

---

## Chief Joseph Was a Great Indian.

---

**I**n the death of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perces, the greatest Indian character in the United States takes his place in history. He was the greatest red man the Pacific Coast ever produced, and he has been classed by many as the greatest Indian general of this country. The military tactics which he displayed in the celebrated Nez Perce War of '77 won for him the admiration of the officers and forces who were pursuing him. In diplomacy, strategy, cunning, persistence and courage, he had no equal in the annals of Indian warfare. His ability to hold an entire division of the United States army at bay for a whole summer, with a force of only 300 bucks, and encumbered by the women, and children and stock of his tribe, forced the admiration of every man in the service.

Prior to the war of 1877 Joseph lived in the Wallowa Valley, the home of his fathers. He was a hereditary as well as a war chief, and his father was Chief Joseph before him. When the old man died he called his sons to his tepee and admonished them never to give up their home in the beautiful land of the broad Wallowa. With young Joseph this dying wish of his father became a life object, and he went to his grave striving to recover the old stamping ground as a home for the remnants of his once powerful tribe.

Friction between the whites and Indians began in the early '50's when settlers and miners began crowding the red men. There was killing on both sides. The Government decided that a new treaty would have to be made with the Indians for the purpose of confining them upon several reservations.

At the conference held at Lapwai, Idaho in 1873, between