It may be well to state here, that the instructions concerning the objects of the expedition received by me from the Lieutenant General, commanding the military division of the Missouri, which were conveyed in his letter of March 14. (copy enclosed, marked A.) directed me, among other matters, to forego the demands which it had been my intention to make upon certain tribes (especially upon the Cheyennes) for murders and depredations which had been committed by members of that tribe upon the whites. These matters were to be left in the hands of the Indian agents, and I was instructed so to inform them. (I transmit herewith copies of letters, in which I gave Colonels Leavenworth and Wynkoop the required notification, marked B, C. and C1.) I was authorized to go among the Cheyennes, Arrapahoes, Kiowas, Apaches, and Camanches within the limits of this department, to make a display of force to them, to notify them that if they wished for war they could have it, and to explain to them fully that, hereafter, they must keep off the routes of travel—railroads and other roads—and that all depredations and molestation of travellers must cease forthwith. I was also empowered to arrest any offenders of the tribes above named, who should be designated by their agents as being guilty of offenses against the laws; and to explain to the Indians, and impress upon their minds, the fact that all threatening of our military posts by them, verbally, or by messages or otherwise, must cease at once, or war would ensue.

In pursuance with these instructions, I marched directly from Fort Riley to Fort Harker, arriving at that post on the first day of April, and remaining there until April 3, when the command moved to Fort Larned, on the stage route, by way of Fort Zara, reaching the former post on the 7th of April.

Colonel J. H. Leavenworth, United States Indian agent for the Camanches and Kiowas, joined me at Zara, and accompanied me. At Larned I met Colonel E. W. Wynkoop, United States agent for the Cheyennes, Arrapahoes, and Apaches of the plains, who informed me that he had sent runners to the chiefs of his agency, asking them to meet me at Larned on the 10th of April, requesting me at the same time to remain at that post until they came in. I acceded to this proposition the more readily, as I desired to rest the troops, and wished to have a thorough inspection made of Fort Larned before leaving that post.

On the day on which the command arrived at Fort Larned, four (4) Sioux came into our camp. One of them had a paper from Colonel Henry E. Maynadier, stating that they
were friendly Ogollalahs, and had permission to remain on Horse Creek, a tributary of the North Platte. I learned from them, that they were then encamped, with a portion of their people, on Pawnee Fork, about thirty (30) miles above Fort Larned. It was ascertained, also, that the Cheyennes were encamped at the same point, their villages being together. "Slim Paw," an old Cheyenne chief, now on the retired list, but still a man of importance in the tribe as a counsellor, visited my headquarters the same evening, for the purpose of seeing the Cheyenne boy, Wilson Graham, a prisoner saved from the "Sand Creek massacre," whom I had with me for the purpose of delivering to his relatives.

On the 9th of April, while the command was encamped near Fort Larned, a furious storm of snow, accompanied by a heavy gale from the northeast, occurred, and continued without intermission until about ten o'clock that night. Most fortunately we were in camp when the storm commenced, and no men were lost, which would almost surely have been the case had we been on the march on the open prairies, for at times the snow was so blinding that it was extremely difficult to move from one point to another in camp. Our animals were saved from perishing by issuing to them a double ration of corn. Not one was lost. The snow fell eight (8) inches deep by accurate measurement.

On account of the storm, the council, which was to have been held with the Cheyennes on the 10th of April, was deferred until the weather should become more favorable.

On the morning of the 11th I was informed by Colonel E. W. Wynkoop, United States Indian agent, that the Cheyennes and Sioux, who were encamped on Pawnee Fork, were about starting in to Larned, but were deterred by a herd of buffalo appearing near their camp, which they had stopped to hunt. Although I thought this circumstance suspicious, and not sufficiently important to warrant the Indians in not keeping their engagement with me more promptly, I concluded to wait another day before marching towards them. On the evening of the 12th of April, after my orders had been given to march the next morning, "Tall Bull" and "White Horse," two Cheyenne chiefs, accompanied by ten or twelve other Indians of less importance, arrived in camp from the villages on Pawnee Fork, and requested a conference with me. I assented, and, at a "talk" held at my headquarters the same evening, gave them my views quite freely in reference to the course intended to be pursued towards the Indians, and what they were expected to do, &c., in the
future, telling them, in the commencement of my remarks, that we were not there to make war, but that we were ready then to fight any Indians who wished for war. I also informed them that I had expected to have seen many more of their chiefs and people at Fort Larned, and that, as so small a number of them had come in, I would march to their villages the next day, when I could see them all. The Cheyenne boy, Wilson Graham, was shown to them, but was not recognized as belonging to any bands north of the Arkansas. They supposed him to be a member of Black Kettle's band, which was then in Texas. (I left the boy the next day at Larned, when I marched from that post, in charge of the commanding officer, with instructions to deliver him to his relatives when they came for him.)

Tall Bull replied to me very briefly, stating that he disclaimed all intention of hostilities towards the whites; that the roads were all free for travellers, &c., &c., and concluded by stating that he would have no more to say to me at his village than he had said then. (I append a copy of the talk in full, marked D.) The following morning (April 13) the command moved from Fort Larned by a road leading up Pawnee Fork, and encamped on that stream, twenty-one and one-third miles above that post. During the day we observed several small parties of Indians ahead of us, moving in the direction of their villages. They fired the grass for several miles below their encampment, with the view of delaying our march or of preventing us from camping near them. We threw a bridge, however, over the stream, and moved on, when, shortly afterwards, we came up with Pawnee Killer, a chief of the Sioux, accompanied by four or five warriors, Sioux and Cheyennes. Pawnee Killer informed me that his people were encamped, with the Cheyennes, only a few miles further on, and stated that they would remain in camp until we came up to have a "talk." White Horse (Cheyenne chief) and several others also joined us about this time, and it was arranged that they should remain in our camp during the night, and the next morning all of the chiefs from the villages were to come to my headquarters for a conference. I had received a report concerning Pawnee Killer from General Augur before leaving Fort Leavenworth, stating that he was friendly, and had gone down from Beaver Creek to attend a council with the Cheyennes, and would report the proceedings of the council to him (General Augur) when he returned.

I informed Pawnee Killer, through the interpreter, that I
had a good report of him from General Augur, and intimated to him, that I wished to have an interview with him, after the conference with the chiefs on the succeeding day. I relate these facts now concerning Pawnee Killer, as his treacherous conduct the next day and night surprised me more than that of the Cheyenne chiefs, in whom I had little confidence, especially since they had shown bad faith in their engagement to meet me at Fort Larned.

Early on the morning of the 14th of April Pawnee Killer left my camp, for the purpose, he said, of bringing in the Sioux and Cheyenne chiefs to the appointed conference. I had designated nine o'clock as the hour for the interview. At 9:30 a.m. Bull Bear (Cheyenne chief) came in, and reported that the chiefs were on their way to my camp. I informed him that as they could not come in at once, I would march up the stream nearer to their villages, and would see them after we had encamped for the night. I could not have spoken to them then, at all events, as it was blowing a heavy gale, which would have prevented us from hearing what might have been said. To this Bull Bear assented. We accordingly marched up the stream at eleven a.m., but had gone but a few miles when we perceived a large body of Indians, several hundred in number, approaching us in line. Our troops formed a hurried front, and when we were within a few hundred yards of each other I halted the troops, and directed the Indians to halt also. I then invited the chiefs to an interview, and rode forward to meet them between the lines, accompanied by General Smith, General Custer, a few other officers. Roman Nose, (bearing a white flag,) Bull Bear, White Horse, Gray Beard, and Medicine Wolf advanced on the part of the Cheyennes, and Pawnee Killer, Bad Wound, Tall Bear, The Bear-that-walks-under-the-ground, Left Hand, Little Bear, and Little Bull, on the part of the Sioux. When we met the chiefs I asked them if they came there to fight, stating that we were ready then to commence. They replied hastily, professing great friendship for us, and stating they did not desire war, and did not wish to fight. I then informed them that we would move on towards their village, and encamp near it, but would give directions that no soldiers should be permitted to approach their camp, or to molest them in any manner whatever. We then separated, having made an arrangement by which the chiefs were to come to my headquarters, for the purpose of holding a council, as soon as my camp was pitched.

The chiefs appeared to be exceedingly nervous during the
interview, and it was observed from our line that many of
their warriors, especially the dismounted ones, deserted their
front as soon as our troops came in sight, and moved off rap-
idly up the stream towards their encampment. The com-
mand followed in the direction the Indians had taken, and,
after a march of ten and a half (10½) miles from our camp of
yesterday, we approached their villages, which were found
to be situated in a beautiful grove, on the north branch of
Pawnee Fork. We encamped within one-half mile of their
villages, which we found to contain about three hundred
(309) lodges of Sioux and Cheyennes. I immediately ordered
guards to be placed surrounding our camp, and prohibited
all persons of my command from approaching the villages,
unless by special instructions. Some loose ponies, belong-
ing to the Indians, were grazing near us when we arrived
there; we collected them and sent them into their camp.
Soon after our tents were pitched, Roman Nose, Bull Bear,
Grey Beard, and Medicine Wolf (Cheyennes) came to my
headquarters from the villages, and informed me that upon
our approach their women and children had fled, being ter-
rified by the presence of the troops, and having the Chiving-
ton massacre still fresh in their minds. The Sioux (men and
women) had also made off. I stated to them that all who
had abandoned their villages must immediately return; that
no harm was intended to them; but that I would hold the
camp responsible, in case they ran away during the night,
and left it in my hands. The chiefs said that they could
bring their people back, if they had horses to pursue them;
but their own ponies were so poor and weak that they could
not overtake them. I then directed two (2) horses to be fur-
nished them, for that purpose, and arranged with the chiefs
present, before they left my camp, that Mr. Gunnir, a half-
breed Cheyenne, an interpreter in the Government service,
who was at my headquarters, should remain in the villages
during the night, with instructions to report every two hours
as to whether there were any movements among the Indians,
and especially whether any of them were leaving their camp.

With this understanding, the chiefs last named left my
camp, assuring me that it was their intention to bring those
of their people, who had fled, back to the villages, during the
night, and to meet me at a conference the following day.
The chiefs returned to their camp about seven o’clock p. m.,
Mr. Gunnir accompanying them.

At 9:30 p. m., Gunnir came back to my headquarters, and
reported that, when he left the villages, all of the chiefs and
warriors remaining there were saddling up to leave, and that they evidently did not intend to return, as they were packing up whatever articles they could carry with them, and many of them were cutting and otherwise destroying their lodges, which they were about to abandon.

Upon receipt of this intelligence, I immediately instructed General Smith to send General Custer, with a portion of the 7th cavalry, to surround the villages, and, if practicable, prevent their departure. The infantry and artillery were ordered to parade under arms, in case there should be any resistance on the part of the Indians.

This conduct on their part (Sioux and Cheyennes) convinced me that the reason why they abandoned their villages and property, and would not remain and meet us in council, was that they felt guilty on account of past offences, that they intended to make war, and that the Sioux had come down from the north to the Cheyenne village, to conspire with them, there, against the whites, and that, most probably, they were a portion of those Sioux who had been engaged in the recent troubles in the north, and were keeping south to avoid being called to account for their depredations and outrages north of the Platte. I therefore determined to pursue them and capture them if practicable, and, to effect that object, directed General Smith to prepare a force of cavalry, under General Custer, to take their trail at early dawn the succeeding morning. Accompanied by General Smith, I visited the village the next day, and found that when the Indians had deserted it, they had left one old man, (Sioux,) who was unable to travel, and a little girl, probably eight or nine years of age, said to be partly white, who was found in the Cheyenne camp. This child had been brutally outraged before the Indians left the villages, and was discovered by some of our officers in a pitiable condition of suffering and destitution. She was cared for at once by us, and was afterwards left at Fort Dodge, under charge of the commanding officer there, together with the Sioux before mentioned, and an old Sioux woman, who was subsequently discovered near the Indian camp.

At 5 o'clock a.m. of the 15th of April, General Custer started in pursuit of the Indians, with four (4) squadrons of the 7th United States cavalry. He found their trail a short distance from the villages, and followed it rapidly in the direction of Walnut Creek, where he was so close upon them, that he found their fires still burning, and some of their ponies loaded, and packed, and tied to trees, which they had been too hard pushed to carry off with them, with many other evidences of their hasty flight. Our cavalry followed them closely, their trail crossing Walnut Creek and leading along its left bank
towards its head-waters. Finding that he was gaining upon them rapidly, and learning from his Delaware scouts that they had seen small parties of Sioux or Cheyennes (evidently the rear guard) in advance of him, General Custer decided to leave his wagons, containing forage and ammunition, to follow, guarded by a squadron of cavalry, and pushed on with his remaining force, hoping to overtake them before nightfall. The Indians, finding themselves hotly pressed, broke into many small bands, and separated, taking different directions, our cavalry following the main trail, however, which led in the general direction of Walnut Creek, and continued on it until about 5 p. m., when the trail became so small as to be scarcely perceptible. Having then marched over thirty-five miles continuously, except while watering, the troops then halted and encamped on the headwaters of Walnut Creek until 4 a. m. on the morning of the 16th, when they again marched in pursuit, following the valley of a small stream which lay in the direction of some smokes which had been seen the previous evening by the Delaware scouts, and where it was supposed they might find the Indians encamped, or strike their trail. In this they were disappointed, however, and marched thirteen (13) miles without discovering any signs whatever of the Indians. General Custer had now passed the source of the stream, on which he had been moving, and was without water for his animals, and believed, from the information which he received from his guides, that the Smoky Hill was too distant, from where he was, to march without water. He then decided to retrace his steps for a distance of nine miles to Walnut Creek, with the intention of pushing on to the Smoky Hill, (where he conceived the Indians had gone,) after his animals had rested, hoping to intercept them before they crossed that stream.

It was unfortunate, that the information in the possession of General Custer, concerning the country in which he was operating, and his distance from the Smoky Hill, was not more accurate. As it was, he was misled by his guides, upon whom he was forced to depend, and induced to make a retrograde march of nine miles for water, losing many hours of valuable time thereby, when it was definitely ascertained afterwards, that, by keeping directly on, he would have reached the Smoky Hill, about fifteen miles from the point at which he turned back, probably as soon as the Indians whom he was following, and might have prevented, by his close pursuit, the destruction of Lookout Station, and the killing and burning of the men there. He was delayed at Walnut Creek until seven p. m. of the 16th, when he marched towards the Smoky Hill, striking that stream thirteen (13)
miles west of Donner's Station. He moved on to Donner's Station and encamped, learning, upon his arrival there, that Indians, believed to be Sioux and others, (Cheyennes,) had been crossing the Smoky Hill in bands since the morning of the 16th of April; that they had attacked and captured Lookout Station, (first mail station west of Fort Hays,) killing the three (3) men at the Station, and burning their bodies, burning the station-house and hay stored there, and carrying off with them eight horses and four mules. They also robbed the mail station immediately west of "Lookout." Great alarm and a general interruption of stage travel on the Smoky Hill had followed these outrages, which General Custer stated, in a dispatch dated April 17, (copy enclosed, marked E,) were certainly committed by the Indians who abandoned their villages on Pawnee Fork. He marched from Donner's Station at five a. m., on the 18th of April, towards Lookout Station, reaching the latter point at three p. m. of the same date, where he halted to obtain satisfactory evidence, if possible, in reference to the murder and burning of the three men there, and the destruction of the station-house. He found the remains of the men lying near the ruins of the station-house, partly consumed by fire and partly eaten by wolves, but failed to obtain any clue to the tribe which had committed the outrage.

General Custer then proceeded towards Fort Hays, and at Stormy Hollow Station was informed, that, on Monday, the 16th of April, about eight hundred Indians had crossed the road within five hundred yards of the Station, travelling north. This was evidently the main body from Pawnee Fork. They halted near Stormy Hollow Station for several hours, and endeavored to gain admittance, but were prevented from so doing, when they ran off some stock belonging to the mail company, and fired some shots into the station-house before they left. They were all stripped and painted for war; had their bows strung, and seemed desirous of fighting. They stated themselves to be Sioux, Pawnees, and Cheyennes, but were doubtless all Sioux and Cheyennes. Another band, about seventy-five in number, had stopped at the station east of Stormy Hollow, and endeavored to gain admittance there, but were warned off. Some of them had papers signed by officers at Fort Laramie last fall, (name not given,) stating that they were friendly Indians. They were no doubt Sioux who had been at the village with the Cheyennes, at Pawnee Fork. Some of the chiefs of this party informed the station-keepers, that they had just come from
the Arkansas, where they had concluded a treaty with General Hancock. General Custer learned of other parties of Indians crossing the road to the north, and saw two heavy trails, but did not deem it expedient to follow them, on account of having only sufficient forage with him to carry his command to Fort Hays. He was now convinced, that all of the Indians, or the great body of them from Pawnee Fork, had gone to the North Platte, unless they had halted on the fork of the Solomon, about forty-five miles north of Hays, or on Beaver Creek. He therefore determined to push on to Hays, replenish his forage, and taking only the serviceable portion of his command, make a forward movement from that point on the morning of the 20th, with forage and rations carried on the saddle, to the Solomon Fork, hoping there to effect a surprise of the Indians. This plan was, however, entirely frustrated, for, upon the arrival of General Custer at Fort Hays, he discovered that there was no forage there whatever for the expedition, and that the post supply was barely sufficient for the animals of his command for one day. This unfortunate circumstance rendered fruitless General Custer's whole pursuit of the Indians, and compelled him to abandon his purpose, when he had good reasons to suppose that he would have overtaken them within the next forty-eight hours. He had marched with great rapidity from Pawnee Fork, a distance of one hundred and fifty-four (154) miles in four days, and would doubtless have come up with the Indians on the Solomon Fork or Beaver Creek, had he been enabled to make the intended movement from Hays. As it was, he was compelled to desist from the pursuit, and remain at Hays until forage could arrive from Harker, which he at once ordered from that post.

It was a matter of the greatest surprise and regret to me when I ascertained that General Custer had been compelled to suspend his movements, on account of there being no forage at Hays. I had given special instructions that a large supply should be placed at that post, to await the arrival of the expedition there, when we should go up to the Smoky Hill from the Arkansas, and had been informed by Captain Bradley, chief quartermaster of the expedition, before General Custer left Pawnee Fork, that there was at least eight days' forage at Hays for my entire command. Had I not believed that there was an ample supply of forage at Hays, I would have directed the cavalry to have carried a larger supply when it started from Pawnee Fork. After I had received the intelligence that there was then not sufficient
forage at Hays for the cavalry. I directed that General Cus-
ter should continue his operations to the north, as soon as
he was enabled to do so, (except in the vicinity of the head-
waters of the Republican, where it was understood that
there were some bands of friendly Sioux and Cheyennes,) 
but authorized him to pursue other Indians there, in case
he was following a trail, or had information which would
warrant him in doing so.

I also gave instructions that he should assume command
of the Smoky Hill temporarily, (not restricting his move-
ments to that line however,) and take measures for the re-
establishment and protection of the mail route.

In the meantime I remained encamped (awaiting news
from General Custer) with the infantry, artillery, and a
small detachment of cavalry, on Pawnee Fork, near the In-
dian village, which I had had carefully guarded, permitting
nothing whatever to be taken from it or destroyed. I felt
called upon to burn the village as a chastisement for the
treachery practiced by the Indians towards us, in case they
did not return to it, but did not finally determine to do so
until I learned of the outrages on the Smoky Hill. I then
only awaited the events to be produced by General Custer’s
movements, before carrying my intentions in this matter into
effect. As soon, therefore, as I learned from General Custer
that he was unable to pursue the Indians further, or to march
down and join us at Pawnee Fork, (for want of forage,) and
learned, in addition to the murders on the Smoky Hill, the
Indians had pursued and endeavoured to kill my express-
men, I issued the order for the total destruction and removal
of the villages, which took place on the morning of the 19th
of April. (See copy of special field orders No. 13, C. S., head-
quarters department of the Missouri, in the field, enclosed
herewith, marked F.) About forty (40) lodges were selected
to be carried to Fort Dodge, for the purpose of issuing them
to any Indian scouts whom we might be able to enlist in our
service. All the serviceable axes, camp-kettles, hatchets,
crow-bars, &c., &c., of which there were a great number,
were ordered to be taken up by the quartermaster depart-
ment as captured property. Every thing else then remain-
ning in the villages was entirely destroyed, including lodges,
lodge-poles, nearly one thousand (1,000) buffalo robes, and
a vast number of other articles of great value to the Indians,
which it will be almost impossible for them to replace, at
least for a long time. I transmit herewith a copy of an in-
ventory of the property contained in the village when the Indians abandoned it, marked G.

Colonel E. W. Wynkoop, United States Indian agent, was in my camp (he had accompanied me from Fort Larned) at the time of the burning of the village. I had explained to him my reasons for destroying it. They failed, however, to convince him of the propriety of doing so.

I had remained at the Indian village, awaiting dispatches from General Custer, as long as my supplies would permit, and delayed for that purpose until the morning of the 20th of April on Pawnee Fork, when I had barely sufficient forage left to carry me to Fort Dodge, to which post I intended to march, with the view of meeting the Indians south of the Arkansas—Kiowas, Arapahoes, and Comanches. We accordingly marched, on the morning of the 20th of April, from Pawnee Fork, moving directly across the prairie in the direction of Fort Dodge, as indicated by our maps, camping that night near some pools of good water, between the north and south branches of Pawnee Fork. On the following morning we were misled by our guides, and lost several hours, which prevented us from reaching Fort Dodge that day, but finally struck a road leading from some stone quarries to Fort Dodge, which we followed to south branch of Pawnee Fork, where we encamped, about twelve miles from Fort Dodge. On the morning of the 22d we marched to Fort Dodge, reaching that post by eleven a. m.

On my arrival there, I was informed that on the 19th a party of Cheyennes (evidently runners from the north) had approached the Cinnamon Crossing, and were discovered skulking around the bivouac of a detachment of the 7th cavalry, which was at that point, under the command of Major Wickliffe Cooper, of that regiment. When the Indians were perceived they were endeavoring to steal up to some herders, who were in charge of the cattle of the command; and it is supposed they were not aware of the presence of the troops. Major Cooper directed Lieutenant Berry, 7th cavalry, with twenty men, to advance and demand their surrender, which was done through an interpreter. In reply the Indians fired upon the troops. They were then attacked and pursued across the river, and six of them (all that were seen) were killed. One of our men was wounded, and one horse was shot. The official reports in this matter were forwarded to headquarters military division of the Missouri by me, while I was at Fort Dodge. (Copies of said reports are also filed herewith, marked II.)
We found some Kiowa Indians at Dodge, awaiting our arrival, for the purpose of having a conference. The chiefs present were Kicking Bird and Stumbling Bear, with a few warriors of the tribe; among others, The Man-that-moves, a brother of the late celebrated chief, Tohanson. I appointed the morning of the 23d of April, at my headquarters, for an interview with them, which took place accordingly. (A copy of the talk which ensued is appended, marked I.) During my remarks, among other subjects, I proposed the matter of the young men of the Kiowas, Arrapahoes, and Camanches enlisting in our service, and requested an answer from the Kiowas as soon as practicable.

Kicking Bird replied with the usual professions of peaceful intentions and good will towards the whites, and said that the question of enlisting their young men as scouts would be laid before them in the spring, when they were collected to receive their annuity goods, but could not be decided until the head chiefs, White Bear, Heap of Beans, Lone Wolf, Black Bird, Sitting Bear, and Little Heart had been consulted.

Little Raven, head chief of the Arrapahoes, had been at Dodge a few days before we arrived there, for the purpose of meeting me, but had gone south. I arranged with Kicking Bird that he should follow Little Raven and bring him back to Dodge, and agreed to wait for his return there for a few days. While we remained at Dodge, I issued orders directing that a company of the 37th infantry should remain at each of the posts of Larned, Lyon, and Dodge, for the purpose of furnishing escorts to the stages on the Santa Fe line, and further protecting that route. One company of the 7th cavalry was ordered to Lyon, and one company of the same regiment (cavalry) was left at Dodge. One company of the 10th cavalry was ordered to Larned, to be used in patrolling the roads.

Major Henry Douglass, 3d infantry, commanding at Fort Dodge, was charged with the protection of the southern overland mail route from Zara to Fort Lyon, and was authorized to call upon the commanding officers at Larned and Lyon for details for that purpose from the companies of the 37th infantry stationed at those posts. It was reported to me on the 24th of April, that on the previous night eleven (11) mules had been stolen from the mail station at the Cinnamon Crossing. It was supposed that Indians were the robbers, but there was no evidence to that effect. I instructed General Smith to take measures to pursue the depredators, if their
trail could be found; they were not apprehended, however. The agent who reported the loss of the mules to me stated, upon being questioned, that there were no guards out at the station when the mules were driven off, and that the employees were all asleep at the time.

From all I could learn on the subject, the same culpable neglect, by the employees of the mail company in reference to guards, appeared to exist along the whole line of the mail route on the Arkansas, and the same inefficiency and carelessness in this respect was reported by General Custer as obtaining on the Smoky Hill route. If the civilians at the stations were vigilant, kept up proper guards, and had their arms in readiness, it is believed that they could repel the attacks which are usually made upon the stations by the Indians, who are generally in small parties on such occasions.

