

## II.

### OFFICIAL REPORT OF COLONEL WRIGHT.

*Head Quarters, Expedition against Northern Indians,  
Camp on Spokan River, W. T., 1½ miles below the Falls.*

*September 6, 1858.*

TO MAJ. W. MACKALL, Assistant Adj't. General U. S. Army :—

Sir :—I have the honor to submit the following report of the battle of the Spokan Indians fought by the troops under my command on the 5th inst. Our enemies were the Spokans, Cœur d'Alenes, Pelouses and Pend d'Oreilles, numbering from five to seven hundred warriors.

Leaving my camp at the "Four Lakes" at 6½ A. M. on the 5th, our route lay along the margin of a lake for about three miles, and thence for two miles over a broken country thinly scattered with pines, when emerging on to the open prairie, the hostile Indians were discovered about three miles to our right and in advance, moving rapidly along the skirt of the woods, and apparently with a view of intercepting our line of march before we should reach the timbers. After halting and closing up our long pack train, I moved forward, and soon found that the Indians were setting fire to the grass at various points in front and on my right flank. Capt. Keyes was now directed to advance three of his companies, deployed as skirmishers, to the front and right. This order was promptly obeyed, and Capt. Ord with Company K, Lieut. Gibson with Company M, and Lieut. Tyler with Company A, 3d Artillery, were thrown forward. At the same time Capt. Hardie, Company G, 3d Artillery, was deployed to the left, and the howitzer under Lieut. White, supported by Company E, 9th Infantry, were advanced to the line of skirmishers. The firing now became brisk on both sides, the Indians attacking us in front and on both flanks. The fires on the prairie nearly enveloped us, and were rapidly approaching our troops and the pack train. Not a moment was to be lost. I ordered