

compel them to abandon their entire camp property—lodges left standing; all of this was destroyed and the Indians pursued by circuitous routes to within a short distance of the Cheyenne Agency.

III. The reports from Major Compton, at Adobe Walls, indicating that the main body of hostile Indians had been driven south of the Canadian, west of that point, and had taken refuge on the Staked Plains, I determined to place a force to the west of them, attack and drive them eastward, if possible, and at the same time have a force near the head of Washita to intercept them or take up the pursuit. Accordingly, Major Price, with three (3) companies of the 8th Cavalry and one (1) company of Infantry, ("I," 5th.) was left at my supply camp on that stream, with instructions to keep himself informed of any movements in that vicinity especially to the south of him, while I, with Major Compton's command, three (3) companies of Cavalry, Companies "D" and "E," 5th Infantry, a small Artillery detachment and Lieut. Baldwin's detachment, moved from Adobe Walls to accomplish the above object.

This movement was delayed by the non-arrival of grain, (and I was only able to obtain twelve (12) day's half forage) but finally commenced, October 29th, the force moving from the Canadian in three (3) detachments at different points between Adobe Walls and Muster Creek, and skirting the breaks of the Canadian, and of its southern affluents, from Spring Creek, (or White Deer,) nearly to Muster Creek. The Indians were driven from these breaks, and from their camps long the Lagunas on the Staked Plains adjacent; a part of them fled precipitately south westerly, and were pursued to, and thirty (30) miles beyond, Red River, (crossing about Long. 102° 30'); it was impracticable to continue the pursuit in that direction further. From this crossing of the Red River, I moved the command eastward in three (3) detachments; the right, Lieut. Baldwin commanding, along Red River; the left towards the head of North Fork, and with the centre I moved northeastward until I discovered the trail of those who had been driven from the line of the Canadian; it was followed to the head of Salt Fork, (Palo Grande,) and thence eastward near that stream, on which the Indians divided, a part going southward. Learning from Lieut. Baldwin, (November 8th,) who had turned northward, and was, by this movement, to the right and some eight (8) miles in advance of me, that he was near to, and about to attack, an Indian village on the north branch of McClellan Creek, I despatched Major Compton, with Co "H," 6th Cavalry, to take part in the engagement. Lieut. Baldwin, with his detachment, and Companies "D," 6th Cavalry, and "P," 5th Infantry, had, however, attacked with such vigor and pursued so persistently, that the re-enforcement was not required, and did not reach him until the close of the engagement, when the Indians had been pursued for twelve (12) miles and were completely routed and scattered. Among the results of the engagement was the rescuing of two white girls held captive by the Indians—Julia and Adelaide German, whose parents, and oldest sister and brother, had been killed near Smoky Hill River in Western Kansas, where they and two older sisters were taken captive.

The command on the Washita was informed of the presence of Indians to the south of it, by the report of 1st Lieut. H. J. Farnsworth, 8th Cavalry, who while scouting with his company, ("H," 8th Cavalry,) came

upon, and had an engagement with, a body of Cheyennes near North Fork on the 6th of November. Obtaining from General Davidson, who was then near his camp, a re-enforcement of two (2) companies of the 10th Cavalry, Major Price moved out on the 7th November, and on the 8th November his command came within hearing of the sound of small arms, and in the rear and on the left flank of the Indians as they retreated towards it, and across its front; some of the scouts were engaged with the Indians retreating before Lieut. Baldwin's force. For some reason, not yet satisfactorily explained, this force did not participate in the engagement, as from its position was eminently fitting, and from its orders, (hereinbefore referred to,) was an imperative duty, but after halting and grazing animals for several hours it moved in the opposite direction from the scene of the engagement. The Indians attacked were Grey Beard's band of some 110 lodges, as near as could be ascertained. The presence of a force on the line of their retreat towards the Agency, which yet did not attack, compelled the Indians to retreat to the northwest again, the only escape left open for them.

As my animals were so thoroughly exhausted by the long and continuous pursuit, and as I was entirely out of grain, I gave to General Davidson, whose command arrived in that vicinity all of the information in my possession regarding the Indians, and learned from a communication subsequently received from him, that a part of his force, under Captain Vile, took up the pursuit of those who had retreated westward on the Staked Plains on the 8th of November, and continued it to the vicinity of Muster Creek. While awaiting the arrival of grain, my command, except as hereinafter explained was camped on the Washita and Sweetwater, and from the latter command scouting parties were sent out to the head of North Fork.