On the night of April 27th the messenger who had accompanied Kicking Bird south of the Arkansas to the camps of the Kiowas and Arrapahoes, for the purpose of bringing in Little Raven, returned and reported that the chief would arrive at Dodge the following morning. Orders had already been issued for the command to move on the morning of the 28th, but, on receipt of the above intelligence in reference to Little Raven, I decided to suspend my departure until it was ascertained whether or not he would arrive, as was expected. I therefore waited at Dodge until 2 p. m., when Little Raven, accompanied by Cut Nose (Arrapahoe) and several others of his tribe, arrived at the post and requested an interview with me.

Yellow Bear, an Arrapahoe chief of importance, was also at the post. A conference was held with them at once, a copy of which is forwarded herewith, marked J.

In the talk which ensued Little Raven stated that his tribe had kept the peace with the whites, which had been concluded at the Little Arkansas some two years since, disclaimed all connection with the Sioux and Arrapahoes in the north, said that they (the Arrapahoes) would not interfere in any manner with our lines of travel across the plains, and announced the intention of his tribe to remain south of the Arkansas as long as there were any troubles north of that stream, &c., &c.

I informed him, (Little Raven,) in the course of my reply, that we considered him the head chief of his nation, and that I was gratified to see him, as being a responsible person; that our soldiers would not cross the Arkansas if there were no depredations committed there, or unless the Sioux
and Cheyennes should cross that stream, when we would be compelled to follow them; but that we wished the tribes south of that river (Arrapahoes, Camanches, Kiowas, and Apaches) to keep the Arkansas route free for travel. I presented the question of the young men of his tribe enlist ing with us as scouts, and demanded that they should give up the mules in their possession which they had stolen from the whites, and notified them that all hostile incursions by them into Texas must cease forthwith unless they wished war. Little Raven then concluded by stating that his tribe were now at peace with the people of Texas, and would go to that country no more for war; that they had twenty-three (23) mules belonging to white men, which were in Storm's village, south of the Arkansas, and that they would bring them in and deliver them to Major Douglass, commanding officer at Fort Dodge. He further said that if any Sioux or Cheyennes came south of the Arkansas, they would report their presence to us. The interview then closed.

The troops took the road (dry route) the same afternoon towards Fort Larned, where I had engaged to meet some chiefs, who had promised their agent, Colonel Leavenworth, to come to that post about the 25th of April.

It had been my original intention to proceed south of the Arkansas from Dodge, for the purpose of visiting the camps of the Kiowas, Arrapahoes, and, if possible, the Camanches, with the object of letting them see the strength of our forces; but as the cavalry was detained on the Smoky Hill, the command appeared less numerous and formidable than it had been; and as I found, too, that I would be more likely to see the chiefs of the tribes south of the Arkansas by remaining at Dodge or Larned, (for the approach of the troops might have frightened them from their camps, thus complicating matters south of the river,) I concluded not to cross the Arkansas, but to proceed to Larned, meet the chiefs who were expected there by Colonel Leavenworth, and from that post march north to Fort Hays. In pursuance of this decision, the command had reached Big Coon creek, when Satanta (Kiowa chief) arrived in my camp and requested me to hold a talk with him. He had reached Fort Dodge after we marched from that post, and had been sent on to overtake me by Major Douglass. As we were just about striking camp when he arrived, I arranged with him to accompany me to Larned, where we could hold the proposed conference. We then continued our march, the command reaching Larned at 2 p. m., April 30.
On the following morning a talk was held with Satanta, at my headquarters, near that post. When it was about to commence, and before any one had spoken, Mr. Jones, United States Indian interpreter, said that he wished to state that he understood that Colonel Leavenworth, agent for the Kiowas, had told Satanta not to say much in the council, but to come to him (Colonel Leavenworth) afterwards at Zara, and that he would make matters all right. Mr. Jones said that, in consequence of that communication with Colonel Leavenworth, it was probable that Satanta would not talk as much as he had intended to do. Colonel Leavenworth immediately denied that he had had any such conversation with Satanta.

In the course of his speech, Satanta very strongly disclaimed any intention of war against the whites on the part of the Kiowas, declaring repeatedly that all his efforts had been to maintain peace. He had no objection to the road along the Arkansas, but did object to the construction of a railroad along that river; said that he and his people would take no part with the northern Indians in a war with the whites; closed his remarks by stating that Colonel Leavenworth, United States Indian agent for the Kiowas, had withheld his annuity goods from him unjustly, charging him, in that respect, with dishonest practices.

Colonel Leavenworth, who was present at the conference, afterwards stated that Satanta was of those Kiowas who had killed the Box family in Texas, and that he had been instructed from Washington not to deliver the annuity goods until certain conditions had been complied with. He asked permission to file a copy of his instructions referred to with the proceedings of the council. (A copy of the same, with the copy of the talk, is enclosed herewith, marked K.)

I said to Satanta, during my reply to him, that we would not move troops south of the Arkansas, provided the tribes living there remained quiet and committed no depredations, and provided they did not permit the Sioux and Cheyennes to cross. I recalled to his recollection the fact that he, (Satanta,) as well as Kicking Bird, had told Major Donglass last winter, that the Sioux were coming down to make a coalition against us, that they intended to make war this spring, and that we must get off the Arkansas line. I informed him that we were there then to see whether they were going to carry their threats into execution.

I also recalled to his memory, among other matters, the fact that he, with other chiefs of his tribe, had long since (at the
treaty made on the Little Arkansas) given his consent to the passage of the railroad along the Arkansas route, and that it was now too late to withdraw it. After the conference had closed, Satanta, with his party, returned to Fort Dodge, and as the other chiefs expected by Colonel Leavenworth at Larned did not come in, I started for Fort Hays on the morning of the 2d inst., marching almost in a direct line across the prairie nearly due north, crossing Little Ash and Walnut creeks, a portion of the time following a trail made by a company of the 7th cavalry and a company of the 10th cavalry, which had recently marched down from Hays to Larned. The passage of our troops and heavy trains made a well defined and permanent trail, which will no doubt be used hereafter as the best road between the two posts. Our route led to the Smoky Hill, at an excellent crossing about five miles above Fort Hays, which post we reached on the afternoon of the 5th inst.

We found four (4) squadrons of the 7th cavalry there, under command of Brevet Major General Custer, who had been unable to make any further movements against the Indians since his arrival at that post on the 19th ultimo, on account of the unserviceable condition of his horses, the absence of sufficient supplies of subsistence stores, forage, &c., as set forth in the accompanying copy of a communication from him, dated at Fort Hays, May 4, 1867, marked L.

Three (3) companies and regimental headquarters of the 37th United States infantry were left at Hays, to await final orders to proceed to New Mexico, which they will receive about the 25th inst. One company of the same regiment was directed to proceed to Downers Station, and take post there. I remained at Fort Hays until the 5th inst., when I marched towards Fort Harker with battery B, 4th United States artillery, which proceeded to Fort Riley, to take post there temporarily, one company of infantry and the train arriving there on the afternoon of the 6th. I received a copy of a dispatch from Governor Crawford to the commanding officer at Fort Riley on the 5th inst., while on the march between Hays and Harker, (copy enclosed, marked M,) stating that six (6) citizens had recently been killed by Indians at White Rock, (near Lake Sibley,) on the Republican. The dispatch requested that troops might be sent there at once. I had given orders, before starting on the expedition, that, as soon as the grass was up, a company of infantry should march from Harker, and a company of cavalry from Leavenworth, to take post on Buffalo creek, in
that vicinity, for its protection. I now found, contrary to my expectations, that those troops had not yet moved. I immediately ordered the company of infantry to march from Harker, (which it did the next day,) and telegraphed the same instructions for the cavalry company at Leavenworth. That company has since gone. Intelligence reached me on the 6th of May, before I had reached Harker, that Black Kettle, a Cheyenne chief, had sent a messenger to Fort Larned, stating that he was coming up from Texas to that post, and wished to meet me there. I despatched an interpreter from Harker, (Mr. John Smith,) who had recently left Black Kettle's band, to ascertain whether that chief had arrived in the vicinity of Larned, with instructions, if such was the case, to conduct him to Harker, where I would give him an interview. Mr. Smith has since returned from Larned, and has reported that Black Kettle was not in the vicinity of that post, but would probably be there as soon as the grass was sufficiently grown to enable him to move.

During the expedition I had a thorough inspection made of each post visited, by the staff officers accompanying me, of their respective departments, and of the command generally, by the acting inspector general, making a general inspection of each myself. Commenced at Harker, where a great deal of building has been done since last fall and the past winter. I found the plan of some of the buildings which had been visited (particularly the officers' quarters) very faulty, and instructed General Easton, chief quartermaster, Department of the Missouri, before I left that post, to prepare more suitable buildings, which are yet to be put up. I directed the garrison to be withdrawn from old Fort Ellsworth, and that work to be levelled. The Union Pacific railroad, eastern division, will in all probability be completed to that post by the 1st of July, at furthest, (it is now in running order to within about thirty (30) miles of it,) when it will be advisable to make it the depot, instead of Fort Riley, for supplies for the Arkansas and Smoky Hill routes. It is advantageously located for the purpose.

At Zara I found a small badly-constructed round-house, loopholed for defence, and capable of accommodating probably thirty (30) men, with no accommodations for officers. The officer commanding the garrison was living several hundred yards distant from the round-house. I am having plans prepared for a block house or defensible barrack, which I design to erect there instead of the round-house in question. It will hold a garrison of half a company, and will have the officers' quarters under the same roof with the troops. I consider the erection of some such building, in place of the one now there, absolutely necessary for the defence of the place.
The erection of the new building at Larned has progressed very slowly, there being not nearly so much accomplished there, in that respect, as I had anticipated. Its location is an exceedingly bad one for defence, particularly on account of a dry ditch, (old channel of a stream) which nearly surrounds it, and would afford concealment and shelter to a very large body of men. I was informed that the ditch in question was used successfully by the Indians as a shelter when they attacked that post several years since. They will undoubtedly use it again for the same purpose should they make another assault upon it. While I was encamped at Larned I convened a board of officers, for the purpose of examining and reporting upon its present site, and as to the practicability and propriety of removing the post to a more suitable location in the vicinity. The report of the board was forwarded to headquarters military division of the Missouri, before I left the post. Since it has been concluded not to remove the fort, the defects of the site will be remedied as much as possible by additional block-houses.

The new buildings at Dodge are further advanced than at any other of the posts visited by me. They will, from present appearances, all be ready for occupation by the fall. There appeared to be more order and discipline, and a better administration of public business at that post, than at any of those mentioned, which is due, I believe, to the energy and efficiency of its commanding officer. At Fort Hays no permanent buildings have been erected, on account of its site having not yet been definitely determined. It will most probably be removed hereafter to a location nearer the point where the Union Pacific railway, E. D., crosses Big Creek. The garrison of that post is at present quartered in rude log and adobe huts.

I ascertained, during my stay at the different posts, that scurvy was prevalent to some extent, especially among the companies of cavalry at Hays. Prompt instructions were given that a supply of anti-scorbutics should be furnished to remedy this matter.

The day on which I left Fort Harker to return to Fort Leavenworth, (May 7,) I wrote to General Smith, (copy of letter enclosed, marked No,) whom I left in charge of the operations against the Indians within the limits of his district, instructing him to make an expedition with the cavalry at Fort Hays, at the earliest possible day, (if practicable, before the ponies of the Indians had fattened upon the new grass,) against all Sioux and Cheyennes who might be found between the Arkansas and Platte, save those Sioux (Brule and Ogallalahs) who are permitted to roam within the scope
of country, defined by the recent treaty made by the commi-
sion to investigate the Fort Phil Kearney massacre. I en-
close herewith (marked O) a copy of a dispatch received
by me at Fort Harker on the 6th inst., from Brevet Briga-
dier General A. Sully, U. S. A., one of the members of that
commission, by which it will be seen that, according to the
requirements of the treaty referred to, the Brule and Ogal-
lalahs are permitted to roam south to within (10) ten miles
of the Smoky Hill, and east and west between Plum and
Lodge Pole creeks. If the reservation in question, design-
nated by the Phil Kearney commission, is to be permanent,
I am of the opinion that it will prove to be a refuge for all
Indians between the Platte and Arkansas, who may be pur-
sued by our troops, and will in effect render it impracticable
to expel the hostile Cheyennes and Sioux from the country
embraced between those two streams, as is at present con-
templated. In fact, if the Brule and Ogallahs are to roam
without interference to the vicinity of the Smoky Hill, and
between Plum and Lodge Pole creeks, such confusion and
complications must ensue in that region, that it would seem
better to desist from all operations against hostile Indians
there, as it would be impossible for our troops to distinguish,
on the reservation, those Indians who are friendly from those
with whom we are at war. I have already represented the
matter to the Lieutenant General commanding the division,
who concurs with me in the views I have expressed herein
touching it, and has suggested measures for the modification
of the limits of the treaty in question.

In the meantime, while awaiting more definite infor-
mation concerning the boundaries of the reservation in question,
General Smith had been directed to guard the country along
the Platte as far as Fort Sedgwick, (in the absence of Gen-
eral Augur's troops,) and for that purpose to send the cavalry
north to the Platte, thence to Fort McPherson, thence to
Fort Sedgwick, from which point it would return to Fort
Hays.

It is my present intention to maintain active operations
during the summer, and as late into the winter as practic-
able, (unless peace should be made meanwhile,) against all
Sioux and Cheyennes (save friendly bands of the former) who
may be found between the Arkansas and Platte.

I left Fort Harker the evening of the 7th inst., and
marched during the night to Spring Creek, twenty-five (25)
miles east of that post, when I took the cars of the Union
Pacific railway, E. D., and proceeded to Fort Leavenworth,
which point I reached on the evening of the 9th inst.
During almost the entire time which I had been absent with the expedition the weather had been quite cold, and the spring was so backward that until after we left Hays, on the 5th of May, we saw no grass sufficiently advanced to serve as forage.

I transmit herewith the report of the chief medical officer of the expedition, (marked P,) and will forward hereafter a report of the engineer officer who accompanied me, giving sketches of the country through which we passed, streams crossed, bridges built on our route, distances marched each day, &c., &c., &c.

I also enclose herewith a copy of a dispatch received on the 13th inst. from Brevet Major General Augur, (marked Q,) from which it will be seen that he reports all friendly bands of Indians have left the Republican, and gone north of the Platte.

I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
(Signed,) 
WINFIELD S. HANCOCK,  

A

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
ST. LOUIS, MO., MARCH 14, 1867.

Major General W. S. HANCOCK, commanding Department of the Missouri, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

GENERAL: I have delayed some days complying with my promise to you in our interview here on the 8th instant, to reduce to writing the substance of our conclusions, as to your general disposition of matters this season in your department.

The fact that the management of Indian affairs is left by Congress in the control of the Department of the Interior deprives us of a legal right to control them, and prevents our adopting preventive measures. We are compelled to respect the Indian treaties, because they are the law of the land, obligatory on all, especially on us, who are entrusted with the execution of the law. We are bound also to respect the authority of commissioners or agents, who are charged with the intercourse with, and control of, the various tribes, and to leave them to manage all questions not amounting to actual war. You need not, therefore, make demand on the Cheyennes for the drunken fellow who killed the New Mexican at Zara last fall, nor for the party who killed the men and carried off the stock at the stage station at Chalk Bluffs, on the Smoky Hill
route, last year. Leave these cases to the agents, and so notify them.

Our duty is to protect our own people, whilst engaged in their lawful and natural pursuits, against all enemies, of whatever race or color. This embraces citizens who have made settlements on surveyed lands, or other lands where it is lawful for them to make locations; all mail routes established by law; all roads travelled through the Indian country, established by competent authority, or to which a right has accrued by former implied consent; and especially we are bound to protect and command the respect due our own authority, as represented by forts, stations, and troops on the march.

I understand that the Cheyennes and Arrapahoes and Kiowas, each and all, on several occasions, have assembled at or near our posts on the Smoky Hill and on the Arkansas, in numbers and strength manifestly beyond the control of their agents, and have in manner and word threatened to interrupt the use by our people of those roads. This cannot be tolerated for a moment. If not a state of war, it is next thing to it, and will result in war unless checked. I therefore authorize you to instruct your commanding officers of posts, on a recurrence of the same or similar cases, to punish on the spot; and I authorize you to organize, out of your present command, a sufficient force to go among these Cheyennes, Arrapahoes, Kiowas, or similar bands of Indians, and notify them that if they want war they can have it now, but if they decline the offer, then impress on them that they must stop their insolence and threats, and make their conduct conform more nearly to what we deem right than was the case last year.

I have no fear that you, or any officer under you, will kill or injure unsuspecting people of any race or kind, and will not suppose the case. But such an impression has got abroad, and I have an inquiry from the War Department on this subject, under date of 8th instant, a copy of which I enclose, with my reply. You may construe both these papers as official and bearing on this case.

The transfer and addition to you of the Indian Territory west of Arkansas may force you to modify somewhat your former plans. I wish to leave you free to act according to your better knowledge on the spot, and will be prepared, on notice, to modify any former orders to suit the new case.

After visiting those tribes now supposed to be south of the Arkansas, below Fort Larned, you can direct the detachments to move to the posts designed for them this summer.

I am, with great respect,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Lieutenant General Commanding.
HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
ST. LOUIS, MO., MARCH 13, 1867.

Lieutenant Colonel Geo. K. Leet. Assistant Adjutant General,
Headquarters of the Army, Washington, D. C.

COLONEL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the communication of the honorable Secretary of War, addressed to General Grant, dated March 8, 1867, and endorsed to me from your office on the 9th instant, requesting early information of military operations in progress or in contemplation in the Indian Territory, or against Indians in the West, and in answer thereto beg to state, that all the troops in the department of Dakota, Platte, and Missouri, embracing the Indian country, have been and are now being placed in position to afford the best protection to the telegraph and mail routes across the plains, as well as to protect the four principal roads by which the emigrants travel, or merchants send their goods, destined to the mountain Territories. These troops will occupy posts rudely built, but designed for defence by a fraction of the garrison, whilst the balance can operate as escorts or expeditions between the posts. Commanding officers of these posts or stations will act against all people who violate the laws of Congress, or endanger the lives or property of our people, be they white, black, or copper colored. When there are no courts or civil authorities to hold and punish such malefactors, we must of necessity use the musket pretty freely, the only weapon with which the soldier ought to deal. Peaceful people—whites, blacks, or Indians—will be left to be dealt with by the civil authorities and agents.

General Hancock, in the department of the Missouri, has organized a special force of about fifteen hundred men, mostly of the 7th cavalry, (a new regiment,) and some infantry drawn from the inner posts, with which he will proceed in person to the country of the Cheyennes and Kiowas, below the Arkansas, and will there confer with them, to ascertain if they want to fight, in which case he will indulge them. If, however, they will assure him that they will remain at peace, subject to their treaties and agents, he will not disturb them, but impress on them the imprudence of assuming an insolent manner and tone when they visit our posts, and he will impress on them that it is to their interest to keep their hunting parties and their young warriors off our mail lines and travel, where their presence gives the occasion for the many rumors which so disturb our people. After he has
done this, he will distribute this force so as to be again easily assembled if the occasion calls for it. His final orders are not yet made out, but will be in a few days, and I will endeavor to make them so as to leave him free to act, but not to create any trouble, which should be avoided.

In like manner, General Augur, in the department of the Platte, has prepared a force of about two thousand men, composed of the 2d United States cavalry, and of infantry, grouped about Fort Laramie, to be sent under a competent commander, General Gibbon, to the region of country on the head of Powder and Yellow Stone rivers, to punish the bands of hostile Sioux, who have infested that road for the past year, have killed many people, and are at open war. No mercy should be shown these Indians, for they grant no quarter, nor ask for it. General Augur was instructed, if possible, by means of runners, to notify all Sioux who wished to avoid the fate of their hostile fellows, to come in to some one of our military posts on the Platte, where we would feed them temporarily, and turn them over to the care of their proper agents. But inasmuch as Congress has lately provided for a commission to visit these Indians, and as these commissioners have reached Omaha, the headquarters of General Augur, I have instructed him to delay actual hostilities until these commissioners have exhausted their efforts, and reported to him their inability to influence the conduct of the hostile Sioux by pacific measures. I have not yet made final orders for this movement, and will delay them till we learn by telegraph at Fort Laramie that the country about Forts "Phil Kearney" and "C. F. Smith" is practicable for military operations.

In reference to these two expeditions, which are all we can undertake with our present force, I will remark that defensive measures will not answer against Indians. We are tied down to long routes, and our detachments are necessarily small, hardly enough to build shelters and gather firewood, the materials for which have to be hauled two and three hundred miles, whilst the Indians move hundreds and thousands of miles, taking along with them their ponies, lodges, wives and children. They are thus enabled, at one time, to attack or molest our road at any one point, and a month or so make their appearance at another, hundreds of miles distant.

Our troops must get amongst them, and must kill enough of them to inspire fear, and then must conduct the remainder to places where Indian agents can and will reside amongst them, and be held responsible for their conduct.
There may be Indian agents duly commissioned for the Indians that we know to be hostile, but they do not reside with the Indians, and they are not as competent to judge of their hostile character as our military officers, who come into constant contact with them.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) W. T. SHERMAN,
Lieutenant General.

Official copy.
W. A. NICHOLS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON CITY, March 8, 1867.

GENERAL: Please report to this Department, at your earliest convenience, what military operations are in progress, or are in contemplation to be carried, in the Indian Territory, or against the Indians in the West.

Very respectfully, General,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

To General GRANT, &c., &c.

Official copy.
W. A. NICHOLS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Respectfully referred to Lieutenant General W. T. Sherman, commanding military division of the Missouri, for report.

By command of General GRANT.

(Signed,) GEO. K. LEET,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS A. U. S., March 9, 1867.
B.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, March 11, 1867.

Colonel E. W. Wynkoop,
U. S. Indian Agent, for ———:

Sir: I have the honor to address this letter to you, for the purpose of informing you, that I have about completed my arrangements to move a force to the plains, and only await a proper condition of the roads to march.

My object in making an expedition, at this time, is to show the Indians within the limits of this department that we are able to chastise any tribes who may molest people, who are travelling across the plains. It is not our desire to bring on difficulties with the Indians, but to treat them with justice, and according to our treaty stipulations, and I desire especially, in my dealings with them, to act through their agents as far as practicable. In reference to the Cheyennes of your agency in particular, I may say that we have just grounds of grievance. One is that they have not delivered up the murderer of the New Mexican at Zara. I also believe that I have evidence sufficient to fix upon different bands of that tribe, whose chiefs are known, several of the outrages committed on the Smoky Hill last summer.

I request that you may inform them, in such a manner as you may think proper, that I expect shortly to visit their neighborhood, and that I will be glad to have an interview with their chiefs; and tell them also, if you please, that I will go fully prepared for peace or war, and that hereafter I will insist upon their keeping off the main lines of travel, where their presence is calculated to bring about collisions with the whites. If you can prevail upon the Indians of your agency to abandon their habit of infesting the country traversed by our overland routes, threatening, robbing, and intimidating travellers, we will defer that matter to you. If not, I would be pleased by your presence with me, when I visit the locality of your tribes, to show that the officers of the Government are acting in harmony.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

(Signed,) W. S. Hancock,
Major General Commanding.

A true copy.

W. G. Mitchell,
Captain and A. D. C.
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, March 11, 1867.

Colonel J. H. LEAVENWORTH,
U. S. Indian Agent for Arrapahoe, Apache, and

Colonel: I have the honor to state, for your information, that I am at present preparing an expedition to the plains, which will soon be ready to move. My object in doing so at this time is, to convince the Indians within the limits of this department, that we are able to punish any of them who may molest travellers across the plains, or who may commit other hostilities against the whites. We desire to avoid, if possible, any troubles with the Indians, and to treat them with justice and according to the requirements of our treaties with them, and I wish especially, in my dealings with them, to act through the agents of the Indian department, as far as it is possible so to do. Concerning the Kiowas of your agency, we have grave reasons for complaint. Among others, it is officially reported to these headquarters, that that tribe has been making hostile incursions into Texas, and that a war party has very recently returned to Fort Dodge from that State, bringing with them the scalps of seventeen (17) colored soldiers, and one (1) white man. I am also informed that the Kiowas have been threatening our posts on the Arkansas, that they are about entering into a compact with the Sioux for hostilities against us, and that they have robbed and insulted officers of the United States Army who have visited them, supposing that they were friends. It is well ascertained that some members of that tribe (some of whom are known) are guilty of the murder of Mr. James Box, a citizen of Montague county, Texas, last summer, and of the capture and barbarous treatment of the women of his family. I desire you to particularly explain to them, that one reason why the Government does not at once send troops against them to redress these outrages against our people is that their "Great Father" is averse to commencing a war upon them (which would certainly end in destroying them,) until all other means of redress fail. I request that you will inform the Indians of your agency that I will hereafter insist upon their keeping off the main routes of travel across the plains, where their presence is calculated to bring on difficulties between themselves and the whites. If you, as their
agent, can arrange these matters satisfactorily with them, we will be pleased to defer the whole subject to you. In case of your inability to do so, I would be pleased to have you accompany me when I visit the country of your tribes, to show that the officers of the Government are acting in harmony.

I will be pleased to talk with any of the chiefs whom we may meet.

I am, Colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) W. S. HANCOCK,
Major General Commanding.

