

RED CLOUD'S VICTORY AND DEFEAT BY BUFFALO BILL FROM TRUE TALES OF THE PLAINS



WHILE Roman Nose, Black Kettle, Tall Bull, Yellow Hand and numbers of great Indian chiefs received stinging defeats and were sent to the happy hunting grounds themselves, the pages of frontier history teem with sanguinary successes which will show that the red man did not always "get it in the neck."

test in hot water, a continuous stow or made the plains as active as a picnic party or a horse's nest is not exaggeration. He kept Fort Phil Kearny practically inviolate for a year, and with predatory bands, sent here and there over the plains, he carried devastation and destruction to the most unexpected quarters, possessing as he did an organization that, conditions permitting, made his force as effective as light horse cavalry. However, the inventive genius and commercial spirit of the white man in shop and factory was actively engaged in producing firearms so improved that, like the needle gun in the Prussians' hands in the European wars of 1805 to 1872, they created in his simple mind an astonishment that he could not believe or dream of until he suffered from a fearful demonstration of the fact. Myself and others, of course, kept up our personal "pull" by adopting every improvement from the old muzzle loader to the breechloading Springfield and the repeaters—Henry, Remington and Winchester—which gave us often the necessary protective advantage. This improvement in arms was destined a little over a year after the Fetterman massacre to give Red Cloud and "Mr. Injun" the surprise of their lives and something to think of as "bad medicine."



The two colonels were found lying side by side.

which he engineered what is known as the Fort Phil Kearny massacre. Red Cloud was then a young, ambitious and a most powerful rising chief of the Ogallala Sioux and ignored the actions of the older Indian chiefs. In 1865 at the Harney-Sanborn treaty he boldly denounced the white man's invasion, sprang up from the council, called on the discontented to follow him and went on the warpath. From that time that section became a veritable burying ground wherever the wily chief could succeed in finding subjects for his vengeance. Red Cloud kept the fort in constant agitation, even making it dangerous to collect wood on the surrounding hillsides. In the first six months there were 154 persons killed and a great number wounded, besides hundreds of animals, cattle and mules stolen. One of these attacks is famed because of the fall of Colonel Fetterman, and his men were practically victims of gallantry and indiscretion. Colonel Fetterman was a man with a splendid record. Although he had several experiences, in one of which Lieutenant Bingham was killed, together with several soldiers, and only the timely arrival of General Carrington himself saved them, yet he still expressed himself that with "a hundred men he could ride through the Sioux nation." On the fatal occasion the wood train had been sent out to secure wood and bring timber to finish building the hospital for the fort. Soon information was brought from one of the outposts on the hill to General Carrington that the train was in peril. Colonel Fetterman was put in command of about a hundred men and started to form a junction with the wood train. He made a detour, hoping to take the Indians in the rear.

The Indian scouts on seeing his advance from the other side of the hill left a few to occupy the attention of the wood train and concentrated on Fetterman. The wood train broke camp and went off seven miles northeast of the fort to the Piney. The Indians massed in overwhelming numbers and notwithstanding the bravery of the little command, simply wiped them out of existence and then retired to celebrate their victory. In one spot was found a pile of about forty-nine men; stripped of clothing and mutilated. Colonels Fetterman and Brown were found lying side by side, some believing that at the last moment, rather than be captured, they died by each other's hands. The news was received all over the country with great horror, while from one end of the plains to the other among the red men rang peans of praise for the great young Red Cloud, and his achievements gave him a power in the Sioux councils that he held through many long years. Red Cloud's continued success drew to his ranks ambitious braves from every section until he had such a formidable organization that, if it were understood that these tribes were as many nations as distinct in a way as among the white races, one-half of his followers would be entitled to the name and devilish recklessness of the most famed "foreign legions." To say that he kept the vast theater of con-

