CUSTER'S LAST FIGHT.

HOW THE HERO FELL THIS 25TH OF JUNE TEN YEARS AGO.

Picture of Sitting Bull, the Great Sioux Chief, Who Defeated Custer on the Little Big Horn—His Children—Curly, the General's Scout.

This 25th of June, 1886, it is ten years since the day when brave Gen. Custer and his band of soldiers were massacred on the Little Big Horn river, in Montana. The wild Indian region of ten years ago is a civilized country now. Flocks and herds graze peacefully where brave Custer and his men marched to their death that day. The only bit of real wildness in all that country is the National Yellowstone park, set apart by government as a "public park or pleasure ground for the benefit of the people."

It is the strangest river in the world, that Yellowstone, down a branch of which heroic Custer marched with his men. It was explored for the first time in 1870-71. When the surveying party came suddenly to a square mile of hot springs they could only stop and wonder. The terrific rift in the mountains, 8 000 feet deep some distance further on, with the rapid river flowing through the bottom, was still more wonderful. It was awful. The ravine is so sunless that in broad daylight persons looking up from the bottom can see the stars.

George A. Custer was an Ohio man, born in an obscure country village, New Rumley, in Harrison county, near the Pennsylvania border, in 1839. His ancestry was Pennsylvania German, as far back as the revolution. In point of fact he was descended from one of the Hessian officers who fought on the wrong side in the American revolution. There was little of the phlegmatic German temperament in the boy George, however. He was as restless and nervous as a squirrel. He was educated at West Point. A good story is told of him in his senior year, 1861. He was officer of the guard one day, and was put under arrest for not making two cadets cease fighting. He wanted to see which would whip, and was letting the fellows fight it out, when suddenly Gen. Hazen, then a lieutenant, came on the scene. Custer was put under arrest. His class was allowed to go at once to the seat of war, where officers were so much needed, but Custer was not with them. On the contrary, he pined in a guard house at West Point. He was regularly court-martialed on the specification that "he, the said Custer, did fail to suppress a riot or disturbance near the guard tent, and did fail to separate, etc., but, on the contrary, did cry out in a loud tone of voice: 'Stand back, boys, let's have a fair fight,' or words to that effect."

GEN. CUSTER.

While awaiting sentence a telegram came from Washington ordering his release and commanding him to report at Washington for duty. From that on he entered heart and soul into the war. He won fame as a cavalry leader, and one promotion after another was accorded him till he who had entered the war as a lieutenant came out a brevet brigadier general.

SITTING BULL.

The war over, he was ordered for service to the far west and became an Indian fighter. The country rang with his praises. His lamented death made an impression only second to that caused by the murder of a president. Yet so soon are even the greatest and best forgotten that few even remember now when and where bold Custer was killed. To recall the story to their memory these lines are written.

Of all the red foes soldiers ten years ago had to meet, Sitting Bull, the Sioux, was the wiliest. He considers himself a good Roman Catholic Christian, but one who sees his portrait cannot help fancying that his pious beads and medals and crucifix are worn quite as much for ornamentation as for devotion. He has a splendidly strong, though cruel, relentless face. It takes many years to make a good Indian out of such a red man as Sitting Bull. He had a huge head, with hair whose color was brown—very unusual for an Indian. He could neither read nor write, but, strange to say, he kept a journal, which a scout found and brought into the United States army camp. It contained a history of his life, drawn in grotesque Indian pictures. Most of them represented S. B. killing somebody, white or red.

CROWFOOT.

Sitting Bull destroyed Custer and his command on he Little Big Horn river, June 25, 1876. He then fled across the border to British America and annoyed the United States government people six years longer. It was not till 1882 that he finally surrendered. Even then he has always claimed that he himself did not surrender. It was his son Crowfoot, the lively Indian youth who appears in the picture, that at last snatched his father's gun and handed it over to Maj. Brotherton. The boy has some of his father's own grit. His clear cut, strong face shows him to be a chip of the old block. Sitting Bull was rather pleased at his boy's daring, and let the surrender stand. Unlike the Apache Geronimo, Sitting Bull kept his word, and never made the white people any more trouble after giving up. The long braided hair upon each side is a badge of the Sioux.