Official copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. D. C.

C1.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, March 22, 1867.

Colonel E. W. WYNKOOP,
U. S. Indian Agent:

Sir: In accordance with instructions which I have received from Lieutenant General Sherman, commanding military division of the Missouri, I have the honor to inform you that, during the expedition I am about to make to the Arkansas, I shall make no demands upon the Cheyennes for the Indian who killed the Mexican at Zara last fall, nor for the party who murdered the men and carried off the stock from "Chalk Bluff Station," on the Smoky Hill, during last year. These cases will now be left entirely in the hands of the Indian department, and I do not expect to make war against any of the Indians of your agency, unless they commence war against us. But, as I before stated to you, I am prepared to aid you with the troops at my disposal, in case you should request such assistance to control your Indians, or to arrest or punish any of them who have been guilty of outrages or depredations. I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) W. S. HANCOCK,
Major General Commanding.

A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and Ass't Adjutant General.
D.

TALK WITH "TALL BULL," CHIEF OF THE CHEYENNES.

General Hancock said as follows:
I told your agent some time ago that I was coming here to see you, and if any of you wanted to speak to me, they could do so. Your agent is your friend. I don’t find many chiefs here. What is the reason? I have a great deal to say to the Indians, but I want to talk to them altogether. I want to say it all at once. But I am glad to see what chiefs are here. Tomorrow I am going to your camp. I have a boy, said to be a Cheyenne, whom the Cheyennes claim. We have a promise, in which we pledged ourselves, if possible, to find the boy, and a girl, who were somewhere in the United States. We have found the boy, and here he is, ready to be delivered to his nearest relatives who may call for him. I will leave him at Fort Larned with the commander. He will deliver him to them. The girl is near Denver. We have written for her, and she will no doubt be sent here, either to your agent or to the commander at Fort Larned, for delivery to her relatives. You see the boy has not been injured. Look out that any captives in your hands be restored to us equally unharmed. I tell you these things now that you may keep your treaties. Now I have a great many soldiers, more than all the tribes put together. The Great Father has heard that some Indians had taken white men and women captives; he has also heard that a great many Indians are trying to get up a war to try to hurt the white man; that is the reason I came down here. I intend not only to visit you here, but my troop will remain among you, to see that the peace and safety of the plains is preserved. I am going also to visit you in your camp. The innocent and those who are truly our friends we shall treat as brothers. If we find hereafter that any of you have lied to us, we will strike them. In case of war we shall punish whoever befriends our enemies. If there are any tribes among you who have captives, white or black, you must give them up safe and unharmed as they are now. I have collected all the evidence of all outrages committed by you, so that your agents may examine into the matter and tell me who are guilty and who are innocent. When your agent informs me who the guilty are, I will punish them. When just demands are made I will enforce them if they be not acceded to. I have heard that a great many Indians want to fight; very well, we are here, and are come prepared for war. If you are for peace, you know the conditions. If you are for war, look out for its consequences. If we make war, it will be made against the
tribe, who must be responsible for the acts of their young men. Your agent is your friend, but he knows his friendship will not save you from the anger of your Great Father if we go to war. If we find any good Indians, and they come to us with clean hands, we will treat them as brothers, and we will separate them from the malcontents, and provide for them if necessary. This we will do that the innocent may escape the war which will be waged against the guilty. The soldiers are going to stay in the country, and they will see that the white man keeps his treaty as well as the red man. We are building railroads and building roads through the country; you must not let your young men stop them; you must keep your men off the roads. These roads will benefit the Indians as well as the white man, in bringing their goods to them cheaply and promptly. The steam-car and wagon-train must run, and it is of importance to the whites and Indians that the mails, goods, and passengers carried on them shall be safe. You know very well if you go to war with the white man you would lose; the Great Father has plenty more warriors. It is true you might kill some soldiers and surprise some small detachments, but you would lose men, and you know that you have not a great many to lose. You cannot replace warriors lost; we can. It is to your interest therefore to have peace with the white man. Every tribe ought to have a great chief, one that can command their men. For any depredation committed by any one of his tribe I shall hold the chief and his tribe responsible. Some Indians go down to Texas and kill women and children. I shall strike the tribes they belong to. If there are any good Indians who don’t want to go to war, I shall protect them. If there are any bad chiefs, I will help the good chiefs to put their heels on them. I have a great many chiefs with me, who have commanded more men than you ever saw, and have fought more great battles than you have fought fights. A great many Indians think they are better armed than they were formerly, but they must recollect that we are also. My chiefs cannot derive any distinction from fighting with your small numbers. They are not anxious for war against Indians, but are ready for a just war, and know how to fight and lead their men. Let the guilty then beware. I say this to you show you the importance of keeping treaties made with us, and of letting the white man travel unmolested. Your Great Father is your friend as well as the friend of the white man. If a white man behaves badly, or does a wrong to you, he shall be punished, if the evidence ascertained at the trial proves him guilty. We can redress your wrongs better than you can. I have no more to say. I will await the end of your council, to see whether you want war or peace. I will put what I say in
black and white, and send it to each post commander in the country I command. You can have it read to you when you please, and you can come back after awhile and read it, and you will know whether we have lied to you or not.

"Tall Bull" replied as follows:

You sent for us; we came here. We have made the treaty with our agent, Colonel Wynkoop. We never did the white man any harm; we don't intend to. Our agent told us to meet you here. Whenever you want to go on the Smoky Hill you can go; you can go on any road. When we come on the road, your young men must not shoot us. We are willing to be friends with the white man.

This boy you have here—we have seen him; we don't recognize him; he must belong to some tribe south of the Arkansas. The buffalo are diminishing fast. The antelope, that were plenty a few years ago, they are now thin. When they shall all die we shall be hungry; we shall want something to eat, and we will be compelled to come into the fort. Your young men must not fire at us; whenever they see us they fire, and we fire on them.

The Kiowas, Camanches, Apaches, and Arrapahoes—send and get them here, and talk with them.

You say you are going to the village to-morrow. If you go, I shall have no more to say to you there than here. I have said all I want to say. I don't know whether the Sioux are coming here or not. They did not tell me they were coming. I have spoken.

General Hancock then said:

I did not come here to see you alone; I came to see the Arrapahoes, Camanches, Kiowas, and Apaches, when I learn where they are. I was told that some Indians were seeking for war. I want to see those who are friendly and those who are not and wish war. You say that the soldiers and other white people fire on you when you go to the Smoky Hill. That was because your young men went there to molest the white people, and fired on them first. We know the buffalo are going away, but we can't help it. The white men are becoming a great nation. You must keep your young men off the roads. Don't stop trains and travellers on the roads, and you will not be harmed. You ought to be friends to the white man. Soldiers expect to be killed when at war; their business is to fight; but as fast as our soldiers are killed we can get more to take their places. But you must keep off great roads across the plains, for if you should ever stop one of our railroad trains, and kill the people on it, you
would be exterminated. You must look to the white man to be taken care of hereafter, and you should cultivate his friendship. That is all I have to say.

A true copy.

CAMP OF THE 7TH CAVALRY,
ON NORTH FORK WALNUT CREEK,
ABOUT DUE SOUTH OF DOWNIE'S STATION,
5 A.M., April 17, 1867.

Lieutenant Thos. B. Weir,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General, District Upper Arkansas:

I have the honor to report that I marched in pursuit of the Indians who deserted their lodges on Pawnee Fork, leaving my camp at 5 a.m. yesterday morning. My guides struck the trail within a short distance of their old encampment, and we followed rapidly without obstacle until we reached Walnut creek, when considerable difficulty was experienced in finding a crossing, owing to the height and abruptness of the banks. We were compelled, in consequence, to follow up the stream about three miles. The principal part of the Indians were compelled to follow same course, as was evidenced by their trail. We were so close upon them, upon our arrival at Walnut creek, that the fires by which they had prepared their breakfast were still burning, and they left in such haste as to abandon several ponies and one mule, some of which were tied to trees and still bore their pack. One of the Delawares found the pack belonging to Roman Nose, containing much of his finery and ornaments, including the large red feather he wore at the meeting on Pawnee Fork. The ponies were so worn out as to render it impossible to keep them with us.

After crossing the Walnut, the trail followed the left bank towards its source, frequently crossing the stream for a short distance, evidently to mislead us. Neither I nor any of my command caught sight of any Indians during the pursuit; but the Delawares, who kept in advance, and were frequently on the bluffs on our flanks, reported several times seeing small numbers of Indians watching us from the heights at a distance. We continued to gain on them, and were so close that, although the heat of the sun was quite high, the earth disturbed by the feet of their ponies, and by dragging their lodge-poles, was still damp and fresh. I had strong hopes of overtaking them before dark, and, to facilitate this, left my wagons to follow, under charge of one squadron, while
with the other three I continued the pursuit. Seeing that we were gaining upon them, the Indians now began breaking into small bands and separating. I followed the main trail, the direction of which was the general direction of Walnut creek. Most of the bands, in leaving, seemed to bear to the right, as if being directed towards the Smoky Hill. The trail gradually grew less and more faint until about 5 p.m., when we could only trace them singly and with difficulty. I had then marched a fraction over thirty-five miles, without halting except to water. I encamped my command, and sent the Delawares six miles in advance. They were unable to continue the trail. Signal smokes were seen to the west, north, and east of us, but at no less distances than ten miles. The principal smoke was apparently fifteen miles north-west of us. I had reveille at 2 a.m., and started before 4 o'clock in the direction of the smoke, and where some of the Delawares thought we might find the Indians' trail, and probably their camp.

I took the valley of a small stream running from the desired direction, and marched thirteen miles, but failed to discover any signs of Indians having been across our line of march. The stream upon which I had started had become dry, we having passed its source. But for this fact I should have turned northward and marched to the Smoky Hill. My animals required water, and no alternative presented itself but to return upon our own trail until sufficient water could be obtained. I marched, in returning, nine miles, to the point where I now am, reaching here by 2 p.m. Devoting the afternoon to grazing and grooming the animals, I am now getting ready to resume the march in half an hour, (which will be 7 p.m.), and will direct the march due north, striking the Smoky Hill somewhere in the vicinity of Downie's Station. If the Indians have gone to that line I can hear something of them. Failing to hear any thing of them, I shall direct my march to Dodge. Whether I go to Hays or not, I shall return by this point, so that any instructions which may be intended for me would reach me by sending either of the two men as bearer who carry this dispatch to you. Even if I should reach this point, and leave it again before they join me, I will arrange with them so that they can find me. The hasty flight of the Indians, and their abandonment of, to them, valuable property, convinces me that they are influenced by fear alone, and it is my impression that no council can be held with them in the presence of a large military force. It is difficult for me to form an opinion as
to whether the Indians have gone north or south. The Delawares seem inclined to the opinion that they have gone north, on the Smoky Hill. Captain West, of the 7th cavalry, an officer of superior intelligence, and possessed of great experience with Indians, is firmly of the opinion that the Indians have gone south of the Arkansas to the Cinnamon crossing. He considers their move this far north as a stratagem to mislead us. His opinion is based upon representations made to him at Dodge, during the winter, by a chief, that such a plan was contemplated. My horses have stood the march very well.

Respectfully submitted,

G. A. CUSTER,

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF THE UPPER ARKANSAS,
CAMP ON N. FORK OF THE PAWNEE,
KANSAS, April 17, 1867.

Respectfully forwarded for the information of the Major General commanding.

A. J. SMITH,

[The date of the enclosed paper should be April 16 instead of 17.]

F.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
IN THE FIELD, CAMP NO. 15,
PAWNEE FORK, KANSAS, April 13, 1867.

Special Field Orders, No. 13.

1. ... As a punishment for the bad faith practiced by the Cheyennes and Sioux who occupied the Indian village at this place, and as a chastisement for murders and depredations committed since the arrival of the command at this point, by the people of these tribes, the village recently occupied by them, which is now in our hands, will be entirely destroyed.

All property within the village, such as tools, camp equipage, &c., will be preserved and taken up as captured property by Captain G. W. Bradley, A. Q. M., chief quartermaster of the expedition.

Brevet Major General J. W. Davidson, major 2d United States cavalry, acting inspector general of this department, will
take an accurate inventory of all species of property in the village, previous to its destruction.

Brevet Major General A. J. Smith, colonel 7th cavalry, commanding district of the Upper Arkansas, is charged with the execution of this order.

By command of Major General Hancock.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. General.

A true copy:
W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. G.

G.

Inventory of articles abandoned in the villages, on Pawnee Fork, burned April 14, 1867.

**Inventory of Articles in the Cheyenne Camp.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodges</th>
<th>111</th>
<th>Bridles</th>
<th>11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo robes</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>Curry-cobs</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travellers</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>Black-smith's tools</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parfleches</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>Lariats</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whet-stones</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Coff-e-nails</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubbing bones</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rawhide ropes</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water-kegs</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Sacks paint</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saddles</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>Ovens</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoes</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Hammers</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head-mats</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>Stew-pans</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axes</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Spades</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowbars</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pitch-forks</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleshing-irons</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Knives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brass-kettles</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pick-axes</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee-pots</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wooden spoons</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin pans</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>Door-mats</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron spoons</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Stone mallets</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin cups</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>Meat-stones</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fry-pans</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Files</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skillet</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Scythes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horn spoons</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Meat-skewers</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chairs</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Kettles</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawing-knives</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tea-kettles</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Inventory of Articles in the Sioux Camp.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodges</th>
<th>140</th>
<th>Hoes</th>
<th>34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo robes</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>Head-mats</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travellers</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>Axes</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parfleches</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>Crowbars</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whet-stones</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Fleshing-irons</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubbing-bones</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Brass-kettles</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water-kegs</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Coffee-pots</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saddles</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>Tin pans</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Iron spoons.............................. 25 | Spades........................................ 2
Tin cups.................................... 216 | Pitch-forks................................. 3
Fry-pans.................................... 13 | Knives........................................ 6
Horn spoons.............................. 51 | Pick-axes................................... 4
Chairs....................................... 51 | Wooden spoons................................ 19
Drawing-knives.......................... 5 | Door-mats.................................. 140
Bridles...................................... 8 | Stone mallets............................... 61
Curry-combs.............................. 4 | Swords........................................ 1
Lariats..................................... 2nd | Bayonets.................................... 1
Coffee-mills............................. 15 | U. S. mail-bags............................ 1
Sacks paint............................... 70 | Lances........................................ 1
Ovens....................................... 5 | Kettles....................................... 141
Hammers................................. 11 | Tea-kettles.................................. 3
Stew-pans................................. 4 |                                

REMARKS.—Six (6) ponies were also found running loose near the villages.

(Signed,)  
J. W. DAVIDSON,  
Lieutenant Colonel 10th Cavalry,  
Brigadier Major General, Acting Inspector General.

A true copy:  
W. G. MITCHELL, Captain and A. A. A. G.

II.

HEADQUARTERS FORT DODGE, KANSAS, APRIL 22, 1867.

Lieutenant T. B. WEIR,  

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to hand herewith Major Wickliff Cooper’s dispatch relative to the killing of six Cheyenne Indians, at the Cimarron crossing, on the 19th inst.; also my instructions to him in sending his squadron to that point.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,)  
H. DOUGLASS,  
Major Third Infantry, commanding Post.

HEADQUARTERS DIST. UPPER ARKANSAS,  
FORT DODGE, KANSAS, APRIL 22, 1867.

Respectfully forwarded.

(Signed,)  
A. J. SMITH,  

HEADQUARTERS DIST. OF MO., IN THE FIELD,  
FORT DODGE, APRIL 22, 1867.

Respectfully forwarded. The mail has been detained for this paper, and I have no time to write in detail.
The Kiowas are reported here under Kicking Bird and Stumbling Bear. Little Raven has been here (of the Arrapahoes) to see me, and will be here again to-morrow, it is said.

We marched 15½ miles to-day.

(Signed,) W. S. HANCOCK,
Major General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS FORT DODGE, KANSAS, April 19, 1867.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL,
Department of the Missouri, in the Field:

(Through Headquarters, District of Upper Arkansas.)

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have this day received a dispatch from Major W. Cooper, 7th cavalry, stating that at 11 o'clock a. m. to-day a party of Indians were discovered by a vidette skulking on the flank of his command.

Lieutenant Barry, 7th U. S. cavalry, with a detachment of twenty men, advanced in their direction, and through the guide demanded a surrender, when they were fired upon by the Indians. The fire was returned, killing two or three while crossing the stream. Lieutenant Barry was quickly supported by "C" company, under the immediate command of Major Cooper; and as the Indians fought until death, all that were first discovered (viz, six) were killed.

Upon examining the dead they proved to be a party of Sioux and Cheyennes on the war-path, probably spies.

The casualties on our side was one private wounded in the thigh by a rifle ball, and one horse shot with an arrow. The horse will probably die.

Among the effects found on the bodies of the dead was one white woman's scalp, which appeared to be quite fresh.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) II. DOUGLASS,
Major 3d Infantry, commanding Post.

A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. General.
HEADQUARTERS FORT DODGE, KANSAS, April 21, 1867.

Major W. Cooper, 7th U. S. Cavalry,
Comd’y “B” and “C” Companies, 7th U. S. Cavalry:

Major: I am directed by the commanding officer to instruct you to return to this post to-morrow morning with one company of your command, as there will be a number of Indians here, leaving at the Cinnamon one company, under the command of Lieutenant Berry. Dr. Crandell and the guide will remain with the company left at the Cinnamon.

Positive instructions must be given Lieutenant Berry that friendly Indians must not be molested, or cause given them to think that the United States desire other than friendly relations with them.

Should bands of Sioux or Cheyennes be met with by Lieutenant Berry, it will be his duty to have a talk with them, and make them understand that they must remain with him as prisoners, and, if they do so peaceably, that they will be well treated. If, however, they should refuse to do so, he must capture them, and only use force when it is absolutely necessary to effect that end.

As you are about to leave only one company, you will have corn enough without sending you a new supply.

Lieutenant Brewster of course returns with you. Should you, on your return, meet any bands of Indians, which is very probable, as numbers of Arrapahoes and Kiowas are coming in, you should be careful to distinguish them from Sioux and Cheyennes.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. H. WALLACE,
1st Lieut. 3d U. S. Infantry, Post Adjutant.

Official copy.
GEO. H. WALLACE,
1st Lieut. 3d U. S. Infantry, Post Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS FORT DODGE, KANSAS, April 17, 1867.

Major Wickliffe Cooper,
Comd’y Squadron 7th U. S. Cavalry:

Major: Being advised by the major general commanding department of the probability existing that the Cheyennes and Sioux will attempt to cross the Arkansas, at or near the Cinnamon crossing, the commanding officer of this post
directs that you will proceed without delay to that point, with your command, and encamp there.

The crossing of the Arkansas, commonly known as the Pawnee Fork, about twenty-two miles above the Cinnamon, is considered a favorite crossing of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes.

I would therefore advise that a strong detachment be sent to that crossing, and the road patrolled between. As there are many places where the Arkansas can be crossed, between this post and the Cinnamon, patrol the road eastward for about fifteen miles, also northward as far as south branch of Pawnee Fork.

Our troops under General Hancock are in a state approaching hostilities with the Cheyennes and Sioux, and it is your duty to make prisoners of all these tribes that you may fall in with, including women and children. You will be furnished with a guide, who has an excellent knowledge of all the Indians in this vicinity, and who will enable you to distinguish Cheyennes and Sioux from other tribes professedly friendly.

Once convinced of the nationality of any band you may meet with, should they prove to be Cheyennes or Sioux, and refuse to give themselves up, fight them without any hesitation. Keep your command constantly on the alert, and so disposed that it may be rapidly concentrated, and rapidly thrown to any point. Scouts should be sent out day and night to the northward, eastward, and westward, and should be sent at the same time, so as to diminish the chances of the Indians crossing without your knowledge. Should you obtain any prisoners, send them under guard to this post.

Your command will carry rations and forage for eight days, and, should it be necessary, you will receive an additional amount of rations and forage.

Please keep me advised of all movements of Indians you may discover, and any other items of information that may be useful.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. H. WALLACE,

1st Lieut. 3d U. S. Infantry, Post Adjutant.

Official copy.

GEO. H. WALLACE,

1st Lieut. 3d U. S. Infantry, Post Adjutant.
Headquarters Detachment 7th Cavalry,
Cinnamon Crossing, 19th April, 1867.

Major Henry Douglas,
Commanding Post Fort Dodge, Kansas.

Sir: I have the honor to report that at eleven a.m. to-day vedettes west of our bivouac discovered Indians skulking on our flank. Lieutenant Berry rapidly advanced with twenty men, who had returned from a scout northward, and whose horses were saddled.

Lieutenant Berry, through the guide, Jones, demanded a surrender, when the Indians fired upon our men. Lieutenant Berry and his party were promptly supported by "C" troop, 7th cavalry, under my immediate command, placing "B" troop inside the ranche enclosure, under command of Lieutenant Bragg, 3d cavalry. Lieutenant Berry crossed the river, after having killed two or three of the enemy in the stream. Jones reports them Cheyennes and Sioux on the war-path, from their equipments. We succeeded in killing (6) six of them, (all that we first saw,) and I send here with an inventory, in pencil, of things taken. They were dismounted, and were, in my opinion, spies. They fought to the death.

I have two patrols between here and Pawnee Forks, one returning and one going. I shall look after them this evening.

Our casualties are one man, private Weinart, "B" troop, 7th cavalry, wounded in the thigh from a rifle ball. One horse was shot with an arrow, and will probably die.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed,) Wickliffe Cooper,
Major 7th Cavalry, Commanding.

P. S. Please excuse paper, &c. Will send a detailed report to-morrow. If there is any mail, please send it by the detail.

W. C.

Report of captures made at Cinnamon Crossing on April 19, 1867, by the troops under Major W. Cooper, commanding squadron 7th cavalry.

1 rifle.
1 pistol.
2 bows and quivers, 1 bow lost.
2 sets of arrows.
3 blankets.
1 pair mocassins.
1 belt and flask, containing powder.
1 chief's head-dress.
1 white woman's scalp.
1 silver breast-plate.

Official copy.

GEORGE H. WALLACE,
1st Lieut. 3rd Infantry, Post Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
IN THE FIELD, CAMP NO. 17,
NEAR FORT DODGE, KANSAS, APRIL 28, 1867.

Talk held with Kiowa chiefs Kicking Bird, Stumbling Bear,
"The Man that Moves," half-brother of the late chief To-hawson, and several other warriors present.

General Hancock said as follows:

We do not come here to make war upon the Indians, but to confirm the good feelings of those who are friendly towards us. We came, however, to fight those who wish to have war with us. A good many depredations have been committed on the Smoky Hill and Arkansas, and some south of the Arkansas. If we find those who are guilty of them, we will hold them responsible. We wish to ascertain here who stole the mules lately, on the Arkansas, and to have them returned to us. The Cheyennes and Sioux have committed a good many depredations. When we find the guilty among them, they shall be tried the same as we try the white men who have done wrong. We have heard that the Sioux came down here to stir up bad blood among you towards the white men. We want to see and to know whether they have told you lies or not. When we came to Larned, we sent for the chiefs of the Cheyennes and Sioux to come to our camp. Two chiefs of the Cheyennes came—White Horse and Tall Bull. The Sioux and other Cheyenne chiefs sent me word that their young men were hunting buffaloes, and they could not come in to see us. This did not look friendly. We then started to their camp to see them. They burned the grass all around and ahead of us on the side of the river where we were marching; but we crossed the river on a bridge we have with us, and marched up on the other side. When we got near their village we met Pawnee Killer, of the Sioux, and told him we considered him a friend of the white man. They all promised to come down the next day to our camp for
a talk, but the next day there was a high wind, so that we could not have talked; and, as they did not come to my camp at the time appointed, I marched at eleven o'clock towards their village, and told them I would talk to them there. When we got near the village, we met a long line of warriors, with some of the Sioux chiefs, and many of the Cheyennes. Roman Nose was among them. He had a white flag. When the lines were close, they halted. General Smith and myself went out to meet them, and asked them if they wanted war. They said No. I then told them we would have a talk when we encamped, to which they assented.

We then marched near the village, and found that the Sioux and all of the women and children had gone. Roman Nose and Bull Bear and some warriors were in the camp. Bull Bear and Roman Nose came to see me, and said they would bring the women and children back, but could not bring their horses back, as they were too poor to travel. I gave them horses to go. At half-past nine o'clock at night, they sent word to me that they could not bring their women and children back, and I found they were all leaving their village. I immediately put all my cavalry around their camp, but they had all left, save one old man and woman, and a child, before the cavalry arrived at their camp. They had treated the little girl very badly before they left camp. We did not intend to kill them unless they fired on us first. They left all of their robes, tools, &c., in their camp. We started all of our cavalry after them and followed fast, but they had too much start for us to overtake them. They killed three men on the Smoky Hill, and burned a mail station, and also tried to get into another station to kill the men there. They were stripped and painted for war when they crossed the Smoky Hill. Our cavalry is in pursuit of them yet. We waited at their village five or six days to see if the Cheyennes would come back and say they were innocent; but none came back. We then burned their village and destroyed everything in it, except some lodges. We have Bull Bear's tent and that of Roman Nose. We will give them to the Kiowas and Camanches, who will enlist with us for scouts. I have since told all of my chiefs that we are going to have war with the Sioux and Cheyennes, between the Arkansas and Platte. I sent some cavalry to the Cimaron crossing to intersect any of the Cheyennes who tried to cross there. Some of the Cheyennes came there and tried to shoot our men before they were discovered. Our cavalry then attacked and killed six of them. I only tell you this to show you that we did
not come here to make war on those who are innocent, but on the guilty, and those who feel guilty towards us. It is not safe to be between the Arkansas and Platte, for our young men can't tell who they are unless they have good scouts with them, and may kill them. I want all friendly Indians south of the Arkansas to stay there, so that our young men won't mistake them for Sioux and Cheyennes. If all is quiet here our young men will fight on the "Smoky Hill" and Platte, but if they have to come down to the Arkansas, they can't tell Cheyennes from other Indians. Last year I had not many soldiers, but now I have more horsemen than all your warriors put together. I intended to have brought them down here to let you see them, but as the Cheyennes and Sioux behaved so badly, I had to send them after them. We want to get some Indians who are friendly to us for scouts—Kiowas, Camanches, and Arrapahoes. We want no others. We will give them the same pay as our soldiers, horses, guns, blankets, &c. They will have white officers to command them, who will tell them what we want them to do. We wish them to keep the Cheyennes and Sioux away from this route.