lesson in the range, power and wonderful rapidity of fire which the new rifle permitted. At the same time, the Indians had really surprised them and appeared in such numbers that the little garrison, from commander down, on hasty consultation decided that it was a forlorn hope to think of escape, though all were determined to fight to the last breath. The Indians spread out and gallantly charged, while the main body of Indians between them and the fort looked on exultantly, fully prepared to take advantage of any opening. Powell had commanded not a shot to be fired until his orders, and, inspiring his men with his own coolness, it was reserved until the yelling horde came within 150, then 100, then 50 yards from them, when "Fire, boys, fire!" was shouted, and a perfect sheet of flame burst forth. Horses and riders tumbled, and a driving sleet of bullets struck the charging mass. To the Indians' astonishment the fire did not stop at one volley, as usual, but continued to belch forth unintermittently. Then the foe circled around at a mad gallop; but, like the blazing spark from a fireworks pin wheeling, the corral responded with death dealing effect, which at last the survivors hurriedly escaped from. The result to the defenders was encouraging, as a mass of horses, with dead and wounded Indians, lay in all directions, as a forest of trees falls by the striking of a tornado. The corral lost the gallant Lieutenant Jenness with a bullet through his head, one soldier was killed, and two were severely wounded, leaving twenty-eight at the post. To the Indians the whole affair was a terrible puzzle, and they actually believed that the corral held ten times the number of men, for they now adopted a new method by preparing to surround the corral with skirmishers, the bow and arrow men creeping forward ahead of those with rifles, taking advantage of every depression in the ground until within range, then to overcome the besieged with gun and arrow fire when the main attack would be made by the entire body of warriors. This was wonderfully skillful in execution, but the defense was almost impregnable, and the defenders were silent under the fusillade that tore into the wagons and the arrows that pierced through the sheets. So terrific was the fire that it sounded like crackling thunder, and the strategic silence that ensued caused the Indians to think that it had been effective, although actually not a defender was hurt in this second attack. Under a heavy fire from the skirmishers a thousand Indians broke into a charge, encouraged by the silence, when again rang out the merciless fire, led by Powell's own rifle. One pressed until almost to the wagon beds, suffering from a slaughter almost unheard of, when back they again rode. A few feet more and it would have been all over in a hand to hand conflict. But so close had they come that some of the men threw missiles in their faces. This was repeated for six times, the sixth being the final charge and repulse, which, if it had been followed

by another, would have been successful, as many of the rifles had become overheated, others useless, and the ammunition was nearly exhausted. Then, to add to the general joy, the distant sound of a howitzer was heard, and Major Smith, from the fort, with 100 men, was seen in the distance, and a shell burst in the midst of the Indians as another puzzle in the use of arms. The principal effort the Indians made then was to carry off their wounded, which they eventually succeeded in doing after making a stand for awhile against Smith's command, when, disheartened and dismayed, they sullenly retreated. Captain Powell in his report says that another attack would have been successful, owing to the exhausted condition of arms, ammunition and men. The Indians had a splendid opportunity in the open to check Smith's command, but, believing in the Great Spirit's anger and that there was "Bad Medicine" in the neighborhood, they thought it best to retire from the influence of the "Evil Spirit." The Indians lost 1,137 men.

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NOTICE. Resolution to Improve Street. Notice is hereby given that the Common Council of the City of Astoria has declared its determination and intention to improve Hume avenue from a point 12 1/2 feet south of the north line of Duane street (west) to a point 10 feet south of the center line of Commercial street (west), by grading to a width of 25 feet through the center thereof, and to the established grade, and planing the same with 3-inch by 12-inch plank and 3-inch by 6-inch stringers to a width of 16 feet.

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FOR SALE—MISCELLANEOUS. FOR SALE—LOT, 50 BY 100 FT. on Exchange street; nearly opposite Ford & Stokes' hall. Address 519 Franklin avenue.

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SWEDISH MASSAGING. TYRA KOHLANDER, ROYAL graduate in Swedish movements, physical culture and massage; office, 545 Franklin ave., second flat; hours: 9-11 a. m., 3-5 p. m., or Central Drug Store, Telephone Main 2181.

Notice. Notice is hereby given that the County Superintendent of Clatsop County will hold the regular examination of applicants for state and county papers at her office in court house as follows: For State Papers. Commencing Wednesday, February 10th at 9 o'clock a. m. and continuing until Saturday, February 13th at 4 p. m.

Wednesday—Penmanship, History, Spelling, Physical Geography, Reading, Psychology. Thursday—Written Arithmetic, Theory of Teaching, Grammar, Bookkeeping, Physics, Civil Government.

Friday—Physiology, Geography, Composition, Algebra, English Literature, School Law. Saturday—Botany, Plain Geometry, General History. For County Papers. Commencing Wednesday, February 10th at 9 o'clock a. m. and continuing until Friday, February 12th at 4 p. m.

Wednesday—Penmanship, History, Orthography, Reading, Physical Geography. Hildebrand & Gor

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