IV. Judging from the route taken by the Indians after the engagement on McClellan Creek, that they would seek refuge in the tributaries of the Canadian. I put the 8th Cavalry Battalion, (Captain Hartwell commanding,) in march for Adobe Walls as soon as possible after I reached the Washita with instructions to clear the tributaries of the Canadian; the movement commenced November 12th. After reaching Adobe Walls, and receiving such grain as I was able to send to him, Captain Hartwell ascertained, through his scouts, that there was a large party of Indians at the head of Muster Creek, and by making a night march, he came upon them on the 29th of November, attacked and pursued them for twelve (12) miles, they retreated to the Palo Duro, and thence south.

The Battalion 8th Cavalry remained in the vicinity until it was ordered to New Mexico, December 28th, 1871.

Having learned from the reports of two scouts (Wing and Steele,) whom I sent out from Camp on the Washita that there was a camp of hostile Indians on an affluent of North Fork of Red River, some thirty (30) miles distant, I sent, (December 1st,) a detachment of Cavalry and scouts, under Captain A. R. Chaffee, from the Camp on Sweetwater, to make a night march and endeavor to surprise the camp; the march was successfully made, the troops arriving at day-break, but the Indians having apparently taken the alarm from the fact of their camp being discovered, had left in great haste and moved during the night north-westward, and again eastward, north of the Sweetwater, a distance of some forty (40)

miles, where they were surprised the next morning, (December 2nd,) by a detachment under command of 1st Sergeant Dennis Ryan, Company "I," 6th Cavalry, who at once attacked and routed them, capturing seventy (70) ponies, most of them saddled and packed, these were killed and a very large amount of Indian property, including ammunition destroyed. This party of Indians was sent in on foot in a very destitute condition.

On the 4th of December, I sent Captain Ewers, with his company, ("E," 5th Infantry,) a detachment of Cavalry and scouts, to scout the line of the Washita, east of my camp. On the 13th of December he found indications of Indians near the crossing of Washita River, and pursued a small party, who were evidently a part of Medicine Water's band. Captain Ewers continued the pursuit until December 16th to Wood Creek, and the Indians surrendered at the Cheyenne Agency, December, 26th.

V. As the numbers and strength of the Indians had been greatly reduced, my force was diminished in a corresponding degree. During the months of November and December, I ordered to Camp Supply, Fort Dodge and Fort Bascom, all of my Cavalry, except three (3) companies, retaining the most effective, with four (4) Infantry companies. From reports regarding the position of the remaining hostile Indians, I judged they could be found in the breaks of Red River, and was desirous of moving in that direction during the last of November, but was delayed, owing to the difficulty of obtaining sufficient stores for the movement of the 8th Cavalry Battalion to New Mexico, and to warrant me in attempting so extended a movement at that season of the year. My purpose was to proceed up the Canadian as far as Muster Creek, thence south and east, at the same time moving a small and effective force down the eastern slope of the Staked Plains to join or cooperate. I had proceeded as far as Adobe Walls on the Canadian, when instructions were received directing me to establish a winter cantonment at some point south of the Washita, to withdraw the remainder of my force, except the garrison for the Cantonment, and authorizing one or two scouts made. The first was established in a suitable position on one of the northern tributaries of North Fork an important point, and one from which all of the favorite retreats of the Indians in that section would be accessible. The order for the withdrawal had been anticipated and partly executed, but owing to the delay in obtaining supplies and the lateness of the season, I determined to make only one more movement in closing the active operations of the command. My object was, to strike any body that might be found in the breaks of the Red River, and to make a thorough reconnaissance of the country to the south and east in returning the remainder of my command to Camp Supply.

With two companies of Infantry and one of Cavalry, I marched south from near head of Muster Creek January 2nd, to the Palo Duro, (del Llano,) or Red River, thence to Canada Blanco and the head of Tule, turning east to the mouth of Tule, and there crossing Red River, a flanking party proceeding down the canons of Canada Blanco and the Red River, rejoining the command at mouth of Tule. Continuing east the country and all the important river courses between the Elm Fork and the Red were thoroughly examined. When on Wilson's Creek, I returned one Infantry company to the Cantonment, and was joined by Major Compton, with one company of Cavalry.