Whenever they want to quit as scouts they can. Their families will be placed near our posts, and be cared for while they are out scouting. We will dress them up finely and feed them. They will be soldiers of the Great Father as we are. Tell other chiefs about this, for I want to know if they like it. We expected to see other chiefs here.

We intend to go south to meet the Kiowas and Camanches, unless they shall come up here to see and to talk to us. Afterwards we are going north of the Arkansas, on some of the creeks, to look for Sioux and Cheyennes. We will not be back here unless there is trouble in this country. This is all I have to say.

"The Man that Moves," half brother to "To-haw-son," late chief of the Kiowas, then said:

What the big chief says I believe, so will all of the chiefs, every word of it.

I am an old man, brother of To-haw-son. What this big chief says listen to, you young men.

"Kicking Bird" then said:

I think you are a big chief. I heard some time ago that you were coming, and am glad to see you, and glad that you have taken us by the hand. Our great chief, To-haw-son,
is dead. He was a great chief for the whites and Indians. Whatever To-haw-son said they kept in their hearts. Whatever To-haw-son told them in council, they remembered, and they would go the road he told them; that is, to be friendly to the whites. To-haw-son always advised the nation to take the white man by the hand, and clear above the elbow. Kicking Bird advises the same. We live south of the river, Kiowas, Camanches, Arrapahoes, and Apaches. We all, in our hearts, want peace with the whites. This country south of the Arkansas is our country.

We want peace in it and not war. We have seen you, (General Hancock,) and our hearts are glad. We will report the talk you have had with us to all of the nations, so that they will know what you have said. When there is no war south of the Arkansas our women and children can sleep without fear of being molested, and our men can hunt buffalo there without fear of enemies. My heart is big and glad that you have told us you will not make war on Indians whose consciences are good. We have often wished for the Sioux and northern Cheyennes not to come down here; they steal our horses when they come here, and we do not want them to come. I have heard that our goods are coming early this spring. When they arrive, that will be the time to pick out young men for guides and scouts. After I get back to my people, I will tell the words you have said to our chiefs, and when it has been told our young men, they will report what they will do. You can see for yourself that we are peaceably encamped on the other side of the river, and no matter what kind of a storm came, we have stayed to have a talk with you. Whatever you have to tell we will listen to, and we know that it is the truth. Now and then we have robes to trade for sugar and coffee for our women and children. On the prairie we eat buffalo meat. We are encamped close by here.

General Hancock then said:

Your temper is good and satisfactory to us. Be assured that there will be no trouble south of the Arkansas while you are in this mind. I command all of the country down to the Red River, north to the Platte and New Mexico. No one can harm you unless by orders through me; but my officers are ordered to punish depredations which may be committed, and I cannot answer for such matters. I wish to know your answer about the scouts as soon as possible, and the other matters about which I have talked. If I am gone before your answer is ready, you can give it to General Smith, or, if he is not here, to the commander of Fort Dodge.
Kicking Bird said:

We cannot give an answer until we consult our head chief “Satanta,” or “White Bear,” “Heap of Bears,” “Lone Wolf,” “Black Bird” “Sitting Bear,” and “Little Heart.”

We want to know what we are to do with the Cheyennes who have gone south, (Black Kettle’s band.)

General Hancock said:

You had better keep away from them until your Great Father tells you what to do. It is dangerous to be in the same camp with them. We could not tell, the other day, at Pawnee Fork, the Sioux from the Cheyennes, when they were in the same camp. The buffalo are getting very scarce, and will soon be gone. It is important, therefore, that you should make friends with the white men, so that after awhile they will protect you and feed you, if necessary. The whites are getting numerous, and they are coming West like the resistless waves of the sea. This cannot be helped, and you must make the best of it. You should soon settle in your own country, and begin to teach your children to raise corn and animals as other Indians, further east, are now doing. We have bad white men among us; but if they wrong you, instead of redressing your injuries, you should come in and tell your agents, and your wrongs will be redressed. It is difficult to tell from the reports who are wrong; but if you keep quiet and commit no depredations, there will be no war, and bad men who injure you will be punished.

Kicking Bird said:

There are but a few of my young men with me; but if you could give me some clothing for the tribe, they would all see that what you have said is so.

General Hancock replied:

I have no clothing except for my soldiers. The Government gives the clothing to your agents for you. If you enlist as guides and scouts I can give you plenty of clothing.

A true copy.

W. G. Mitchell,
Captain and A. A. A. General.

J.

FORT DODGE, KANSAS, April 28, 1867.

Talk held with “Little Raven,” head chief of the Arapahoes; Yellow Bear, Cut Nose, Beardy, and several warriors present.

“Little Raven” said as follows:

We have heard from the Sioux above here; about their going
away and leaving their lodges; but for all that we have come in as fast as our horses would carry us. This route and the Smoky Hill route are now free. We don't stop the roads. We love the whites. We make peace with the commissioners from Washington at the mouth of the Little Arkansas, and that peace we have kept for two years. We have a great many brothers and friends in the southern country, and we have sent runners to tell them to listen to what you (General Hancock) have to say. The Sioux in the north do not listen to me, nor the Arrapahoes who have lived in the north for years. They do not belong to the nation. They are the same as the Sioux. The commissioners at Washington look to me as the head chief of the Arrapahoes. I have told all the Indians of all the nations the same as I tell you now. You sent for me to come and see you, and I came as fast as I could. My heart is glad to see you. We wish you to inform your soldiers on the roads that we are not with the Sioux and Cheyennes. We will report what you say to us to all the nations. Whatever you have to say, let it be said in plain language, so that we can understand it. We do not belong north at all—with the Sioux or any other tribe. We belong south. Until the Sioux and Cheyennes go north of the North Platte, we will remain south of the Arkansas. It is a good thing for the soldiers to camp along the different streams, for we can then come in and trade with them. We don't want to stop the railroads at all. Our hearts are glad when we come here without wives and children, and meet all your chiefs with friendship. What you say we will listen to, and when our people come in for their treaty goods, we will have a good chance to report to them what you have told us. It is likely that you heard of the Arrapahoes committing depredations. That is false. Other Indians have done so, and have laid it to Arrapahoes. All the other villages of our people, save mine, are a great ways off, and that is the reason we came in first. They will all be in; their lodges are further off south. The Arrapahoes, Camanches, Kiowas, Apaches, and Osages, are almost all camped at Salt Plains. We hope that you will give us provisions to take home with us. We hope that when you go to Washington you will report that "Little Raven" has a good heart towards the whites. The Great Spirit listens, and knows that this is true. I am getting old; these young men are my children. I am working hard myself for peace. We are glad to meet all of your chiefs here, and glad to take you by the hands. We want to know if you have heard of forty animals being taken by us from the whites up the road. Three Cheyennes and three Arrapahoes took them. The Arrapahoes got twenty-five head, and the Cheyennes the remainder.
General Hancock then said as follows:

We are glad to see you here. I have always heard that you (Little Raven) were the head chief of the Arapahoes. We like to see a tribe with one head whom the members respect, so that we can talk with one responsible man, instead of to half a dozen who have no influence, because we expect to hold the tribe responsible for its actions, and we can do that better where there is one head than where there are many different heads. We brought a great many soldiers with us, many of them horsemen; but when we found there was to be war with the Sioux and Cheyennes, we would not bring them down here. When we arrived at the camp of the Sioux and Cheyennes on Pawnee Fork, to have a talk with them there, they ran away and behaved badly, and we had to send our horsemen after them. But we brought a good many soldiers down here with us, and would have sent for the horsemen if there had been any trouble here. We sent for Little Raven’s band, and have now seen them, and talked to their chief, and we do not wish to frighten the women and children away from their villages by going further south. To-day we were afraid that you would not come in, and we could not have waited longer, for we have an engagement to meet some chiefs at Fort Larned, and have sent a part of our soldiers there, but have kept a part of them with us, and waited until near the last moment to see you. If there are no troubles further south, the soldiers will not come back; but if there is trouble on this route they will return. We want them to go after the Sioux and Cheyennes, if this country is quiet; but they will be on the Smoky Hill route, and can come down here at any time when it is required. We wish the Arapahoes, Kiowas, Camanches, and Apaches, to keep this road clear and free for travellers. Then there will be no occasion for soldiers to come down south. If any of you wish to be soldiers of your Great Father in Washington, as we are, you can do so, and your families will be taken care of, and have provisions given them. Those who are willing to be soldiers shall have horses, guns, blankets, pay, and clothing, as our horsemen have. We want them to keep the plains free for travel between the Arkansas and Platte. We would sooner have some Arapahoes, some Camanches, some Apaches, and some Kiowas; but if the other tribes do not wish to be soldiers, we will take all Arapahoes. Think over this matter, and let Major Douglass know the result after you have decided. We did not come here to make war, but have come here to see who wished for war, and who desired peace. If any tribes wish for war we will fight them; if they wish for peace we will treat them as friends. Your Great Father in Washington, and all of his soldiers, are
friends of the Indian as well as of the white man; but the Indians must not rob, murder, and commit other depredations, and they must give up those for trial who commit such depredations hereafter. We did not intend to make war on the Sioux and Cheyennes, but we wished to find those among them who had robbed and murdered, and to have them tried.

But they ran away and would not talk to us, and when they reached the Smoky Hill route they set fire to some of our mail station, and burnt three men in it. They also tried to burn another station and kill the men there. When we came to their village on Pawnee Fork, we did not intend to harm them, and they promised to remain all night in their village, and talk to us in the morning. But they lied to us, and ran away in the night. We then sent our horsemen after them. We camped five or six days near their village, to see whether the Cheyennes would come back and say they were innocent; but they did not come. They were in the same camp, and we could not tell the Cheyennes from the Sioux. Before we left their village, we burnt it. Before that time they had fired on my express-man going to Larned, and on the Smoky Hill, and at other places. The Sioux left an old man and woman in their village when they ran away, and the Cheyennes left a little girl, whom they had treated very badly. The Sioux and little Cheyenne girl are here. You can see them if you wish. I did not know whether the Indians were going north or south, when they ran away from their camp, but I sent some cavalry to the Cinnamon Crossing to take prisoners any Cheyennes or Sioux who came there. Some of the Cheyennes came to that point, and tried to creep up and kill our herders, but our cavalry attacked and killed six of them. We are now going to make war on the Sioux and Cheyennes, between the Arkansas and Platte. If they go south of the Arkansas our soldiers will follow them; but if you keep them north of the Arkansas, no soldiers will go into your country.

You know well the game is getting very scarce, and that you must soon have some other means of living. You should therefore cultivate the friendship of the white man, so that, when the game is all gone, they may take care of you, if necessary. The roads and railroads must not be molested, and it is to your interest, as well as ours, to have them to bring your goods to you cheaply. You must not disturb them, for if you do, your Great Father will be angry and take the whole country from you, and leave no Indians in it. When I go away from here, I will leave General Smith in this country. He will stay here, and if he hears of any stealing or other depredations, he will follow the guilty ones until he finds them. General Smith was in this
country twenty years ago with General Kearney. He knows all about the plains and the Indians. We always hear when depredations are committed, and know what tribes steal horses, etc. We understand the Arrapahoes have got some mules belonging to white men; we wish you to give them up. If the white men commit depredations against you, come in and report the matter to your agents, or to the nearest commander of troops, and you shall have redress. We hear that some of the tribes south of the Arkansas go down into Texas, where they kill men, capture women, and steal stock; this must stop. All of the country down to the Red river north to the Platte, and all of New Mexico, is now under my command, and I shall look after these matters. We can move in the winter as well as in the summer. Our horses are fat when yours are poor, and we can go over the plains in the winter as certain as at any other time. Next winter, if any depredations are committed south of the Arkansas, we will go down to the Red river and come up this way, when we will punish those who may be guilty. We do not wish war, but desire peace and order; but our Great Father will certainly punish those who disturb travellers, rob, or commit other depredations. I am very glad to see you here, and am sorry that I had to ask you to talk before you had something to eat. But I must go on to Fort Larned, where I am expected.

I will tell Major Douglass to give you sufficient provisions to take you home.

"Little Raven" then said:

We wish you to bear in mind that we will stay in the south, if there is war north of the Arkansas, with the Kiowas, Comanches and other tribes. We wish to be in a country where there is peace. We have made peace in Texas this spring, and have quit going there for war. All the whites in Texas are at peace with us now. The Kiowas are big fools, and will go to Texas for war; but as soon as they do so again, the Arrapahoes will go north of the Arkansas. If any war parties go south, our young men will tell Major Douglass of them. We know Major Douglass well, and whenever he has sent for us, we have come in. When we come into this fort, we will come to the ford above the post, and Mr. Jones and Adkins, and Major Douglass, will know we are Arrapahoes when they see us at that ford. The Sioux and other Indians don't know that ford. Our young men will come to the fort any time this summer to trade, and they will come to that ford in the day time. When the Sioux come down here, they come at night. Our young men will let Major Douglass know if any of the Sioux or Cheyennes
come south of the Arkansas. We will report all we have heard here when we get home. I have spoken.

General Hancock then said as follows:

These Indians who are at war with us are fools. They have not many men to lose; we have plenty of men; they cannot replace those who are killed. The Indians are few in numbers; the whites are like the grass on the prairies. If the Kiowas are going to keep up the war in Texas we wish to know it. If they do not stop sending war parties there, they will be punished. We may not go there today or tomorrow, or in a month, but when we do go, it will be with a strong force.

But we do not wish to take soldiers there unless it is necessary, but we would sooner go there now than at any other time. If there are bad men in your tribe whom you cannot control, let those who wish to be quiet and peaceable come to us, and we will take care of them. I wish you would think over the matter of being soldiers of your Great Father. We would like to have two or three hundred of your young men for scouts. I have but little more to say, but wish to speak about one matter again; that is, about the mules you have belonging to white men. You can bring them in and give them to Major Douglass, as you have promised to do. We have heard that you have lost some horses. We will try to catch the thieves, but we do not know whether we can do so or not. We have written letters to the different posts, telling the commanders to try and recover your horses. We are as anxious that you should not lose your horses as that the whites should not lose theirs.

Little Raven then said:

I told Mr. Jones some time ago that we had twenty-five head of mules belonging to white men. One of the mules died and one of them was lost while we were hunting buffalo. We have twenty-three yet. They are in Storm's village; we will bring them in and turn them over to Major Douglass.

General Hancock then said:

We are going away, and do not wish to come back here with our soldiers to disturb your women and children. We want you to keep this country quiet. But you know if the Cheyennes and Sioux come south of the river, we must follow them.

Little Raven then said:

Whenever you follow them south of the river, you will not find them in the same camp with us; we will not camp with them.
General Hancock said:
That is right; but do not let them come south, then there will be no war here.

Little Raven replied:
If any Cheyennes or Sioux come south of the river, we will report it to Major Douglass.

General Hancock replied:
We will reward you well if you do so. The last words I have to say to you is to keep this road clear.

A true copy.

W. G. Mitchell,
Captain and A. A. A. General.

K.

PROCEEDINGS IN COUNCIL HELD BY MAJOR GENERAL HANCOCK, COMMANDING DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI, WITH THE HEAD CHIEF "SATANTA," OF THE KIOWA TRIBE OF INDIANS IN KANSAS, AT FORT LARNED, KANSAS, MAY 1, 1867.

Mr. Jones (Interpreter) said:
Before the council commences, I wish to say that I understand that Colonel Leavenworth told Satanta not to talk much today, but to go down to Fort Zara to him tomorrow, and he would make it all right. He may not, therefore, talk as much as he would otherwise have done.

General Hancock said:
Colonel Leavenworth is present, and can answer for himself.

Colonel Leavenworth said:
All I have to say in regard to that is, that not a word of that kind has passed between us. I did not ask him to come to Zara, nor tell him anything about talking.

General Hancock to Mr. Jones:
That is sufficient. Now, if Satanta wishes to proceed, you can let him do so whenever he is ready.

Satanta said:
I look upon you and General Smith as my fathers. I want friends, and I say, by the sun, and the earth I live on, I want to talk straight and tell the truth. All other tribes are my brothers, and I want friends, and am doing all I can for peace. If I die first, it is all right. All of the Indians south
of here are my friends. When I first started out as a war-
rior I was a boy; now I am a man, and all men are my
friends. I want the Great Father at Washington, and all
the soldiers and troops, to hold on. I don't want the prai-
ries and country to be bloody, but just hold on for a while.
I don't want war at all; I want peace. As for the Kiowas
talking war, I don't know anything about it. Nor do I know
anything about the Comanches, Cheyennes, and Sioux talk-
ing about war. The Cheyennes, Kiowas, and Comanches
are poor. They are of all the same color. They are all red
men. This country here is old, and it all belongs to them.
But you are cutting off the timber, and now the country is
of no account at all. I don't mean anything bad by what I
say. I have nothing bad hidden in my breast at all; every-
thing is all right there. I have heard that there are many
troops coming out in this country to whip the Cheyennes,
and that is the reason we were afraid, and went away. The
Cheyennes, Arrapahoes, and Kiowas heard that there were
troops coming out in this country; so also the Comanches
and Apaches, but do not know whether they were coming
for peace or for war. They were on the lookout, and listen-
ing, and hearing from down out of the ground all the time.
They were afraid to come in. I don't think the Cheyennes
wanted to fight, but I understand you burned their village.
I don't think that was good at all. To you, General, and to
all these officers sitting around here, I say that I know that
whatever I tell you will be sent to Washington, and I don't
want anything else but the truth told. Other chiefs of the
Kiowas, who rank below me, have come in to look for ra-
tions, and to look about, and their remarks are reported to
Washington, but I don't think their hearts are good.

Colonel Leavenworth said:
What he means by that is, that other chiefs come in to
make speeches for nothing else but to get something to eat.

Satanta continued:
Lone Wolf, Stumbling Bear, and Kicking Bird all came in
with that object, and their speeches amount to nothing. The
Cheyennes, the Arrapahoes, the Comanches, Kiowas, Apa-
ches, and some Sioux, all sent to see me, for they know me
to be the best man, and sent information that they wanted
peace. They do not work underhanded at all, but declare
plainly that they want peace. I hope that you two generals,
and all these officers around here, will help me, and give me
heart, and help the Cheyennes, and not destroy them, but
let them live. All of the Indians south of this desire the same, and when they talk that way to me I give them praise for it. Whatever I hear in this council, and whatever you tell me, I will repeat when I reach my villages, and there are some Cheyennes over there whom I will tell, and will induce them to preserve peace. But if they will not listen to me, all my men and myself will have nothing more to do with them. I want peace, and will try to make them keep peaceful. The Kiowa braves have grown up from childhood, obtaining their medicine from the earth. Many have grown old, and continue growing old, and dying from time to time, but there are some remaining yet. I do not want war at all, but want to make friends, and am doing the best I can for that purpose. There are four different bands of Comanches camped at different points in the south, along on the streams, and there are five different bands of Kiowas, those of Lone Wolf, Heap of Bears, Timber Mountain, Black Bird, and Stumbling Bear, and they profess to be chiefs, although they have but two or three lodges each. They are waiting, however, to hear what they can learn before taking the war path. The Kiowas do not say anything, and whatever the white man says is all right for them. The Kiowas and the white men are in council to-day, but I hope no mistake will be made about what the Indians say here, and that nothing will be added to it, because I know that everything is sent right to Washington.

General Hancock:

There are two or three interpreters here to witness, and prevent mistakes in the translation, so that it will be properly written down.

Satanta continued:

About two o'clock I want to start back to Fort Dodge, and I want you to give me a letter.

General Hancock:

As soon as I can copy it I will give you the written proceedings of this council, but cannot say that I can give it you as soon as that.

Satanta:

I simply want a letter when I go into camp, so that I can show it.

General Hancock:

I will give you a copy of the proceedings to take with you,
so that you may show it to any man who may be able to read it to you.

Satanta continued:

As for this Arkansas wagon road, I have no objection to it; but I don't want any railroad here, but upon the Smoky Hill route a railroad can run there, and it is all right. On the Arkansas and all those northern streams, there is no timber; it has all been cut off; but, nevertheless, if anybody knows of anything bad being done, I do not like it. There are no longer any buffaloos around here, nor anything else we can kill to live on; but I am striving for peace now, and don't want anything construed to be bad, from what I say, because I am simply speaking the plain truth. The Kiowas are poor. Other tribes are very foolish. They make war and are unfortunate, and then call upon the Kiowas to aid them, and I don't know what to think about it. I wan't peace, and all these officers around this country know it. I have talked with them until now I am tired. I came down here, and brought my women with me, but came for peace. If any white men steal our stock, I will report it openly. I continue to come often and am not tired. Now I am doing the best I can, and the white man is looking for me. If there were no troops in this country, and the citizens only lived around here, that would be better. But there are so many troops coming in here that I fear they will do something bad to me. When Satank shot the sentinel here at the post, some two or three years since, there was then war, and that was bad. I came near losing my life then. The Kiowas have now thrown him (Satank) away. If the Indians up north wish to act foolishly, that is not any of my business, and is no reason why we should do so down here. If the Indians further south see the white men coming, they will not come up on the war path, nor fight. They will not do so if they want to fight, but will call a council, to come and talk as they do here now. To-day it is good and to-night it is good, and when the grass comes it will be good; and this road which runs up to the west is good also. Everything is all right now. If you keep the horses herded around here close to the fort, they will never be good. Let them run away off on the prairies; there is no danger. Let them get grass, and they will get fat; but do not let the children and boys run away off on the hills now. That is not good. I don't do it, nor do the Cheyennes. I think that is a very good idea. You are a very big chief, but when I am away over
to the Kiowas, then I am a big chief myself. Whenever a trader comes to my camp I treat him well, and do not do anything out of the way to him. All the traders are laughing and shaking hands with me. When the Indians get a little liquor they get drunk and fight sometimes, and sometimes they whip me; but when they get sober they are all right, and I don't think anything about it. All the white men around here can look at me, and hear what I say. I am doing all I can to keep my men down, and doing the best I can to have peace. Down at the mouth of the Little Arkansas, where a treaty was made, Colonel Leavenworth was present, and I was the first man who came in there to make peace with Colonel Leavenworth, and I did it by my word. Little Mountain, the former chief of the tribe, is now dead. He did all he could to make peace, and kept talking and talking, but the white man kept doing something bad to him, and he was in so much misery that he died. The white men and Indians kept fighting each other backward and forward, and then I came in and make peace myself. Little Mountain did not give me my commission. I won it myself. These three braves (pointing to some Indians around him) are chiefs also, and are not afraid of soldiers, and the sight of them does not frighten them at all. The prairie is large and good, and so are the heavens above, and I do not want them stained by the blood of war. I don't want you to trouble yourself and have fear about bringing out too many trains in this country, for I don't want to see any wagons broken or destroyed by war.

Now, I want to find out what is the reason Colonel Leavenworth did not give me some annuity goods. I have never talked bad, and I don't want to talk bad, but I want to find out the reason I did not get my annuity goods. There are Lone Bear, Heap-of-Bears, Stumbling Bear, and Little Heart, and others, six chiefs with very small bands, and they all received their annuity goods, while those of my tribe are as plenty as the grass, and I came in for my goods and did not see them. You can look upon us all, and see if we have any of those goods. All that we have we have bought and paid for. We are all poor men; and I think others have got all the goods; but let them keep them. I want peace, and I don't want to make war on account of our goods. I expect to trade for what I get, and not get anything for making speeches. My heart is very strong. We can make robes and trade them. That is what we have to live upon. I have no mules, horses, nor robes to give Colonel Leavenworth for
my goods. I am a poor man, but I am not going to get
angry and talk about it. I simply want to tell this to these
officers here present. Such articles of clothing as the white
man may throw away we will pick up and brush off and use,
and make out the best we can; and, if you throw away pro-
visions, we will clean and use them also, and thus do the best
we can. I see a great many officers around here with fine
clothing, but I do not come to beg. I admire fine clothes,
although I never did beg, or anything of that sort. I have
no hat, and am going about without one, the same as all the
other Kiowas. Colonel Bent used to come over often to my
tent, and the Kiowas went there to him very often, and were
glad and shook hands with him; and Mr. Curtis went there,
and he was treated the same way. All were treated the
same. But I am not poor enough to die yet. I think my
women can make enough to live upon, and can make some-
thing yet. When Colonel Bent was our agent, and brought
our goods out to us, he brought them out and kept them in
a train; and when he arrived he unloaded all our goods to
us, and that was the way to do it. But now there is a differ-
ent way of doing things. At my camp I waited and sent
for the agent, and did not see him; but other chiefs mounted
their horses, and went there and claimed to be principal men.
I heard that the railroad was to come up through this coun-
try, and my men and other tribes objected to it; but I advised
them to keep silent. I thought that by the railroad being built
up through here, we would get our goods sure, but they do not
come. I would like to get some agent who is a good and re-
 sponsible man—one who would give us all our annuities. I do
not want an agent who will steal half of our goods and hide
them, but an agent who will get all my goods and bring them
out here, and give them to me. I am not talking any thing
badly or angrily, but simply the truth. I don't think the great
men at Washington know any thing about this, but I am now
telling your officers to find it out. Now I am done, and what-
ever you (General Hancock) have to say to me I will listen to,
and those who are with me will listen, so that when we return
to camp we can tell others the same as you tell us.

General Hancock said:

We have heard always that you were the great war chief of
the Kiowas, and this is the belief among the white people whom
I have seen in this country. I am very glad to see you here for
that reason. We are speaking of very serious and important
things, and therefore I wish to speak with those who have the
most influence with their tribes.
The Great Father did not send me here to make treaties with you, but we came to see who are respecting the treaties which have already been made; and if their agents report any guilty ones we are here to punish them. We did not come down here to make war, but with the hope of avoiding war. We came prepared for it, however, and if we found anybody in this country who wanted war, (we heard there were some,) we were ready, and intended to meet them. When, on first coming to Fort Larned, we went up the Pawnee Fork, we had then more soldiers with us, in my command, than all of your men together. Your Great Father has many more soldiers. You know this very well. If we lose soldiers, we do not have to wait for them to grow up. Your Great Father will send us more—a great many more, if necessary. You know well that when you lose a man you have no reserve, and cannot send another, but must wait until one grows up. It is for your interest, then, to have peace. The Great Father is as much a friend to the Indian as to the white man; but he learned that there were many murders and depredations committed upon the trains and travellers on the Smoky Hill, and sometimes on the Arkansas, and also in Texas, and he became angry. I have been sent here to find out who committed these depredations. Some time ago we were at war with Texas. They thought they were a great people, and rebelled against their Great Father, but they have now been punished and put down; and they are his children now as before, and you must not make war upon them. As I have told the other Indians before, I command all the troops in the country down to the Red river, including New Mexico to the west, and to the Platte on the north, so that when any orders to fight Indians in that country are made by the Great Father, they pass through me. I like, therefore, to see tribes who have one chief whom I can talk to about such matters, and whom the young men will obey, instead of there being two or three or more chiefs with divided authority. The Great Father will not permit the young men of the tribes to roam around and commit such outrages as have been reported to him; and if there is no great chief who can prevent them, the Great Father must do it with his soldiers. When I started I intended to go south of the Arkansas, and see the Kiowas and Comanches, as well as the Arrapahoes and Apaches, but we got into this war with the Cheyennes and Sioux, and have sent all of our cavalry after them. We don't wish to call them back here, because they have plenty to do where they are. Nor do we want to go south of the Arkansas now, because the tribes living there tell us they are afraid of the troops, which causes them to run away. We do not wish to frighten the families of those tribes who are at peace.
with us. We will, then, not go south of the Arkansas river now, unless we find that we have enemies there. The Cheyennes and Sioux at the north are fighting, and behaving very badly, and a great many troops are in pursuit of them. Many Sioux and Cheyennes came down south here last winter. I learned that they were coming south to induce the Indians here to join them. Satanta and Kicking Bird told Major Douglass so, and that we must get off from this road. Satanta also told us that the Sioux came down here to make coalitions against us, and that they intended to make war here in the spring; and that is one of the matters that brought us here. We know that the depredations that were committed last summer and winter, and recently, on the Smoky Hill, were by the Sioux and Cheyennes. We know this, and have satisfactory evidence of it. You say the Indians do not want to make war. Is not that war? The other day we came here and sent for the chiefs of the Sioux and Cheyennes to come to our camp at Fort Larned. None but two chiefs came, although I waited there for several days, and although they were only thirty miles distant. They sent word to us that the young men were out buffalo-hunting, and that was the reason they could not come. But I know the reason. We soon found out that the young men were out on the Smoky Hill. Their agent was with us, and I took him along so as to convince them that we did not mean to harm them unjustly; but I told them whoever their agent told me was guilty I would make a demand for, if the agent considered the guilt was clear, and told them that we did not go to their villages to make war upon them. When we got up near their camp we met Pawnee Killer of the Sioux, who promised to come up with the chiefs and see us the next morning at nine o'clock to have a talk. Pawnee Killer and some of the chiefs of the Cheyennes remained at our camp all night, and sent messengers to their people. We were then ten miles away from them, and I told them after our talk we would come up and encamp near them on our road to the south. They did not come next day at nine o'clock, and then I ordered my camp to be struck.

Some time after that we received notice that they were coming, but it was so windy that we could not have a conference. I told them so, and said that we would talk with them in the evening in camp, and invited them to accompany us. They said very well, and that they would be in camp in the evening and have a talk. But all the time they were going to talk with me, the Cheyennes and Sioux, and all excepting some few warriors or a rear guard, were running away. When we reached their village, I encamped quietly by them, and we sent their stray
mules to them. Bull Bear and Roman Nose came to me and told me that the women and children were frightened and ran away. They did not tell me, though, that the Sioux and nearly all the Cheyenne warriors had run away also, but told me if I would give them some horses they would go and bring the women and children back that night, and they wanted to keep the warriors in camp until morning. I told them very well.

We put an interpreter there to see if they remained in camp, and instructed him to come and tell us if they did not remain in camp all night. He came and told us after dark that they were all running away, and thus it was seen that they lied to us. I then concluded that the village was a nest of conspirators, and that they were there for mischief, as Satanta had told us and all the others. I believe they ran away because they were guilty, fearing that we would punish them. We sent our horsemen after them, and waited there nearly a week to see if they commenced war or not. We had made no war yet. We placed a guard around their camp, so as to allow nobody to touch it. We wished to see if the Sioux and Cheyennes committed any murders on the road, and waited there for that purpose. They had started so early that they arrived on the Smoky Hill a good while before the cavalry arrived there, and they burned one station, and tried to burn another, and burned three white men. That we considered war, and then ordered their camp to be burned, and everything they had in it to be destroyed or carried off. Before that time they had fired on my expressmen on the Smoky Hill and elsewhere. We wanted to ascertain whether the Cheyennes went north or south, and sent a few of the cavalry to the Cimaron Crossing, with orders that if any Cheyennes came there to take them prisoners. There were some horses out herding and grazing there, and six (6) Cheyennes came along and tried to crawl up and shoot the herders. I do not think they saw the cavalry. The commander of the troops thinks that the Indians did not know that the cavalry was there. Twenty soldiers happened to come up just then and demanded the Cheyennes to surrender, but they in answer fired upon the troops. The soldiers then killed them all.

I then wrote to all my commanders, and to General Smith, who commands in this part of the country, that we were at war with the Cheyennes and Sioux.

When the Great Father knows all that has taken place out here he will see and say what has to be done with the Cheyennes and Sioux. It is very difficult for soldiers to tell one tribe from another, and therefore during the time this war is going on with these tribes you had better remain south of the Arkansas, unless
they pass north from the south, or south from the north, going or returning from war expeditions. There will be peace south of the Arkansas, if everything is quiet there. There must be no trouble now on this road, otherwise I shall have to bring my troops here. If the Cheyennes cross the river and we see their trails, we shall have to follow them. We shall soon know whether the Cheyennes mean war or not, and whether the Sioux do, or whether any other Indians mean war. We shall then know how to act ourselves. If we have war with the Sioux and Cheyennes, we will not make peace with them until the Great Father tells us to do so. They will have to show by their acts that they are honest; that they are not again telling us lies. If the Kiowas, Arrapahoes, Comanches, Apaches, or either of them, keep this road clear, I will not have to send any soldiers down here for that purpose, and then their families will not be frightened. You will not have to go to war unless so disposed; and if this war continues with the Cheyennes and Sioux, we would like to get two hundred or three hundred of your tribe for scouts; we will clothe, feed, and dress them well, and arm them, and furnish them with horses and blankets, and pay them the same as our horsemen. I want them to keep this road clear, and to tell me who are the Cheyennes and Sioux and who are the other Indians, so that we may only kill the guilty. We prefer to have some Kiowas, some Arrapahoes, some Apaches, and some Comanches; but if we cannot get them from all the tribes, we will take them from one tribe. I wish you would think over this matter, and let Major Douglass know at Fort Dodge, after you have considered it, what your conclusion is. I will put a white officer with the scouts, so that our troops can know who they are, and will give them the Sioux lodges which we did not burn to put them in, if they are not rich in lodges.

The most important thing I have to say to you now is to keep this road clear up on the Arkansas river, and allow no murders or depredations upon it, and permit no horses nor mules to be stolen, so that we will not have to collect all this force out here, and come down here to punish the depredators. The time is coming when every tribe should have one principal chief, because we intend to demand that the tribes shall be responsible for the acts of their young men.

You see you cannot travel in winter. We have forage and storehouses, and can move in winter when our horses are fat. We may not come down south of the Arkansas this month, nor the next month; but whenever we find out anything is going wrong, and who are at home, and who are not at home, we shall come, even although we should not come until next winter. But we do not wish to make war upon you; the soldiers do not wish
it; but whenever there is a good cause, it is our business to do so, because that is what soldiers are for.

You know very well that in a few more years the game will go away. What will you do then? You will have to depend upon the white man to assist you, and depend upon the Great Father to feed you when hungry. Your children will have to depend upon raising corn and stock, as other Indians do, before long. This generation may not have to do it, but the next generation will be obliged to do so. Then you should cultivate the friendship of the white man now, in order that he may be your friend when you may need his assistance. The white man is coming out here so fast that nothing can stop him; coming from the east, and coming from the west, like a prairie on fire in a high wind. Nothing can stop him. The reason of it is, that the whites are a numerous people, and they are spreading out. They require room, and cannot help it. Those on one sea in the west wish to communicate with those living on another sea in the east, and that is the reason they are building these roads, these wagon-roads and railroads, and telegraphs. The roads will bring the goods of the white man to you cheaply, and they will do you good when they are completed. We soldiers cannot stop them. The Great Father had a council with the tribes, and asked their consent to run roads here, and you (Satanta) and the others gave your permission. That treaty was made at the mouth of the Little Arkansas, and last fall it was signed again; and it is too late to reconsider it now. I don’t know where the railroad is going to run. It may run on the Smoky Hill, and they may find it a better road to come here. At any rate, if the road comes here I cannot help it, and you have given your consent to it, and cannot resist it. The wood is all going, as it is in the east, where the white man lives, and they will use up the wood there as soon as the Indians are out of it here. But we have found other things which answer the purpose as well as wood; and the same will be found here when the white men have explored this country. It is just as good as wood, and indeed is better. They will have coal here. They find it in the ground. They will find it somewhere in this country. It has been found up on the Smoky Hill already. In the east, where the Great Father lives, they nearly all burn coal. You need have no fear on this point.

We build these garrisons as places of rest for the travellers, and as stations for soldiers. But they will disturb no Indians unless they have sufficient cause. We will also protect the Indian in his property; and if he loses property, and the white man commit a depredation upon you, he must not redress these wrongs, but call upon us, for we can do it better, and
will arrest the offenders. If there is any danger of their escaping, you should arrest them, and bring them to us—not kill them.

I have listened to what you have said about your annuity goods. I have nothing to do with that matter whatever. What you have said here, however, and what I have said, will go to Washington. I cannot do any thing about your agent. After I have finished speaking, if he (the agent) desires to say any thing, he can do so. I have no control over him whatever. I have said every thing now which I desire to say. I do not expect to see you for some time again, unless we have to go to war south of the Arkansas river.

Colonel Leavenworth said:

These are the men who killed the Box family in Texas, and my instructions were not to give them any annuity goods until the condition of my written instructions were complied with. I accordingly file copies of these instructions, for record in the proceedings of this council, as an explanation why these Indians did not receive their annuity goods. These papers are from Washington. The commissioners at Washington told me, in these papers, that, unless all the captives were returned without ransom, of which he (Satanta) knows, and obtained sufficient assurance that no further depredations would be committed, no annuities should be given. But Satanta has never come and given any assurances in this matter.

Satanta said:

Stumbling Bear was in that raid, and why should he get so many goods?

Colonel Leavenworth:

Because he had come in and given the assurances that had been required of him.

Satanta:

Why was Mor-way given so many goods?

Colonel Leavenworth declined to be questioned thus.

General Hancock said:

He does not wish to be questioned upon this matter. This council will now end, unless Satanta has something more to say.

(To Satanta.)—This general on my left is General Smith, an old soldier on the plains, and who was here a great many years ago. He commands in this country when I am not here. I wish you to know it.

A true copy.

W. G. Mitchell,
Captain and A. A. A. General.
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT CAVALRY CAMP,  
NEAR FORT HAYS, May 4, 1867.

Lt. THOMAS B. WEIR,  
Acting Asst. Adj. Gen'l, District of the Upper Arkansas.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, calling upon me for my "reasons in detail for not making any movement" with my command since my arrival at this point. In reply, I would state that I reached this post on the 19th ultimo, expecting to find forage and subsistence stores for my command. Upon the contrary, no provision had been made for its supply. By depriving the post of forage on hand at the time of my arrival, I obtained sufficient for one day and a half for my horses alone; this was made to last three days. From that time until the 25th ultimo I was entirely without forage, except a small amount of very indifferent hay, obtained from the post. On the 25th ultimo, a train of five wagons loaded with grain reached me from Fort Harker. This was sufficient but for one day and a half.

This supply was sent upon my request, by special courier to the commanding officer at Fort Harker. The reason assigned for not increasing it was that but five wagons remained belonging to the post train, the remaining having been sent to Larned loaded with supplies.

On the 27th ultimo, a train arrived with a full supply of grain. My horses at this time were in no condition to undertake a march, having been without forage for several days after arriving at this post, and subsisted entirely during that time upon dry prairie grass. It was necessary that they should be fed and groomed well, in order to prevent as far as possible, loss of condition. I could not have moved from this post and depended upon Fort Wallace for forage, as the supply at that post is but for fifteen days for the animals of the post, which would not have fed my command for more than three days. Supplies of subsistence stores expected daily at this post have been small and insufficient, but about two days supply being on hand.

In addition to the above reason, I would add that I have devoted my attention to re-establishing the stage route, and for this purpose have materially weakened the garrison at Forts Hays and Wallace. I now have every station guarded
by five men each, from this post to the distance of two hundred miles west.

The Indians have committed no serious depredations since my arrival upon this route, and the stages without guards, now make their regular trips without interruption.

I send scouts in different directions almost daily, some to the distance of a hundred miles, but fail to discover any bands of Indians.

For the above reasons, my command has not made any movement since my arrival at this post.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

G. A. CUSTER,

Lieut. Col. 7th Cav'y, and B. M. Gen'l Com'y Regiment.

A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,

Capt. and A. A. A. G.

M.

The Western Union Telegraph Company.

From Topeka, dated 3d May, '67.

To Commanding Officer, Fort Riley.

Six (6) citizens have recently been murdered by the Indians at White Rock, near Lake Sibley, on the Republican river. Will you send troops to that point at once? Also notify General Hancock as soon as possible.

S. J. SANDFORD,

Governor.

Official.

W. G. MITCHELL,

Capt. and A A. A. G.

N.

Headquarters Department of the Mo., in the Field,
Camp near Fort Harker, Kas., May 7, 1867.

Brevet Major General A. J. SMITH,

Commanding District of the Upper Arkansas.

General: The major general commanding directs me to
say that forty-five thousand (45,000) rations of subsistence are now at Fort Harker for Fort Hays, and that the remaining portion of a supply of forage for the cavalry now at that post, until the 1st of June, will leave Fort Harker for Fort Hays to-morrow morning.

There will therefore in all probability be no further difficulty or delay in the way of moving troops from that post, on account of supplies of subsistence and forage.

In view of these facts, the major general commanding wishes you to make an expedition at the earliest possible day, with the cavalry at Fort Hays, or with that portion of it which may be in a condition to move, against all Sioux and Cheyenne Indians who may be found between the Arkansas and Platte rivers—save those Sioux who may be within the scope of country defined in the copy of the enclosed dispatch from Brevet Brig. General A. Sully, president of a commission to investigate the "Fort Phil Kearney massacre." It is the opinion of the major general commanding that it is not intended by the commission referred to, that the Brule and Ogollala Sioux shall come as far south as the Smoky Hill; but of this the general will inform you, when he receives more definite information on the subject, which he hopes to do in a day or two.

It is particularly desirable that the movement herein directed against the Sioux and Cheyennes should be made before their horses, which are now poor, are fattened on the new grass.

After that expedition has been made, subsequent movements against Indians can all be at your discretion.

The major general commanding will furnish you with all of the information he can obtain relative to Indian matters in your district, and requests that you will communicate with him as frequently as possible on the same subject.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) W. G. MITCHELL,
Capt. and A. A. A. General.

Official copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Capt. and A. A. A. General.
By Telegraph from Ft. Sedgwick, 23d. 6.30 p. m.

April 23, 1867.

To General Hancock.

The commission has met the Brule and part of Ogollala Sioux, and allowed them to remain for the present in section of country between Platte and north of Smoky Hill, and longitude of Pole creek and Plum creek.

(Signed,)  
A. SULLY,  
Brev't Brig. Gen'l, Pres't.

38 ft. collect.

A true copy.  
C. McKEEVER,  
A. A. General.

P.

Headquarters Department of the Missouri,  
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, May 11, 1867.

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report in reference to the condition of the medical department of the expedition which left Fort Leavenworth March 25, 1867.

The troops constituting the command were, the 7th United States cavalry, the 27th United States infantry, and Battery B, 4th United States artillery. Many of these troops were recruits, especially those of the 37th infantry. Moreover, these latter, previous to their arrival at Fort Leavenworth, had been exposed to the influence of a miasmatic region, and many of them had suffered during the winter from the sequela of malarious diseases.

At the time the expedition left Fort Leavenworth, the season was but very little advanced, the ground was thoroughly saturated, and the roads in some places rendered almost impassable for foot-soldiers. In some instances the infantry had to march through mud and wet, often for nearly a day's march at a time. At times the winds which prevail at this season on the plains were very violent, blowing directly in the faces of the troops, so as to render progression almost impossible. Twice the command was visited by snow-storms. In one instance, while in camp near Fort Larned, Camp No. 11, April 9th, snow fell to
a depth of seven and one-third (7½) inches. The storm lasted all day, and was accompanied by a high and cold wind. The thermometer indicated 26°.

These circumstances, associated with the fact that the troops had just left their warm winter quarters at Forts Leavenworth and Riley to take the field, would have justified a supposition that a large number would appear daily on sick report. Such, however, was not the case; as the result shows the death-rate was absolutely nothing, while the ratio of sick and wounded was exceedingly small, being only twenty-one (21) per thousand.

The arrangements for the transportation of the sick were complete. Ambulances, of a good pattern and in sufficient number, were provided and placed under the immediate control of the chief medical officer. This arrangement rendered them more available, as they could, wherever occasion demanded, be transported from one command to another. Stringent orders were issued, forbidding the transportation of any thing in the ambulances except the sick. These orders were strictly complied with, and, as a result, no single instance occurred where an ambulance was broken down or rendered unavailable.

Much of the good result shown in the small ratio of sick was owing to the fact that medical and hospital stores, with all necessary surgical appliances, had been accumulated at the different posts in the line of march, for the use of the expedition, so that in no instance was there a lack of any necessary medicines or hospital supplies. The different medical officers were instructed to draw, at each post where we arrived at, only such supplies as would last until their arrival at the nearest post. By this arrangement, ample transportation was always at hand without encumbering the ambulances.

It was deemed inexpedient to provide hospital tents. An increased amount of transportation would have been required for them; and as the military posts in the line of march were but a few days apart, at most. Moreover, it having been previously determined to leave behind, at each post, such cases as were unable to march, no necessity for hospital tents was anticipated, and the result showed that they were not required.

A very small number of sick had to be left behind at the posts, and nearly all of these were available for duty when the command passed through these posts on its return. Some cases of scurvy occurred in the 37th United States
infantry and 7th United States cavalry. This was unusual among troops so recently from winter quarters, that is, presupposing that they had been properly provided and cared for during the winter. A special report of this matter was made and forwarded to headquarters in the field, accompanied by reports of the different company commanders of the 7th cavalry, (where the largest number of cases occurred,) showing the kind and quantity of rations issued to these troops.

The result of the expedition has, I believe, demonstrated that a campaign can be carried out in winter or early spring, without that detriment to the health of the troops which is generally supposed to result therefrom.

(Signed,)  
J. W. BREWER,  
Brevet Major and Ass't Surgeon U. S. A.,  
Chief Medical Officer.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL,  
Department of Mo., in the Field, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Official.  
W. G. MITCHELL,  
Captain and A. A. A. General.

Q.  
[Telegram.]  
OMAHA, May 13, 1867.

To Major General HANCOCK:  
General Sherman's telegram of the eleventh (11) received to-day. All the friendly bands have left the Republican and gone north of the Platte. They report two hundred and fifty (250) lodges of Cheyennes and sixty (60) lodges of Sioux on Turkey creek, a tributary of the Republican, and about eighty (80) miles south of Fort McPherson. They are reported to be very short of horses, and have many parties out on foot to steal others; they have already stolen a great many.

If you send through to the Platte, Fort McPherson is the best point, and I will send supplies for you there as you will indicate.

(Signed,)  
C. C. AUGUR,  
Brevet Major General.

A true copy.  
W. G. MITCHELL,  
Captain and A. A. A. General.
DESTRUCTION OF THE INDIAN VILLAGES ON PAWNEE FORK.

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 23, 1867.

To Major General W. S. HANCOCK.

Reports from Indian agent Wyncoop to effect that Cheyennes have committed no hostilities against the whites to justify the destruction of their village, the Interior Department desire to know if in good faith their losses should not be made good? Report briefly reasons for destroying their property, whether they should be fed and equipped again, and report at length by mail in reply to letters of Wyncoop and Leavenworth sent you by mail.

(Signed,) U. S. GRANT,

General U. S. Army.

Official copy.

W. M. Beebe, Jr.,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

RELATIVE TO BURNING THE INDIAN VILLAGES.

Major General Winfield S. Hancock, U. S. Army, to General U. S. Grant, U. S. Army.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, May 23, 1867.

To General U. S. Grant,
Commanding Army of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

GENERAL: Your dispatch of this date received. I burned the Sioux and Cheyenne villages deliberately in Colonel Wyncoop's presence. I understand he then objected to my course; but that I had expected, for I have seen no agents who do not attempt to shield their Indians. Colonel Wyncoop presented as an argument for my not burning the villages that the Government would be the only loser, as the property destroyed would be returned, (by the Indian department,) as had been done before. If I had not felt satisfied of the wisdom and propriety of my course, it is scarcely probable that I would have acted as I did. I have made a
full report of my operations, which will be transmitted to Lieu-
tenant General Sherman within twenty-four hours. I also
daily, I may say, from my camps, sent him full reports of all
that occurred of moment on my tour, so that he had the
means of laying these matters before you as they transpired.

We have a war now on hand with the Sioux and Chey-
ennes between the Arkansas and the Platte. They have at-
tacked a mail station and an engineering party on the Smoky
Hill, within the last few days, and were in each case driven
off, once with certain loss. One or two depredations have
recently been committed on the Arkansas, (so reported,) I
would suggest that, as we have a war with these Indians,
the matter of restoration of lodges, &c., had better be de-
ferred until the war is over.

My report states that my reasons for burning the villages
were as follows:

The Indians broke faith with me in leaving their camp
after they had promised to remain and have a conference with
me.

They left a little captive girl, about eight (8) or nine (9)
years of age, said to be partly white, in their camp, whom
they had brutally outraged and abused, notwithstanding that
I had told them, two days previously, that if they abused
captives again as they had done before, I would punish them
for it.

Notwithstanding the above matters, I remained by the vil-
lages, guarding them as sacrely as I could, from the four-
teenth (14) until the nineteenth (19) April, to ascertain
whether or not they intended to commence a war, as we had
been previously informed they would do this spring.

When I learned from General Custer, who investigated
these matters on the spot, that directly after they had aban-
donned the villages they attacked and burned a mail station
on the Smoky Hill, killed the white men at it, disembowelled
and burned them, fired into another station, endeavored to
gain admittance to a third, fired on my expressmen, both on
the Smoky Hill and on their way to Larned, I concluded
that this must be war, and therefore deemed it my duty to
take the first opportunity which presented to resent their
hostilities and outrages, and did so by destroying their vil-
lages.

As to Colonel Leavenworth’s letter, to which you refer, I
may say that serious charges have been made against him,
both by Indians and whites, which have been transmitted.
If they are true, it would seem that he is not a very reliable witness in this case.

The influence of trade with Indians in this country, which is almost entirely under the control of the Indian agents, in giving licenses to traders, is so great as to render it questionable as to whether they are not biased in these matters. War and the destruction of Indian villages prevent trading transactions for the time being.

That the Sioux and Cheyennes, who were living together in the villages which were destroyed, were endeavoring to engage the southern Indians in the war which is now pending, I have not the least doubt. We have been repeatedly so informed by the chiefs of the southern tribes, and by our officers. Many depredations have been committed on the Smoky Hill since I have been in this department, and many before. They have all, to my knowledge, been traced to the Sioux and Cheyennes, and although most undoubted evidence was furnished to the agent of the Cheyennes, in reference to the depredations of the last nine months, not a single demand had been forcibly made by the Indian department for the depredators, although in some cases the evidence was undisputed. I had informed the agents that, if they requested me to enforce such demands, I would do so. I furnished evidence in some cases, which they did not even dispute.

(Signed) W. S. HANCOCK, Major General U. S. Army.

Official copy.

W. G. MITCHELL, Captain and A. A. A. General.

LETTERS FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS RELATIVE TO GENERAL HANCOCK'S LATE EXPEDITION TO THE PLAINS.

No. 1.

UPPER ARKANSAS AGENCY, FORT LARNED, KANSAS, March 22, 1867.

Hon. LEWIS V. BOSY, Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.:

Sir: I have the honor to enclose to you copies of communications just received from Major General Hancock, and from headquarters of this military district. I think that no trouble will arise in consequence of General Hancock's ex-
petition, as the Indians of my agency are well satisfied and quiet, and anxious to retain the peaceful relations now existing. I have the honor to be, with much respect,

Your obedient servant,

E. W. WYNKOOP,
U. S. Indian Agent, Upper Arkansas Agency.

A true copy.

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No. 2.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, March 11, 1867.

Colonel E. W. WYNKOOP,
Agent for Comanches and Kiowas, Fort Larned, Kansas:

Sir: I have the honor to address this letter to you, for the purpose of informing you that I have about completed my arrangements to move a force to the plains, and only await a proper condition of the roads to march.

My object in making an expedition, at this time, is to show the Indians within the limits of this department that we are able to chastise any tribes who may molest people who are travelling across the plains. It is not our desire to bring on difficulties with the Indians, but to treat them with justice, and according to our treaty stipulations; and I desire especially, in my dealings with them, to act through their agents as far as practicable.

In reference to the Cheyennes of your agency, in particular, I may say that we have just grounds of grievance. One is that they have not delivered up the murderer of the New Mexican at Zara. I also believe that I have evidence sufficient to fix upon different bands of that tribe, whose chiefs are known, several of the outrages committed on the Smoky Hill last summer. I request that you may inform them, in such a manner as you may think proper, that I expect shortly to visit their neighborhood, and that I will be glad to have an interview with their chiefs; and tell them also, if you please, that I will go fully prepared for peace or war, and that hereafter I will insist upon their keeping off the main lines of travel, where their presence is calculated to bring about collisions with the whites. If you can prevail upon the Indians of your agency to abandon their habit of infesting the country traversed by our overland routes, threatening, robbing, and intimidating travellers, we will defer that matter
to you. If not, I would be pleased by your presence with me, when I visit the locality of your tribes, to show that the officers of the Government are acting in harmony.

I am sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

W. S. IIANCOCK,
Major General Commanding.

No. 3.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF THE UPPER ARKANSAS,
FORT RILEY, KANSAS, March 14, 1867.

Colonel E. W. WYNKOOP,
U. S. Indian Agent:

COLONEL: The brevet major general commanding directs me to inform you that Wilson Graham, the Cheyenne boy, who was captured from that tribe some time since, is now en route to this post. As soon as he arrives he will be sent to you, in order that he may be delivered to his nearest relative.

Please inform this office of the name and band of his nearest relatives.

I am, Colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

HENRY E. NOYES,
Capt. 2d Cav., Brevet Major U. S. A., A. A. A. G.

No. 4.

HEADQUARTERS FORT DODGE, KANSAS,
March 14, 1867.

Post Major HENRY E. NOYES,
A. A. A. Gen., Headq'rs Dist. Upper Arkansas.

MAJOR: In answer to your communication of February 21, (just received,) relating to the names of the chiefs or bands of Indians who are or have been making threatening demonstrations, or sending insulting messages, I have the honor to state that I have received from Little Raven, head chief of the Arrapahoes, a message to the effect that no more wood must be cut by this command on the Pawnee Fork,
and that the troops must move out of the country by the time grass grows.

Mr. Jones, the interpreter at this post, brought me a message from Satanta, the principal chief of the Kiowas, to the effect that all white men must move east of Council Grove by the spring; that he gave me ten days to move from this post; that he wanted the mules and cavalry horses fattened, as he would have use for them, for he intended to appropriate them; that all the Indians had agreed to stop the railroads and roads at Council Grove; that no roads or railroads would be allowed west of that point.

Major J. H. Page, 3d infantry, brought me a message from the same chief. "Tell the chiefs on the roads that they must gather their soldiers and leave; if they don't, I will help them to leave. No wagons will be allowed on the road except those that bring presents. If any are found, they will be taken." Subsequently, in council, Satanta stated in substance the same, but not in an insulting manner, which has already been reported to district headquarters.

It has been reported to me that eight Arrapahoes, apparently friendly, stopped on the 10th inst at the camp of a Mr. Gilchrist, a wagon-master for a Mr. H. Weddello, of Mora, N. M., on the other side of Fort Aubney, (one hundred and twenty miles from here,) shot at the herder, and run off forty head of mules and one mare. The extreme severity of the weather, together with the refusal of the man who reported the fact to act as guide, and put a party on their trail, prevented me from attempting their recovery.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) H. DOUGLASS,
Major 3d U. S. Infantry, Com'dg Post.

No. 5.

AGENCY OF CACANDE AND KIOWA INDIANS OF THE UPPER ARKANSAS, FORT LARNED, KANSAS,
April 9, 1867.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Com'r Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

SIR: By letter from the department, of the 9th ult., I was directed to proceed to St. Louis, Mo., there to receive from Lieutenant General Sherman, Cheyenne Indian boy captured
by the troops under Colonel J. M. Chivington, at the Sand Creek affair, and deliver him to the agent of the Cheyenne Indians of this post. In compliance with the above orders, I proceeded to St. Louis, and presented my letter of instructions to General Sherman, who informed me that the boy had been forwarded to Major General Hancock, "to be delivered to the Indians in the presence of their agent." From St. Louis I proceeded to Leavenworth City, thence to Fort Zara, Kansas, via Forts Riley and Harker. At the latter post, (Harker) I passed Major General Hancock, with his command, en route for the plains. I arrived at Fort Zara, Kansas, on the 3d inst. General Hancock arrived on the 5th, with his whole command, consisting of artillery, cavalry, and infantry, about fifteen hundred strong. I immediately called upon him, and requested information as to the object of his movements so far as they related to the Indians of my agency, viz, the Comanches and Kiowas. He very kindly and promptly furnished me with the enclosed papers, marked Nos. 1, 2, and 3. As none of the Indians of my agency have visited this great line of travel, except a very few, since they received their annuity goods last October, and as it was uncertain what portion of his department he might visit with his command, he expressed a wish that I would accompany him; and as I believed it to be eminently proper, I willingly consented, and should any thing occur concerning the Indians of my agency, or the interest of the Indian department generally, shall make a full report of the same. I will state, for the information of the department at Washington, that the Cheyenne boy I was sent to St. Louis for is now here with General Hancock, and that Major Wynkoop, the agent of the Cheyenne Indians, is also here, who will, without doubt, report all of interest relating to the boy and the Indians of his agency.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) J. H. LEAVENWORTH,

United States Indian Agent.

A true copy.
No. 6.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, March 11, 1867.

Colonel J. H. LEAVENWORTH,
U. S. Indian Agent for Arrapahoes, Apaches,
and Cheyenne tribes.

COLONEL: I have the honor to state, for your information, that I am at present preparing an expedition to the plains, which will soon be ready to move. My object in doing so at this time is to convince the Indians within the limits of this department that we are able to punish any of them who may molest travellers across the plains, or who may commit other hostilities against the whites.

We desire to avoid, if possible, any troubles with the Indians, and to treat them with justice, according to the requirements of our treaties with them, and I wish especially, in my dealings with them, to act through the agents of the Indian department, as far as it is possible so to do.

Concerning the Kiowas of your agency, we have grave reasons for complaint. Among others, it is officially reported to these headquarters that that tribe has been making hostile incursions into Texas, and that a war party has very recently returned to Fort Dodge from that State, bringing with them the scalps of seventeen (17) colored soldiers, and one (1) white man. I am also informed that the Kiowas have been threatening our posts on the Arkansas; that they are about entering into a compact with the Sioux for hostilities against us, and that they have robbed and insulted officers of the United States Army who have visited them, supposing that they were friends. It is well ascertained that certain members of that tribe (some of whom are known) are guilty of the murder of Mr. James Box, a citizen of Montague county, Texas, last summer, and of the capture and barbarous treatment of the women of his family.

I desire you particularly to explain to them, that one reason why the Government does not at once send troops against them, to redress these outrages against our people is, that their Great Father is averse to commencing a war upon them (which would certainly end in their destruction) until all other means of redress fail.

I request that you will inform the Indians of your agency that I will hereafter insist upon their keeping off the main routes of travel across the plains, where their presence is
calculated to bring on difficulties between themselves and the whites. If you, as their agent, can arrange these matters satisfactorily with them, we will be pleased to defer the whole subject to you. In case of your inability to do so, I would be pleased to have you accompany me when I visit the country of your tribes, to show that the officers of the Government are acting in harmony. I will be pleased to talk with any of the chiefs whom we may meet.

I am, Colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed,) W. S. HANCOCK,
Major General Commanding.

Official.

No. 7.

HEADQUARTERS D. N., 19th U. S. INFANTRY,
FORT ARBuckle, C. N., February 16, 1867.

Colonel O. D. GREEN,
A. A. G. Department of Arkansas, Little Rock, Ark.: COLONEL: I have the honor to state that, previous to my arrival here, a roving band of Indians had made a raid in the vicinity, carrying off stock, chiefly horses, and a negro child, from within a few miles of the post. Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Hart, commanding, sent in pursuit the Caddo Indian scouts, who, after more than a week's absence, returned without any intelligence as to the number, tribe, or probable course of the robbers. I have just learned from I. P. Jones, (white man,) who is an old resident, and has for some years acted as interpreter for many of the tribes of Indians on this frontier, that the band consisted of twenty-five (25) Camanches, belonging to the Caschcachoatetka tribe, (buffalo-eaters,) the head chief being Morwah. About two weeks after their depredations here, they were met in the neighborhood of Fort Cobb, and gave chase to Samuel Paul and Dr. J. J. Steam, (white,) the latter being the issuing commissary of the Reserve Camanches, who are reputed friendly. These men were saved by the aid of Toschawa, head chief of the Reserve Camanches. This chief also recovered five (5) of the horses which had been taken from the vicinity, but failed in his efforts to regain the captured negro child. These facts were obtained by Mr. Jones from Toschawa himself, who requested they might be made known to these headquarters. In this affair Toschawa was brought in collision
with Indians of his own tribe, with whom he had formerly acted, and he felt the necessity of avoiding the consequences of an open rupture. His conduct displays admirable discretion under the circumstances.

I have the honor to state farther that several other tribes than the Camanches have lately been noticed on the war path, having been seen in their progress in unusual numbers, and without their squaws and children, a fact to which much significance is attached by those conversant with Indian usages. It is thought by many white residents of the Territory that some of these tribes may be acting in concert, and that plundering incursions at least are in contemplation. George Washington, second chief of the Caddoess, a friendly tribe, is of the opinion that the wild Camanches are bent upon mischief. Since the date of the treaty, made at the mouth of the Little Arkansas, I believe on the 6th of October, 1865, in which the Coschochetothka Camanches joined, these and other contracting parties to the treaty have carried off a large amount of stock; in violation of its provisions, and have slain and made captive many white persons, held in speculation to be ransomed. The practice of the Government of condoning these offences, by the payment of liberal sums, has had the natural effect of encouraging this inhuman traffic among the Indians, and every day of its continuance adds difficulties to the return to what I deem a wiser and sterner policy, and one that would ultimately be the most humane.

My inexperience in the exigencies of the frontier causes me to defer to the views of such sensible white residents and others as, from long residence among the Indians, are competent to advise; and this communication, while it expresses my own, is more particularly the embodiment of their views. In a communication mailed on the 12th inst., I had the honor to apply for ten (10) additional companies to reinforce this post, and I now respectfully suggest the subject-matter of this communication as additional reason for the proposed reinforcement.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) E. L. SMITH,
Capt. 19th Inf'y, Breret Maj. U. S. A., Com'd'y Post.

Official copy.
(Signed,) O. D. GREEN,
Assistant Adjutant General.
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARKANSAS,
March 9, 1867.

Respectfully forwarded for the information of the Lieutenant General commanding the division.

I have ordered one company of infantry to be sent to Fort Arbuckle, and applied for authority to establish a post for cavalry in the Wichita Mountains, which is one of the principal hunting-grounds of the Kiowas and Camanches. I think these Indians trade their horses off to the hostile Indians in the departments of the Missouri and Platte. They are supplied with goods from the Red River country of the north, showing a regular trade-line reaching far north. I think a force of cavalry very necessary among the Kiowas and wild Camanches—as necessary as it was before the war; but I presume the force required to reduce the hostile Indians should not be taken for this purpose.

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier General Commanding.

No. 8.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
In the Field, Fort Riley, Kansas, March 26, 1867.

General Field Orders;
No. 1.

1. While on the march and in camp, the troops composing the present expedition will receive orders from Brevet Major General Smith, commander of the District of the Upper Arkansas, in whose territory we are about to move. When instructions may be necessary, General Smith will receive them from the major general commanding, who will be present.

2. It is uncertain whether war will be the result of the expedition or not. It will depend upon the temper and behavior of the Indians with whom we may come in contact. We go prepared for war, and will make it if proper occasion presents. We shall have war if the Indians are not well disposed towards us. If they are for peace, and no sufficient ground is presented for chastisement, we are restricted from punishing them for past grievances which are recorded against them. Those matters have been left to the Indian department for adjustment. No insolence will be
tolerated from any bands of Indians whom we may encounter. We wish to show them that the Government is ready and able to punish them if they are hostile, although it may not be disposed to invite war. In order that we may act in unity and harmony with these views, no one but the commander present, on detachment or otherwise, will have interviews with Indians. Such interviews as may be necessary with them will be reserved, and corresponding reserve will be required from those under his command. No Indians will be allowed in camp, and no “talks” will be had with them, except for the purpose of explaining to them the facts herein stated. The chiefs of any bands of Indians who may wish any information will be referred to the major general commanding, who will see them at his headquarters.

3. Straggling is dangerous in an Indian country, and will not be tolerated.

4. Firing of guns or pistols will not be permitted without authority. For hunting, details may be made, but permission for such purpose will be requested from these headquarters, which will be granted, as a rule, only to procure meat, when necessary.

5. Guards will be kept up as in a state of hostility.

6. Ten (10) rounds of ammunition will be fired by each soldier, under the direction of the company officers, not more than five rounds in one day. The firing will be at a specified mark, and will take place as soon as practicable, between this point and Fort Harker. Commanders will report to Brevet Major General Smith when this paragraph has been complied with.

By command of Major General Hancock.

(Signed,) W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. General.

Official copy.

No. 9.

Agency for Kiowas and Comanches, Indians of the Upper Arkansas, in the Field, near Pawnee Fork, thirty-one miles from Fort Larned, April 15, 1867.

Honorable N. G. Taylor,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Sir: Knowing the wish of the department to learn all pertaining to the military expedition of Major General Hancock, I will state that a council was held near Fort Larned, by General Hancock and some of the chiefs of the Cheyenne
tribe of Indians, at which the Indians, I was informed, expressed themselves very friendly. General Hancock marched for Fort Dodge on the 13th inst., advanced up the Pawnee Fork twenty-one miles, in the direction of a camp of about three hundred lodge Cheyennes and Sioux. General Hancock was visited that evening by chiefs from both tribes, and informed that his approach towards their camps caused great anxiety among their squaws and children; on the 14th, again resumed his march in the direction of their village, and was met, some five or six miles from their town, by a white flag, and earnestly requested not to approach any nearer; but he still advanced, and went into camp about three o'clock p.m., a short mile below their lodges, when it was found all their women and children had left, with what few articles they could hastily gather together, leaving their lodges and a large amount of their property just as they had been occupying their homes. Some one hundred or more of their warriors were still in camp, armed, and apparently ready for fight.

Some of their chiefs called upon General Hancock, and he wanted their women and children back, as no harm was intended them, and furnished two chiefs good horses to go for them. In the evening the horses were returned, and he was informed they had so scattered they could not be found, and at the same time information was brought that the warriors were leaving, when cavalry was ordered out, and their village surrounded and searched; but nothing was found but as stated above, and one old Sioux and a girl of about eight years of age, blind in one eye, and horribly ravished. This morning she was brought to camp and properly cared for. Some suppose her white, others part white, whilst others pronounce her Indian. It is evident she is not a Cheyenne or Sioux. She was a pitiable object indeed. Many of their lodges were found cut, as though the party wished for a small part to make a small "tepe," for a night's lodging or a rapid march. This morning General Custer pursued with a heavy body of cavalry.

This is only to the department, to let them know there are stirring events on this frontier. Major Wynkoop is exerting himself all he can in the line of his duty, and will, without doubt, make, as soon as possible, full reports.

In haste, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) J. H. LEAVENWORTH,
United States Indian Agent.

A true copy.

7 Assistant Adjutant General.
Honorable N. G. Taylor,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington:

I write in haste, as a courier is about leaving camp. I am with General Hancock's expedition, having accompanied him at his request, as he stated that it was his intention to hold a council with the principal men of the tribes of my agency. I am sorry to say that the result of the expedition is disastrous. General Hancock marched his column right up to the Indian village, composed of three hundred lodges of Cheyennes and Sioux. He found, on halting, the women and children had fled, and the men were alone occupying the camp. He ordered the chiefs to bring back the women and children, and they started for the purpose of endeavoring to do so, but soon returned, and stated that it was impossible, and during the night the men deserted their village, leaving their lodges, with all the furniture of the same. General Hancock has sent General Custer, with a cavalry command, in pursuit. Notwithstanding that it was the intention of General Hancock to destroy the lodges and other property left in the village, I have written a letter of remonstrance, as I am perfectly convinced that the conduct of the Indians was the result of intense fear.

I am fearful that the result of all this will be a general war, which is much to be deprecated, as there are many unprotected whites on the different roads across the plains, and at the mail stations and ranches. I will report in full the first opportunity.

I have the honor to be, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) E. W. WYNKOOP,
U. S. Indian Agent Arapahoe, Cheyenne, and Apache Indians.
A true copy.
Honorable N. G. Taylor,
Commissioner Indian Affairs.

Sir: I have but little to communicate, except General Hancock has determined not to burn the Indian lodge, but has ordered every article taken from their villages returned, and General Custer reports he has not seen any Indians. He was in pursuit. Fifteen hundred Indians escaped; not one seen. He reports he should march for the Smoky Hill on the evening of the 16th, at 7 p.m., from the head of Walnut Creek.

In haste, very respectfully, &c.,
(Signed,) J. H. LEAVENWORTH,
U. S. Indian Agent.

Cheyennes without doubt gone south; Sioux north.
A true copy.

No. 12.

General Hancock's Camp, on Pawnee Fork,
Thirty-two miles west of Fort Larned,
April 18, 1867.

Hon. N. G. Taylor,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Sir: I have the honor to state that, since my last communication, a few days back, in which I spoke of the flight of the Indians upon General Hancock's approach, and his intention to destroy the village, I have written a communication to General Hancock, a copy of which I enclose. Have received no written reply, but he stated to me verbally that, for the present, he would not destroy the village.

In my last letter I also stated that General Custer was in pursuit of the Indians. A courier has since arrived from him with the information that the Cheyennes had turned and gone toward the Arkansas river, while the Sioux had continued northward. He followed the Sioux trail, and the last dispatch from him is to the effect that the Sioux, upon crossing the Smoky Hill road, had destroyed a ranch or mail
station, and killed three men. Since receiving this news, General Hancock has again expressed his determination to destroy the village. I have again appealed to him on behalf of the Cheyennes, as their village is distinct from the Sioux, and as yet there is no evidence of their having committed any overt act since their flight, and he has promised me to consider the matter. Under the circumstances in which the Indians left here, in my judgment being fully impressed with the belief that General Hancock had come for the purpose of murdering their women and children, as had been previously done at Sand Creek, I have no doubt but that they think that war has been forced upon them, (the Cheyennes,) and will commence committing depredations and following their style of warfare immediately. Thus, in my opinion, has another Indian war been brought on, which might have been averted by the military authorities pursuing a different line of policy.

I will continue with General Hancock as long as there is any probability of him falling in with any of the Indians of my agency, for the purpose, as far as lies in my power, of subserving the interests of the department.

As soon as possible, I will submit to your office an inventory of the effects in both the Cheyenne and Sioux villages.

I am, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) E. W. WYNKOOP,

U. S. Indian Agent Arapahoe, Cheyenne, and Apache Indians.

A true copy.

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No. 13.

CAMP ON PAWNEE FORK,

April 13, 1867.

Major General W. S. Hancock,

Commanding Department of Missouri and Indian Expedition:

GENERAL: For a long time I have made the Indian character my chief study. I regard the late movement of the Cheyennes of my agency as caused by fear alone. So far as I am able to judge, they met us at first with a determination to have a peaceful talk, at such a distance from their village as would make their women and children satisfied that no danger need be apprehended by them. Your movement toward the village terrified the squaws and children, who
left, with such movable property as they could gather. I learn that you purpose destroying the lodges and other property now remaining in the village. I would most respectfully request you not to do so. I am fully convinced that the result would be an Indian outbreak of the most serious nature, while at the same time there is no evidence, in my judgment, that this band of Cheyennes are deserving of this severe punishment. I am influenced alone in thus communicating with you by what I consider a strict sense of duty.

With feelings of the utmost respect, I am, general, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) E. W. WYNKOOP,
U. S. Indian Agent for Arapahoes, Cheyennes, and Apaches.

A true copy.

No. 14.

FORT DODGE, KANSAS,
April 21, 1867.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Sir: I write hastily, as a mail is about leaving, to inform you that on the 19th inst. General Hancock burned the Indian village, three hundred lodges, Sioux and Cheyennes. I know of no overt act that the Cheyennes had committed to cause them to be thus punished, not even since their flight. I have just arrived, with General Hancock's column, at this post, and learn, since my arrival here, that a few days ago six Cheyenne Indians, on foot, were attacked by one hundred and thirty cavalry, about twenty-five miles west of this post, and all of them killed. I also learn that they had done nothing to provoke an attack, but were of the party that fled before General Hancock's approach. This whole matter is horrible in the extreme, and these same Indians of my agency have actually been forced into war.

I have the honor to be, with much respect, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) E. W. WYNKOOP,
U. S. Indian Agent for Arapahoes, Cheyennes, and Apaches.
A true copy.
No. 15.

Extract of Letter from Colonel Wynkoop, U. S. Indian Agent for Arrapahoes, Cheyennes, and Apaches.

Fort Larned, Kansas,
Upper Arkansas Indian Agency,
April 24, 1867.

Hon. N. G. Taylor,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Sir: My last communication was written hastily from Fort Dodge, and I now have the honor to state that I have since arrived at the headquarters of my agency. Since the killing and scalping of the six Cheyenne Indians, above Fort Dodge, nothing new has transpired with reference to Indian affairs. Contrary to my expectations, the Cheyenne Indians who fled from their village committed no depredations while crossing the Santa Fe road, and have not, to my knowledge, up to the present time, notwithstanding their persecutions. It is rumored here that considerable stock has been run off the Smoky Hill road by the Sioux Indians, on the occasion of their flight north. General Hancock is still at Fort Dodge, with his troops. Since the Indians of my agency have not as yet retaliated for the wrongs heaped upon them, it may be possible, if proper action be taken by the Department of the Interior, to prevent the military from forcing trouble on, that a general Indian war may be prevented. As far as laid in my power, I have struggled to avert direful calamity. The Arrapahoes and Apache Indians are far south of the Arkansas river, and have not yet got into any trouble. I enclose herewith a copy of the inventory taken of property destroyed in both the Cheyenne and Sioux villages.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

I have the honor to be, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) E. W. WYNKOOP,
U. S. Indian Agent for Arrapahoes, Cheyennes, and Apaches.
A true copy.
HEADQUARTERS ARMY UNITED STATES,
WASHINGTON, May 23, 1867.

Respectfully referred to Major General W. S. Hancock, commanding department of the Missouri.

By command of General Grant.

(Signed)

GEO. K. LEET,
Assistant Adjutant General.

A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. G.

IN REPLY TO THE LETTERS OF THE INDIAN AGENTS LEAVENWORTH AND WYNKOOP.

Major General W. S. Hancock, U. S. Army, to Major George K. Leet, A. A. General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, July 31, 1867.

Major George K. Leet,
Assistant Adjutant General,
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAJOR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of copies of the following communications referred to me by command of General Grant, May 23, 1867.

1. Copy of a letter from Colonel E. W. Wynkoop, United States Indian agent for the Cheyennes, Arrapahoes, and Apaches of the plains, to Hon. Lewis V. Boggy, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated March 22, 1867, enclosing copies of communications received from my headquarters and from headquarters district of the Upper Arkansas.

2. Copy of a letter written by myself to Colonel Wynkoop, dated March 13, 1867, informing him that I was about to march with an expedition to the plains, stating the objects of the expedition, &c., &c.

3. Copy of a letter to Colonel Wynkoop from headquarters district of the Upper Arkansas, dated March 14, 1867, in reference to Wilson Graham, a Cheyenne boy, a captive in our hands.

4. Copy of a letter, dated March 14, 1867, from Major H. Douglass, 3d infantry, commanding post of Fort Dodge, to Brevet Major Henry E. Noyes, A. A. A. General, district of
the Upper Arkansas, concerning certain threats made by Sata
(ta, (Kiowa chief,) &c., &c.
5. Copy of a letter, dated April 9, 1867, written by Col
nel J. H. Leavenworth, United States Indian agent for Ca
manches and Kiowas, concerning Wilson Graham, the same
Cheyenne boy referred to in Colonel Wynkoop's letter of
March 14, 1867.
6. Copy of a letter, written by myself, to Colonel Leaven-
worth, dated March 11, 1867, informing him that I was en-
gaged in preparing an expedition to the plains, and giving
the objects of the expedition, &c., &c.
7. Copy of a letter, dated February 16, 1867, from Capt
tain E. L. Smith, 19th infantry, commanding post of Fort
Arbuckle, to Colonel O. D. Green, Assistant Adjutant Gen-
eral department of the Arkansas, with copy of endorsement
by Brigadier General E. O. C. Ord, concerning depredations
committed by the "Coch-a-taker" band of Camanches, &c.
8. Copy of General Orders No. 1, headquarters department
of the Missouri, in the field, dated at Fort Riley, Kansas,
March 26, 1867.
9. Copy of a letter, dated (from my camp at Indian villages)
April 15, 1867, from Colonel Leavenworth to Hon. N. G.
Taylor, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, giving information
as to the movements of the expedition which was then on
the plains, under my command, &c.
10. Copy of a letter, dated April 15, 1867, also written in
my camp, from Colonel Wynkoop to Hon. N. G. Taylor, giv-
ing his (Colonel Wynkoop's) views of my military opera-
tions, &c.
11. Copy of a letter, dated April 17, 1867, from Colonel
Leavenworth to Hon. N. G. Taylor, on the same subject.
12. Copy of letter, dated at the Indian camp, April 18,
1867, from Colonel Wynkoop to Hon. N. G. Taylor, on the
same subject.
13. Copy of a letter, dated April 13, 1867, from Colonel
Wynkoop, addressed to myself, giving the reasons for his re-
quest that the villages of the Sioux and Cheyennes on Paw-
nee Fork should not be destroyed, &c., &c.
14. Copy of a letter, dated April 21, 1867, from Colonel
Wynkoop to Hon. N. G. Taylor, on the subject of the move-
ments of the expedition, the killing of the six (6) Cheyennes
at Cinnamon Crossing on the 19th April, 1867, &c., &c.
15. Copy of a letter, dated April 24, 1867, from Colonel
Wynkoop to Hon. N. G. Taylor, in reference to Indian mat-
ters, the movements of the expedition, &c., enclosing a copy
of the inventory of the property destroyed in the villages of the Sioux and Cheyennes, April 19, 1867.

In reply to the letters of Colonels Wynkoop and Leavenworth, herein referred to, and to a telegram, dated May 23, 1867, from General Grant, upon the subject of the burning of the Indian villages at Pawnee Fork, April 19, 1867, I have the honor to submit the following statement, first premising that I have replied to General Grant’s telegram of May 23, 1867, by telegram of same date, and that in my official report of the operations of the expedition made last spring to the plains, under my command, forwarded to General Grant, by Lieutenant General Sherman, a full and accurate history is given of the objects of that expedition, and the military movements connected with it, together with my reasons for destroying the villages of the Sioux and Cheyennes on Pawnee Fork, &c., &c. The report in question touches upon all of the main points mentioned in the copies of the letters from Colonels Wynkoop and Leavenworth, referred to me by General Grant May 23, 1867, and is believed to be sufficiently full in its details to cover the questions mentioned therein; yet there are a few statements made in some of them which are inaccurate, and which I desire to correct. They are as follows:

Among the letters enclosed is a copy of one to Colonel Wynkoop, dated Headquarters District of the Upper Arkansas, March 14, 1867, stating that “Wilson Graham, the Cheyenne boy, who was captured from that tribe some time since, is now en route to this post (Fort Riley.) As soon as he arrives he will be sent to you, in order that he may be delivered to his nearest relatives. Please inform this office of the name and band of his nearest relatives.”

No authority was ever given by me to the commanding officer of the district of the Upper Arkansas to transfer the child in question to any agent of the Indian department whatever. On the contrary, I informed the commanding officer at Fort Larned, (through headquarters district of the Upper Arkansas,) in a letter dated at these headquarters, 11th of March, 1867, (copy enclosed, marked A,) that the boy in question (who was then under my charge at Fort Leavenworth) would be sent to that post (Fort Larned) for delivery to his nearest relatives, and that he had been obtained from the persons who had had possession of him since his capture through the exertions of the military authorities, this action on my part being in accordance with the instructions I had received on that subject from headquarters mili-
tary division of the Missouri, in a special order dated St. Louis, Mo., February 23, 1867. (Copy enclosed, marked B.) The boy being too unwell to travel as soon as was anticipated, I detained him here until I started with the expedition to the plains, (March 25,) when he accompanied me, and was delivered by me personally to the commanding officer at Fort Larned, leaving with him the following instructions:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
IN THE FIELD, NEAR FORT LARNED, KANSAS,
April 12, 1867.

Commanding Officer Fort Larned, Kansas:

Sir:

* * * * * * * * *

On leaving this camp, it is the intention of the major general commanding to place in your charge the Cheyenne boy now in his possession, known by the name of Wilson Graham. You will retain him until an opportunity presents for delivering him to his nearest relatives, (his mother is said to be living,) believed to belong to Black Kettle's band. When you deliver him to his relatives, you will take a receipt for him.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) W. G. MITCHELL,
Capt. and A. A. A. Gen.

In a conversation which I had with Colonel Wynkoop on this subject, while I was at Fort Larned, I informed him that my instructions required me to deliver the boy to his relatives through the military authorities, and not through the Indian agents.

A copy of a letter from Colonel Leavenworth, United States Indian agent for the Camanches and Kiowas, to Hon. N. G. Taylor, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated April 9, 1867, states that he (Colonel Leavenworth) was directed, by instructions from the Indian Bureau, to proceed to St. Louis, to receive from Lieutenant General Sherman, Wilson Graham, the Indian boy in question, and to deliver him to Colonel Wynkoop, at Fort Larned. Upon his arrival at St. Louis, Lieutenant General Sherman informed him that the child had been sent to me, with instructions to deliver him to the Cheyennes, in the presence of the agent. These instructions would have been carried out while I was present at Fort Larned, had the band of Cheyennes to which his relatives belonged (Black Kettle's) been in that country at that time, (it was reported to be in Texas,) and I left the boy with
the commanding officer at Fort Larned, with the instructions before referred to.

Shortly after that time (April 15) the Cheyennes commenced the present war against us, which has thus far rendered the delivery of the boy to his friends impracticable.

In the letter of Colonel Wynkoop, dated at my headquar-ters, on Pawnee Fork, April 18, 1867, addressed to Hon. N. G. Taylor, Commissioner of Indian affairs, he states that a courier had arrived in my camp from General Custer, (then in pursuit of the Sioux and Cheyennes from Pawnee Fork,) with the information that "the Cheyennes had turned and gone towards the Arkansas river, while the Sioux had continued northward. He followed the Sioux trail, and the last dispatch from him (General Custer) is to the effect that the Sioux, upon crossing the Smoky Hill road, had destroyed a mail station and killed three men." Colonel Wynkoop then goes on to state that, as there was yet no evidence of the Cheyennes having committed any overt act of hostility, he made an appeal to me to preserve the village belonging to that tribe, as it was distinct from that of the Sioux.

There is no evidence, in General Custer's reports of his pursuit of the Sioux and Cheyennes from the villages on Pawnee Fork, which would go to prove that they had separated, or that the Cheyennes were not implicated in the killing and burning of the three men at Lookout Station, on the 15th of April, and burning of the station. On the contrary, in General Custer's report to Brevet Major General A. J. Smith, commanding district of the Upper Arkansas, (received after the destruction of the villages, and too late to be con-sidered in that connection,) of April 19, in reference to the outrages at Lookout Station, on the Smoky Hill, he says expressly that, after a careful examination by himself and the Delaware scouts who were with him, it was found impracticable to discover the "slightest clue" whatever as to what tribe committed the act; but says, in his report to General Smith, of the 17th of April, (copy enclosed, marked D, see ante,) that the outrages in question were certainly committed by the Indians who abandoned the villages on Pawnee Fork. They were a portion of the same body of Indians, about eight hundred strong, who crossed the Smoky Hill road on the 16th of April, and reported themselves to be Sioux, Cheyennes, and Pawnees. They were all stripped and painted for war at that time, and, in addition to the previous killing and burning at Lookout Station, they fired into Stormy Hollow mail station, and ran off all the stock from that point belonging
to the mail company, threatened the mail station east of Stormy Hollow, and ran off stock belonging to the Union Pacific railroad, a few miles further north.

My official report of the operations of the expedition of last spring shows conclusively that I did not determine to destroy the Indian villages until I had learned officially of the outrages committed on the Smoky Hill by the Indians (Sioux and Cheyennes) who had treacherously left their camps on Pawnee Fork, on the 14th of April, or during the previous night.

None of the reports which were received from General Custer, of his pursuit of the Indians from Pawnee Fork, were there any facts going to show that the main body of the Cheyennes had left the Sioux and gone south. All the information contained in the dispatches of General Custer, at that time, was to the effect that the Indians from Pawnee Fork (Sioux and Cheyennes) remained together (with probably a few exceptional small bands) until they arrived at the Smoky Hill, when they committed the murders and depredations on the mail stations, and then pursued their flight northwards.

In reference to the statement of Colonel Wynkoop, that the village of the Cheyennes was distinct from that of the Sioux, I can only say that the villages stood upon the same ground, and I was unable, after an inspection which I made in person, to distinguish with any certainty the lodges of the Cheyennes from those of the Sioux; nor could any of the officers who were with me say positively where the line of separation between the villages commenced, although it was understood that the Sioux were on the north side and the Cheyennes on the southern and eastern sides.

It is not seen upon what grounds the Indians became "fully impressed with the belief that General Hancock had come for the purpose of murdering their women and children, as had been previously done at Sand creek." (See same letter from Colonel Wynkoop to Hon. N. G. Taylor, of April 18, 1867.) Nothing which I said to the Sioux and Cheyenne chiefs whom I had met at Larned on the 12th of April, or at the meeting near the villages on the 14th of that month, could have led the Indians to such a conclusion, or have given them apprehension of such murderous inclinations on my part, for I had constantly assured them that my intentions were peaceful, and that I had only marched into their country for the purpose of having a conference with the different tribes, so that they might have a full and just under-
standing of the views and intentions of the military authorities in reference to their future conduct and their interference with the railways and other routes of travel, emigrants passing through their country, and the treatment of our frontier settlers. Such were well known to Colonels Wynkoop and Leavenworth to be the objects of the expedition, and they constantly assured the Indians, when in my presence, that my intentions were peaceful; and it was not until after the hostilities of the Indians on the Smoky Hill, subsequent to the abandonment of their villages on Pawnee Fork, which compelled me to destroy their villages, that the assertions were made that the Indians had "actually been forced into a war." (See Colonel Wynkoop's letter of April 21st, to Hon. N. G. Taylor, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.) While on this subject, it is proper to state that none knew better than Colonels Wynkoop and Leavenworth, that I did not march to the plains last spring for the purpose of commencing a war with the Indians, for, before my departure from Fort Leavenworth, I had written to each of them, informing them of my instructions, and the objects of the expedition, and stating that no Indians would be arrested or called to account by me for past outrages and depredations, unless upon the application of the agents themselves.

In his letters of April 21st and 24th, the first from Fort Dodge, the latter from Fort Larned, Colonel Wynkoop again reiterates the statement that the village of the Cheyennes on Pawnee Fork was burned without provocation or any overt acts on the part of that tribe, notwithstanding he must surely have known, when he was at Fort Dodge with me, from the reports which I had received from General Custer, the contents of which were made known to him, (and these were the only possible sources of information on that subject at the time,) that the Cheyennes generally had not gone south of the Arkansas when they deserted the village at Pawnee Fork, but had fled north of the Smoky Hill with the Sioux, and were parties with the latter to the murders and burning at Lookout Station, and the other outrages committed on the Smoky Hill about the same time. I consider the evidence as to the participation of the Cheyennes in the massacres at Lookout Station, and other depredations on the Smoky Hill, after they had abandoned the villages on Pawnee Fork, contained in General Custer's reports of his pursuit of the Cheyennes and Sioux, conclusive and beyond question, their conduct on that occasion being, in my opinion, only a continuation of the outrages which they had been previously
committing against the whites in this department ever since I had assumed command of it, (August 1866.)

To show the temper of the Cheyennes towards us, and the feelings of hostility which animated them, (before the expedition to the plains of last spring,) I enclose herewith the reports of former outrages perpetrated last summer and fall, which it is considered fixes the guilt of these outrages upon that tribe beyond any doubt or question, viz:

September 19, 1866. A party of Indians ran off fourteen horses and two mules from Fort Wallace. (See copy of a report from Lieutenant Flood, 6th United States volunteers, enclosed, marked E 1; also, endorsement on report of Lieutenant Joseph Hale, dated November 10, 1866, enclosed, marked E 2; also, copy of affidavit of Mr. H. P. Wyatt, on the same subject, marked E 3; copy of affidavit of Mr. William Comstock, Government guide and interpreter at Fort Wallace, marked E 4, and copy of statement of Mr. John Smith, United States Indian interpreter, marked E 5.)

September 29, 1866.—Two employees of the Overland Mail Company were murdered at Chalk Bluff's mail station. As evidence showing that the murders were committed by the Cheyennes, I transmit copies of a letter from Mr. D. Street, agent Overland Mail Company, marked F 1, dated October 23, 1866; of an affidavit from Mr. Wm. Comstock, United States guide and interpreter at Fort Wallace, marked F 2; of an affidavit from Mr. James Wadsworth, driver on Overland Mail line, marked F 3; of a letter from Captain M. W. Keogh, 7th cavalry, commanding post of Fort Wallace, dated December 29, 1866, marked F 4; of a letter from Lieutenant Joseph Hale, 3d infantry, dated December 19, 1866, marked F 5.

October 12, 1866.—A band of Indians burned the mail station at Chalk Bluffs. I invite attention to the following papers, before referred to, (enclosed herewith,) fixing that outrage upon the Cheyennes. Letter from Lieutenant Hale, 3d infantry, dated November 10, 1866; letter of October 23, 1866, from Mr. D. Street, agent Overland Mail Company, and a letter from Lieutenant Hale, 3d infantry, dated December 19, 1866.

November 10, 1866.—An unprovoked murder of a New Mexican was committed at Fort Zara by a Cheyenne, Fox Tail, a son of Medicine Arrow, a prominent man of that tribe. (See on this subject the enclosed copy of a report from 2d Lieutenant J. P. Thompson, 3d infantry, marked G.) That murder has never been denied, even by the agent
of the Cheyennes. I also enclose a copy of a statement, 
-marked G 2.) from Mr. John Smith, United States Indian in- 
preter, dated July 14, 1867, in reference to the killing of 
six white men, by the Cheyennes, in the month of June, 1866, 
on one of the tributaries of Solomon's Fork, and a copy of 
a letter dated February 22, 1867, from Mr. F. R. Page, United 
States agent for the Kansas Indians, (marked H.) stating that 
about the 1st day of January, 1867, a party of Cheyennes at- 
tacked the Kaw chief Kah-ti-an-goh, capturing forty-four of 
his horses, and wounding one man.

I have also on record at my headquarters the official re- 
ports of various outrages and depredations committed before 
the present war by other tribes belonging to the agencies of 
Colonels Wynkoop and Leavenworth, (Arrapahoes, Kiowas, 
and Comanches,) some of which the Indians themselves, when 
in council with me last spring, acknowledged to have been 
justly charged to them. The reports in all such cases were 
promptly transmitted by me to the Indian department as 
soon as they were received, and although I had constantly 
inform ed that department, through the agents, that I was 
ready to assist them with the troops under my command in 
arresting the offenders, I have never, in a single instance, 
been called upon to render such assistance, and in all cases 
(even in that of the murderer of the New Mexican at Zara, 
when the name of the culprit was known) the guilty ones 
have been permitted to go unpunished.

Colonel Wynkoop's letter of April 21st also contains the 
following:

"I have just arrived with General Hancock's column at 
this post, (Fort Dodge,) and learn, since my arrival here, that 
a few days ago six Cheyenne Indians on foot were attacked 
by one hundred and thirty (130) cavalry, about twenty-five 
miles west of this post, and all of them killed. I also learn 
that they had done nothing to provoke an attack, but were 
of the party that fled before General Hancock's approach."

In reply to this passage, I will merely quote that portion 
of my official report which referred to this matter. It con- 
tains the facts which I drew from the report of the late Ma-
jor W. Cooper, 7th cavalry, who commanded the detachment 
which had the encounter at the Cinnamon Crossing with the 
Indians referred to in Colonel Wynkoop's letter:

"On my arrival there, (at Fort Dodge,) I was informed that 
on the 19th instant (April) a party of Cheyennes (evidently 
runters from the north) had approached the Cinnamon Cross-
ing, and were discovered skulking around the bivouac of a detachment of the 7th cavalry, which was at that point, under the command of Major Wickliffe Cooper, of that regiment. When the Indians were perceived, they were endeavoring to steal up to some herders who were in charge of the cattle of the command, and it is supposed they were not aware of the presence of the troops. Major Cooper directed Lieutenant Perry, 7th cavalry, with twenty (20) men, to advance and demand their surrender, which was done through an interpreter. In reply, the Indians fired upon the troops. They were then attacked and pursued across the river, and six (6) of them (all that were seen) were killed. One of our men was wounded and one horse shot."

I also transmit herewith a copy of Major W. Cooper's official report of the affair, marked I. (See ante.)

In concluding this letter, it is proper for me to say, again, that before the expedition of last spring set out, I informed Agents Wynkoop and Leavenworth fully of its objects, telling them that war was not intended against the Indians, and that it was my earnest desire to act through them in all matters connected with the tribes of their agencies. I also invited them to accompany me on my march from Fort Larned to Fort Dodge, so that they might be present at my interviews with the chiefs of the various tribes, and hear what I had to say to them. During the time they were in my camp, they must have observed that all of my conferences were with a view of preserving peace on the plains, and all of my actions towards the Indians friendly, until the treachery of the Sioux and Cheyennes at Pawnee Fork, and the murders and depredations committed by them on the Smoky Hill, after they ran away from their villages, compelled me to take hostile measures against them.

It is worthy of remark in this connection that while in my camps, Colonel Leavenworth stated to me, in conversation, that the tribes of his agency had been grossly wronged by having been charged with various offenses which had undoubtedly been committed by the Indians of Colonel Wynkoop's agency (Cheyennes, Arapahoes, and Apaches.) In the opinion of Colonel Leavenworth, as expressed to me, the Indians of Colonel Wynkoop's agency—especially the Cheyennes—deserved severe and summary chastisement for their numerous misdeeds, very many of which had been laid at the doors of his innocent tribes, (Kiowas and Camanches.)

But Colonel Wynkoop informed me, in conversation about
the same time, that the Arrapahoes, Apaches, and particularly the Cheyennes, were really peaceably inclined, and rarely committed offenses against the laws; but that, most unfortunately, they were charged, in many instances, with crimes which had been perpetrated by other tribes; and that, in this respect, they had suffered heavily from the Kiowas of Colonel Leavenworth's agency, who were of the most turbulent Indians of the plains, and deserve punishment more than any others.

More recent events have shown that all the tribes above referred to, (save probably a portion of the Camanches,) including the Sioux, were determined upon a general outbreak this summer, and that the abandonment of the villages on Pawnee Fork, and the murders committed immediately afterwards on the Smoky Hill, were but the commencement of a war which had been threatened to our post commanders on many occasions during the winter, and which is now waged with savage fury on the part of the Indians throughout my command and the departments of the Platte and Dakotah.

In reference to the threats made last winter by the Indians, of war against us this summer, I transmit herewith, marked K 1 and K 2, copies of two communications from Major H. Douglass, commanding post of Fort Dodge, which concern particularly the Kiowas and Arrapahoes. One of the letters is addressed to the assistant adjutant general department of the Missouri, the other to the acting assistant adjutant general district of the Upper Arkansas. I enclose, also, a copy of a letter from Brevet Major Asbury, commanding Fort Larned, on the same subject, marked K 3.

This reply to the statements of Colonels Wynkoop and Leavenworth, contained in the copies of their letters referred to me by order of General Grant, May 23, would have been transmitted promptly after the date of their receipt, but for the fact that since that time until the 15th inst., I have been constantly on the plains, marching almost every day, which prevented me from giving my attention to the matter until the present moment.

Owing to the absence of Mr. John Smith, United States Indian interpreter, I have withheld two of his affidavits (marked ) until his return, believing that an error was committed by him, in giving the name of one of the bands of Indians at the time of writing them, which can then be corrected. They will then be transmitted for file with this communication.
Herewith I return the originals of the papers referred to me by General Grant, May 23, for my remarks.

I am, Major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) WINF'D S. HANCOCK,
Major General U. S. A., Commanding.

Official copy.
W. S. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. General.

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A.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, March 11, 1867.

The COMMANDING OFFICER,
Fort Larned, Kansas.

(Through commanding officer district Upper Arkansas.)

SIR: The major general commanding directs me to transmit a copy of the enclosed order, relating to the Cheyenne boy, Wilson Graham.

The boy will be sent to your post shortly. He is now at Fort Leavenworth, and has a bad cold. You may tell the Indians the boy will be delivered to his nearest relative, and you had better ascertain who and where he is; he is believed to be an uncle. This boy was obtained through the action of the military authorities.

The girl is supposed to be in the vicinity of Denver city, Colorado, and it is understood the Commissioner of Indian Affairs is trying to obtain her.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) CHAUNCEY MCKEEVER,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Official copy.
W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. G.

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B.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MO.,
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, February 23, 1867.

Special Orders 
No. 29. [Extract.]

The quartermaster, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel C. W. Thomas, will send to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, an Indian
boy answering to the name of Wilson R. Graham, and deliver him to the major general commanding the department of the Missouri, who will send him to Fort Larned, with directions to the commanding officer of that post to restore him to his natural parents or guardians among the Cheyennes, with the knowledge of the Indian agent for that tribe, keeping a record and making a report back to these headquarters.

By order of Lieutenant General W. T. SHERMAN,
(Signed,) W. A. NICHOLS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

A true copy.
C. Mckeever,
Assistant Adjutant General.

E 1.

HEADQUARTERS POST FORT WALLACE,
KANSAS, September 20, 1866.

Sir: I have the honor to report as follows, viz:
On the 19th instant, at 8 p. m., my guide and interpreter came into camp, and reported that a band of about one hundred and fifty Indians had stampeded the quartermaster's stock, and were driving them off. Immediately had every horse saddled in company M, 2d cavalry, (eighteen present,) and started in pursuit. Owing to one of the most intense snow storms that I have ever witnessed, I was unable to keep their trail from its being filled with snow. I pursued them eleven miles, and returned to camp.

It is impossible for me to pursue them this morning, as I have not over twenty mounted men, which is an insufficient number of men to overpower one hundred and fifty Indians, armed as they are at present. One commissioned officer and twenty-two enlisted men of company M, 2d cavalry, are now absent in pursuit of deserters and on escort duty, leaving me a very small command of mounted men, as company M is not half mounted, there being only forty horses in the company and about the same number of carbines. The Indians captured fourteen horses and two mules. A non-commissioned officer, in charge of a detachment just returned this morning from Fort Ellsworth, reports that a party of twenty-five or thirty Indians came to a station and demanded stock from a stock-tender, who would not let them have it; therefore they beat him nearly to death with clubs. They have been committing such depredations from time to time for
the last month and a half. The party that took the stock from here yesterday came from the northwest. They belong to a different band to those reported by Lieutenant Bates to General Palmer last month. They have been in the vicinity of this post for two weeks, but have not visited the post only once during the summer and fall.

From their actions I am convinced that they intend war; my guide ran into them before seeing them, and only escaped by a swift horse. They shouted to the guide to inform the white chief that they were ready to fight.

Their manners have been hostile since they first visited this post, and they have gone just as far as a party could without killing any people. The party that the chief Spotted Horse was with entered a ranche twenty-two miles west of here, and took saddles and bridles, blankets, and everything they wished, and then passed on to the north of this post, en route for their main body, somewhere between this post and Fort Ellsworth, Kansas.

I am, Major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) R. E. FLOOD,

1st Lieutenant C. U. S. V. Inf., com’d’g Post.

To Brevet Major W. H. HARRISON,

A. A. A. G. Dist. Upper Arkansas, Fort Riley, Kas.

A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,

Captain and A. A. A. General.

HEADQ’RS DIST. OF THE UPPER ARKANSAS,

FORT RILEY, September 21, 1866.

Respectfully forwarded to , for the information of the commanding general department of the Missouri.

It seems the Indians have already begun upon the Smoky Hill.

(Signed,) J. W. DAVIDSON,


Headquarters Fort Wallace, Kansas,
November 10, 1866.

Respectfully returned through headquarters district of the Upper Arkansas, with the following information:

I learn from the records of events of post return for September 16, that fourteen (14) horses and two (2) mules were stolen by the Indians, September 19, 1866. I also learn from Wm. Comstock, guide and interpreter at this post, that the horses were "condemned stock." The mules were good serviceable animals, and worth about the average price of mules. As Lieutenant Flood has left this post, and there being no official data here, I am unable to give any particulars.

(Signed,)

Joseph Hale,
1st Lieut. 3d Infantry, commanding Post.

A true copy.

W. G. Mitchell,
Capt. and A. A. A. General.

Fort Wallace, Kansas,
January 19, 1867.

Personally appeared before me William Comstock, guide and interpreter at this post, who makes the following statement, viz:

On the evening of the day that the stock-tenders were massacred at Chalk Bluff Station, a passenger by the coach from the east, named Hughes, a merchant of Denver City, found two arrows at the station, one sticking in the door and the other in the ground near there, which he showed to me at Pond Creek Station, and asked my opinion as to what tribe they belonged. Immediately informed him that they belonged to the Cheyenne tribe. Having seen any number of those arrows, and being acquainted with the manners and customs of the Cheyenne nation, I could not be mistaken in the tribe of Indians to which those arrows belonged. As regards the Indians who drove away the Government stock
from this post, I cannot state positively whether they were Cheyenne or Sioux, but am of opinion that they were Cheyenne, on account of they being at stations west of here the day before they had driven away the stock, and having recommendations from the Cheyenne Indian agent, (Doyle,) which they showed to the man in charge of Goose Creek Station.

(Signed,) W. COMSTOCK.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 19th day of January, 1867.

(Signed,) FRED H. BEECHEER,
2d Lieut. 3d Infantry, A. A. Q. M.

A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Capt. and A. A. A. G.

E 5.

To Captain JOHN S. SMITH,
United States Interpreter:

Sir: For the safety and protection of the people on the Smoky Hill road, I think it important that you should accompany and remain with the Indians belonging to this agency during their stay in that country, in order that you may report to me, either in person or by letter, whatever may transpire.

Given under my hand, at Fort Zara, July 26, 1866.

J. C. TAYLOR,
U. S. Indian Agent.

A true copy.

A. KAISER,
1st Lieut. 3d U. S. Infantry.

Fort Zara, Kansas, 29th December 1866.

I certify on honor, that upon receipt of the above order, I immediately proceeded to Black Kettle’s camp, head chief of the southern band of Cheyenne Indians, then on the Walnut creek, some four or five miles from this point, and continued with them until the 14th October, 1866, at which time his whole band came here, expecting to receive their annuities. At the time I joined Black Kettle’s camp, “Roman Nose”
was with this band, and remained with us all the time up to the time I came here, on the 14th October, 1866. I am confident that during all this time there was not any war-party, great or small, from Black Kettle's camp, except one party of twenty-three under Spotted Horse, and another party of seven young men without any responsible head. Both parties started out on or about the 1st September, and the small party of seven remaining out only about two weeks, when they returned with one large American mule with a sore back. The party under Spotted Horse was absent until about the 1st October, 1866, when they returned, having in their possession some fourteen head of mules and ponies, got, as they alleged, on the Huerfand, in Colorado Territory. If there had been any other party out, or had they brought to their camp any other property or plunder, I think I should have known it.

During the time I was with this band of Cheyenne Indians, I visited Fort Ellsworth with eight chiefs, (Black Kettle and Roman Nose among the number,) and held a council with Major E. W. Wynkoop, then special agent; at which time promises were made to them that their annuities should be delivered to them at or near this point in two months, which was the reason the Indians came here in October. I will add, in connection with this statement, that I learned from the Indians I was with that there was a camp of Sioux Indians, of some twenty-four lodges, only one day's ride from Fort Wallace or Pond's creek; and I know that some of these same Sioux Indians stole from citizens near this place four mules and three ponies, and from the Cheyenne Indians three horses, which were followed north by Charley Bent, and recovered from them.

JOHN S. SMITH,
U. S. Interpreter.

In presence of J. H. LEAVENWORTH,
U. S. Indian Agent.

A true copy,

W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. General.
Office of the Holladay Overland Mail and Express Company, Omaha, October 23, 1866.

Chauncey McKeever,
A. A. General, St. Louis:

Sir: Your telegram of 18th inst., asking what Indians burned Chalk Bluff station on the Smoky Hill route, is received. I immediately telegraphed both our agents at Leavenworth city and at Denver to send you a statement of the particulars of the affair, as I had not received them myself. I am satisfied, however, that it was done by the discontented band of Cheyennes known as the "Dog Soldiers." This band consists of some two hundred and fifty to three hundred young "bucks;" and as it was they that killed our two employees at that station, about three weeks ago, it is reasonable to presume that they are the ones who burned the station. The only particulars I have of the affair is that they told our men to take the horses out of the stable and go—that they did not want their horses, nor to shed their blood. Our men do not appear to be apprehensive of trouble from any other Indians now on that route except these "Dog Soldiers."

Mr. Ben. Holladay, president of our company, addressed a letter to Major General Hancock from Denver, in regard to protection on the Smoky Hill route. I trust it was received, as the suggestions it contained would have been valuable in the distribution of troops.

We received a telegram this morning from Julesburg, on the Platte route, saying that the mules, (96,) ninety-six in number, of one of our supply trains were run off by the Indians last night, twelve miles east of Fort Sedgwick. We are without any further particulars, but I presume it was Sioux Indians from the north side of the Platte.

I have the honor to remain yours, respectfully,

(Signed,) D. STREET,
General Agent.

A true copy.

W. G. Mitchell,
Captain and A. A. A. General.
FORT WALLACE, KANSAS, January 19, 1867.

Personally appeared before me James Wadsworth, a driver of the Overland Mail Company's Express, who makes the following statement, viz:

On the day before the massacre of the stock-tenders at Chalk Bluff Station, they (the stock tenders) told me that a party of three Indians were at the station that day. I inquired of them what Indians they were, and they informed me they were Cheyennes; from the description they gave me of two of them, I am positive that they were two of the same party of Indians that attacked me at Monument Station. One of the attacking Indians, after we had made friends with them, told me that they were Cheyennes. The day before the massacre I saw three ponies near Chalk Bluff Station. A Mr. Parker picked up those same ponies, which were, in a few days afterwards, claimed and turned over to a Cheyenne chief called Bull Bear and his party. I am perfectly satisfied that the Indians who attacked me at Monument Station were Cheyennes, also that the Indians who massacred the stock-tenders were of the same party. I base my statement on the description given me by the men, the day before they were murdered, of two of the Indians which were at the station that day, and which no doubt were of the party who committed the outrage; also on that of one of the men who escaped from Chalk Bluff, who recognized some of the party who claimed the ponies as having been present at the massacre.

(Signed,)

JAMES WADSWORTH.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 19th day of January, 1867.

(Signed,)

FRED. H. BEECHER,
2d Lieutenant 3d Infantry, Post Adjutant.

A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. General.
HEADQUARTERS POST OF FORT WALLACE,
KANSAS, December 20, 1866.

Brevet Major Henry E. Noyes,
A. A. A. General Dist. of the Upper Arkansas,
Fort Riley, Kansas.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 9th instant, (received on the 18th instant,) in regard to the circumstances of the driving away from the post of Government stock by Indians, and the more recent circumstances attending the burning of "Chalk Bluff Station," and the killing of two stock-tenders, I have the honor to submit the following report:

With the exception of the guide, now absent with Captain M. V. Sheridan, there is no one at this post cognizant of the matter in question; but on the reception of your letter I immediately proceeded to the stations of the Overland Mail Express Company, and having hunted up all parties who were in any way acquainted with the burning of Chalk Bluff Station and the murder of the stock-tenders, I can make the following statement with complete certainty as to its accuracy. The Indians connected with the Chalk Bluff outrage were Cheyennes, as horses or ponies lost by them on that occasion, and picked up by overland stage-drivers, were afterwards claimed and turned over to a Cheyenne chief called "Bull Bear" and a party of his tribe. Some of this party were recognized by an escaped ranche-man from Chalk Bluff as having been present at the massacre. Also from arrows found that had been shot off around the station, it was seen that they were fashioned peculiar to the Cheyenne tribe. I have the statement of one of the drivers of the Overland Mail Company's Express in my possession, in regard to Bull Bear claiming the ponies that his party had lost at "Chalk Bluff," and I can lay hand on the arrows, in case the major general commanding desires them sent forward in support of this report. As regards the driving away of the Government stock at this post, it is a matter of great difficulty to gain any more authentic information than that already forwarded by my predecessor in command in this post. I have been fortunate enough, however, to get the following from a most trustworthy man, and I beg to forward it for the information of the general commanding: as, in my opinion, it is a clear and convincing proof that the Cheyenne tribe have been the perpetrators of all these outrages, and these same Chey-
A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,

Captain and A. A. A. General.

F 5.

FORT WALLACE, KANSAS, December 19, 1866.

Brevet Major HENRY E. NOYES,

A. A. A. G. Dist. of the Upper Arkansas,

Fort Riley, Kansas.

SIR: In obedience to your letter of the 9th instant, calling or a detailed report of the "Chalk Bluff" affair, and the evidence upon which I based my reports, I have the honor to make the following:

I was first informed of this affair whilst en route to this post by one of the overland stage-drivers. I was at that time about two day's march from Chalk Bluff Station. Upon my arrival at that station I found it deserted. I carefully examined the station-house, and found several bullet-holes and marks of arrows. While engaged in this examination the stage from the west arrived, from the driver of which I learned that a few days previous to this outrage a party of Cheyennes had been in the neighborhood of the station, and that one of the murdered men lived long enough to tell one of the drivers that the Indians who committed this outrage were from this same party. I have since learned that three ponies, that were found a few days after this affair in the vicinity of Chalk Bluff by some of the employees of the Overland Mail Company, were afterwards claimed by a party of Cheyenne Indians. The arrows left behind by the Indians who committed this outrage have been pronounced, by persons who profess to know, Cheyenne arrows; as for the burning of Chalk Bluff Station by the Cheyennes, there is no room for doubt. In a private letter written by Lieutenant Flood, 6th United States volunteers, to Dr. Turner, United
States Army, of this post, he mentioned the fact of his having spoken to Bull Bear, (one of the chiefs) of the Cheyenne tribe, at "Chalk Bluff" Station, the very day on which the station was burned, and that this chief had about forty (40) warriors with him. I have since heard that in less than one hour after Lieutenant Flood left, the station was in flames. Lieutenant Flood knew Bull Bear to be a Cheyenne chief, as he, Bull Bear, had visited this post several times during the past summer accompanied by members of his tribe. I would also state that I have been informed by persons who have been continually over this route, between this post and Fort Hays, during the last six months, that no other tribe of Indians than the Cheyennes have been seen in the vicinity of the route.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOS. HALE,
1st Lieutenant 3d U. S. Infantry.

A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. G.

G.

FORT LARNED, KANSAS, December 21, 1866.

To the Acting Assistant Adjutant General,
District Upper Arkansas.

SIR: In obedience to orders received from district headquarters, I have the honor to make the following report of the circumstances connected with the murder of the New Mexican, at Fort Zara, by the Cheyenne Indians.

On the 9th day of November I was stationed at Fort Zara, in charge of the picket which was sent from Fort Larned. Colonel Bent, the Indian trader, was camped a short distance from the post, and around his camp there were several lodges of Cheyenne Indians. The main village of the tribe was, as near as I could learn, about sixty (60) miles south of the Arkansas river. The name of the Indian who killed the New Mexican was Fox Tail, a son of Medicine Arrows, a prominent medicine chief of the tribe. Fox Tail had a quarrel with his father some days before, and when he left the main camp of the tribe, did so with the avowed intention of killing a white man. He came to Colonel Bent's camp late
the night before he killed the New Mexican, and told him (Colonel Bent) that he came for the purpose of killing a white man, but should not molest him or his men. Colonel Bent told me the next day that the Indian was drunk, and he thought it was only an idle boast, and that he had no intention whatever of carrying out his threat. After staying some time at Colonel Bent's camp, he went to the lodge of an Indian who had the reputation of being very friendly to the whites, and stayed there the remainder of the night. In the morning he told the Indian at whose lodge he was staying that he came there for the purpose of killing a white man. The other Indian told him he should not; that the whites were his friends, and he would fight for them. Fox Tail immediately left the lodge, mounted his horse, saying, as he did so, I'll see if you will fight for the whites. The New Mexican was passing the Indian camp with Colonel Bent's animals, which he was herding, when the Indian saw him, and riding up to him shot him through the head before he (the New Mexican) was aware of his intentions. I came up to Colonel Bent's camp a short time after the New Mexican was killed, but was not molested. Colonel Bent told me what had occurred, and I immediately sent a note to my men at the "Round House" by a friendly Indian, and shortly after went down myself and found all the citizens assembled there. I took a portion of my men up to Colonel Bent's camp and escorted his train down near my post; but as I only had six men there at the time, and they being infantry, I could make no efforts to secure the Indian; he in the confusion having escaped across the river. I understand the Indian commissioners, who were at Zara a few days subsequently, made a demand on the chiefs for the Indian; but the demand has not been complied with. I sent a dispatch to Fort Larned shortly after the occurrence, not knowing [what] action the Indians might take in the matter. Colonel Leavenworth, Indian agent, also sent a dispatch to Fort Ellsworth, stating the facts of the case.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

(Signed,) JNO. P. THOMPSON,
2d Lieutenant 3d U. S. Infantry.

A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. G.
G 2.

FORT PENDER, KANSAS, July 14, 1867.

During the month of June, 1866, a party was out against the Pawnees, belonging to the same band, ("Black Kettles," who came in contact with six (6) white men on the tributaries of Solomon's Fork, killing the entire party. I was present on the return of these warriors to Black Kettle's camp, and heard their report. It was investigated to my satisfaction, and proven that they undoubtedly killed the six (6) men in question.

(Signed,) 

JOHN S. SMITH, 
United States Indian Interpreter.

A true copy.
W. G. MITCHELL, 
Captain and A. A. A. General.

II.

WASHINGTON, February 22, 1867.

Sir: I have to call your attention to the fact, that on or about the 1st day of January last a party of Cheyenne Indians captured from one of the Kaw chiefs (Wah-li-augah) forty-four horses and wounded one man. I hope you will give your earliest attention to this subject, with the view of making the Indians return the horses or pay the Kaw Indians for them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed,) 

F. K. PAGE, 
U. S. Agent for Kansas Indians.

Furnished for the information of Colonel Leavenworth, 
Washington.
A true copy.
W. G. MITCHELL, 
Captain and A. A. A. General.

K 1.

*HEADQ'RS FORT DODGE, KANSAS, February 24, 1867.*

Brevet Brigadier General CHAUNCEY MCKEEVER, 
A. A. General, Headquariers Department of the Mo., 
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Sir: I have the honor to report, that yesterday I had a council with "Satanta," "Stumbling Bear," and other
chiefs of the Kiowas. Satanta stated he had heard no bad news yet; that he did not wish to go to war; that he had not yet accepted the tobacco and blankets of peace from the Sioux; that he was friendly to the whites, and expected to remain so; that he might tell me something pretty rough, and I might kill him if I wanted to; he had not much to tell me, but he would conceal nothing; the grass, wood, and water at this post belonged to him; he did not ask the white man to come here, and they must leave; no more wood must be cut on Pawnee Fork; they must stop putting up houses to live in, and white men must not come here to run off the buffalo, and eat up the grass, and drink all the water. He said he told me this now because he would never see me again; he was going to move away from this country; he could get no buffalo, (his party killed four on the way in here,) and he was going away south to hunt; what he was telling me was the truth and no lie. He asked me to look under his coat and leggings, and see if he had concealed anything; his people were crying for something to eat. He wanted me to give him something; if the white people came down into his country, they ought to help him; the road and railroad must be stopped short at Council Grove; there must be no roads or railroads west of that. (He was here interrupted by the other chiefs.) But what he wanted was something to eat for his starving people and crying papooses; he thought I was a good man, and would help them; he would never ask me again; some Cheyennes had run off some stock belonging to some white men who were hunting wolves on the Cinnamon; I must not lay it to the Kiowas; the mules were in the Cheyenne camp now; he did not care for his annuity goods, unless they were hauled to him; the treaty said they would be hauled to the Salt Plains, but Colonel Leavenworth sent to him to come in for them; that his stock was too poor to do it; wanted me to let Lieutenant Hesselberger and interpreter go with him to Zara to see the agent about the goods; there were some twenty chiefs who had not yet had their goods.

During this incoherent speech, Satanta was frequently interrupted by the other chiefs, particularly when he gave expression to anything like war-talk, when he would abruptly change his tone, and ask for something to eat.

I replied to his speech as follows:

Satanta has talked half peace and half war to me, and I do not understand what he means; he says his heart is good,
and he don't want war; and then he says the white man must move out of this country; that the wood, water, and grass belong to him.

I do not understand such talk; if he wants peace, I advise him to have nothing to do with the Sioux; that they had behaved badly, and the white people were very angry, and it will ruin him and his tribe if they get mixed up with them; I was friendly, or I would not tell him this; if he wanted peace, I did not understand what he meant about the roads and railroads stopping west of Council Grove; neither the roads nor the railroads would be stopped; if they disturbed them, there would be war, and the country would swarm with white men; they would come on him from all sides, and destroy him and his people; the grass grows as green on the prairies as if I had never come here, and there is as much water in the river as there was before white men came here; as for his goods, if he was going to war, he would be sure not to get any; he could have his choice, either for peace or war; I was ready for war, if he wanted war, and was not afraid of him; I would be his friend until he commenced war, and then would be his enemy.

His only reply to this was to ask for provisions, and for Lieutenant Hesselberger and the interpreter to go with him to Zara to visit his agent. This was granted, instructions being given to Lieutenant Hesselberger to watch closely the conduct of Satanta, and disclose to the agent the result of the council, and on his return report the particulars of his trip. Satanta was the only chief who spoke.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed,) II. DOUGLASS,
Major 3d U. S. Infantry, commanding Post.

Through A. A. A. General,
Headqrs Dist. Upper Arkansas, Fort Riley, Kansas.

A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. General.

Headquarters Dist. of the Upper Arkansas,
Fort Riley, Kansas, March, 1867.

Respectfully forwarded.

I presume the character and reputation of this sub-chief, Satanta, are well known at department headquarters.

He is looked upon by his people as a "braggadocio"—a great gas-bag.
It is to be regretted that the Indians cannot get their goods. This neglect on the part of the agent gives them great cause for complaint.

A. J. SMITH,

K. S.

HEADQUARTERS FORT LARNED, KANSAS, February 27, 1867.

To the Assistant Adjutant General,

Headquarters District Upper Arkansas.

I have the honor to report that “Kicking Bird,” a chief of Kiowas, and a party of a few men and squaws, to the number of twenty-seven, passed this post last Thursday, and proceeded to Fort Zara to get their goods. Their arrival there was reported to me by Lieutenant Thompson. On Monday they returned, and went on south.

On Sunday Satanta, a chief of the Kiowas, passed by here, en route to Fort Zara, under charge of Lieutenant Hesselberger, from Fort Dodge. They returned yesterday, and will proceed to Fort Dodge to-day.

Kicking Bird told me of an occurrence which happened south of the Arkansas, on the Cimarron, viz: The running off of the stock of some wolf hunters, which was charged to the Kiowas, and which he stated was done by the Cheyennes.

But very little dependence can be placed on the statement of any Indians in reference to such a thing as this, for each tribe will invariably accuse the others of committing any depredations that may have happened.

In his talk with the sub-agent at Zara, the substance of what Satanta said was, that the hearts of the Indians were bad; that the white men must build no more houses out here, must burn no more of their wood, drink no more of their water, must not drive their buffaloes off; that the railroad must not come any further, and that the Santa Fe line must be stopped.

All this may be, in a measure, bravado, but it illustrates the feeling that actuates the Indians.

Not long ago some of them, whilst at Zara, drew an axe on the sub-agent of Colonel Leavenworth, and threatened his life, because they did not get their goods.

They have, as far as I am enabled to learn, some cause of
complaint against Leavenworth, but I think it only hastens, but will not be the cause of the impending troubles.

A band of Sioux crossed the Arkansas river, going south, a few days ago, between this post and Fort Dodge, for the purpose, it is understood, of having a "talk" with the tribes belonging to that region, probably to determine the time for an outbreak.

I have just understood, since his departure, that Satanta said while here, that when he got back home, some white man had got to be killed on this road near this post; that he had a spite against this post, and that he was going to take revenge from it.

I cannot too strongly urge the necessity of cavalry at this post, as the garrison is small, and there is every indication of a speedy outbreak.

I shall keep you informed, as far as I am able, of any and all movements of the Indians in this vicinity.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,)                        HENRY ASBURY,

A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
    Captain and A. A. A. General.

L.

HEADQUARTERS FORT DODGE,
    KANSAS, March 14, 1867.

Brevet Major HENRY E. NOYES,
    A. A. A. G., Headquarters Dist. Upper Arkansas.

Major: In answer to your communication of February 21st, (just received,) relating to the names of the chiefs or bands of Indians who are or have been making threatening demonstrations, or sending insulting messages, I have the honor to state, that I have received from Little Raven, head chief of the Arrapahoes, a message to the effect that no more wood must be cut by this command on the Pawnee Forks, and that the troops must move out of the country by the time grass grows.

Mr. Jones, the interpreter at this post, brought me a message from Satanta, the principal chief of the Kiowas, to the effect that all white men must move east of Council Grove by the spring; that he gave me ten days to move from this
post; that he wanted the mules and cavalry horses fattened; as he would have use for them, for he intends to appropriate them; that all the Indians had agreed to stop the railroads and roads at Council Grove; that no roads or railroads would be allowed west of that point.

Major J. H. Page, 3d infantry, brought me a message from the same chief: "Tell the chiefs on the road that they must gather together their soldiers and leave; if they don't, I will help them to leave. No wagons will be allowed on the road, except those that bring presents. If any are found, they will be taken."

Subsequently, in council, Satanta stated, in substance, the same, but not in an insulting manner; which has already been reported to district headquarters.

It has been reported to me that eight Arrapahoes, apparently friendly, stopped on the 10th instant at the camp of a Mr. Gilchrist, a wagon-master for a Mr. H. Wedells, of Mora, New Mexico, on the other side of Fort Aubrey, (twenty miles from here,) shot at the herder, and ran off forty head of mules and one mare.

The extreme severity of the weather, together with the refusal of the man who reported the fact to act as guide and put a party on their trail, prevented me from attempting their recovery.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

II. DOUGLASS,
Major 3d Infantry U. S. A., commanding Post.

A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. General.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, August 5, 1867.

The Adjutant General U. S. Army,
Washington, D. C.

(Through military division of the Missouri.)

General: I have submitted official reports explaining my action in reference to Indian affairs in this department, par-
ticularly my letter of March 6, 1867, my report of the operations of the expedition to the plains of last spring, and my reply to a telegram from General Grant, dated May 23, 1867, on the subject of the destruction of the Indian villages at Pawnee Fork, on the 19th of April last.

I have observed that the reports of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on these subjects have been published by official authority, and it does not appear that mine have been so published, nor those of Lieutenant General Sherman, my superior, who is intimately acquainted with my action in these matters.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Hon. Mr. Henderson, United States Senator, have made strictures upon my conduct not consistent with the facts, and injurious to myself, which would probably have been avoided by a prompt publication of the reports before mentioned, and which I had a right, under the circumstances, to expect.

As I have been misrepresented, owing to the non-publication of the official reports in question, I request permission to publish the same, and, as I have since filed an additional report of July 31, 1867, delayed by my absence on the plains, I ask to include that also, as it appears to be necessary to my complete vindication.

I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) WINFIELD S. HANCOCK,
Major General U. S. Army.

Official copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. A. A. G.

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LETTER FROM ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE GIVING GENERAL HANCOCK PERMISSION TO PUBLISH HIS OFFICIAL REPORTS IN REFERENCE TO INDIAN MATTERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI, &c.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S Office,
WASHINGTON, D. C., September 4, 1867.

Major General W. S. HANCOCK,
U. S. Army, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Sir: Referring to your communication of the 5th ultimo, requesting permission to publish your official reports of Indian matters in the department of the Missouri, with a view to the vindication of your conduct against the strictures of
the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and others, of the appro-
val of which you were informed, by letter of the 16th
ultimo, from this office, I have the honor to inform you that
copies of the reports in question have been made in this
office, and furnished to the Associated Press.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed,) E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

A true copy.

W. G. MITCHELL,
Captain and A. D. C.