STANDING HOLY.

Sitting Bull has a pretty little daughter. This picture of her is from a photograph taken a year ago in Bismarck, Dakota. The little maiden, except for the cruel and merciless strings of wampum in her ears, would be as bright and attractive to look at as any of her small white sisters who learn music and go to Sunday school.

Custer's force was divided into three columns on that fatal day, one commanded by Maj. Reno, another by Col. Benteen, the third by Custer himself. The plan was for these three columns to take different routes converging toward the Indian village on the Little Big Horn. The rest of the story may be told in one sentence. Reno and Benteen failed to come to time, Custer and his men reached the village, fought an overwhelming force of Indians till every man died in his tracks. For a mile or more their bodies were found strung along the banks of the Little Big Horn, just where they fell. The particulars of this last fight are a thrilling

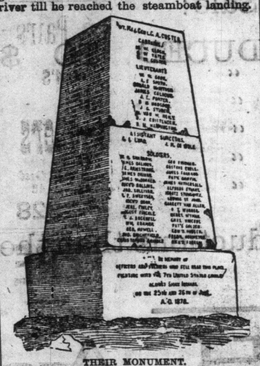
The Indian scout Curly, who tells the story, was the only one with Custer who escaped from the massacre. He had been with the leader several years, and was trusted and faithful. He was a Crow. The fight began at 2 o'clock and lasted till sunset. The white men who fought it knew long ere it closed that it was desperate. As soon as Curly saw this he went to Gen. Custer and begged him to let him lead him to a place of safety of which he knew. There was one way of escape whereby a single man, the general, could be saved. Curly pressed the proposition earnestly on his general. Custer's head fell on his breast a moment, as if in deep thought. Then, he looked up calmly, and waved the scout away. That was the last time Curly ever looked on the face of his general alive.

CURLY.

In that moment the dashing, heroic cavalry leader chose between life and death. He fought like a tiger himself before giving up his life.

The Indians closed in around him at too close quarters for him to use gun or pistol. Then he snatched his saber. The Indians say that he killed three braves with his saber before he was finally overcome. Then a chief, named Rain-in-the-Face, who had a mortal grudge at the white leader, shot and killed him. Such bravery as he had shown his wild enemies reverenced as more than mortal. His was the only body they left unmutilated. This proved that they looked on it with superstitious awe. The Indians say there were more of their braves killed than of white men.

Curly, the Crow scout, escaped alone by the way he had indicated to Custer. He washed his Crow paint off and let his hair down like a Sioux, and thus, undetected, hovered around till the awful fight was over. Then, as much dead as alive with grief and horror, he followed on down the river till he reached the steamboat landing.



THEIR MONUMENT.

It seems that, all the while the five hours' fight was going on, Reno and Benteen were not more than three or four miles away. Reno heard the firing, and knew that his chief was engaged with the enemy.

Reno had been even attacked by a portion of the hostiles flying toward the Custer fight. They came riding like the wind, crouching over the necks of their fleet little ponies, flogging away with their short whips, firing random bullets in the air, and all the time yelling out their 'Hi! yip—yip—yip—yip—hi-yah!'" The sight seems to have been rather a demoralizing one to Reno and his men.

A monument was erected on the scene of the massacre. The horrible relic hunters are already fast chipping it away. Three Custers, a sister's husband and a beloved, bright-hatred schoolboy nephew, perished of the hapless family that day. Col. Tom Custer and young Boston Custer were the general's brothers. These were all found in a group close together. The monument contains the names of those who fell, the flower of the United States Seventh Cavalry regiment. It is one of the most thrilling stories ever told in any language.

A Celebrated American Theologian.

One of the most celebrated of American divines died recently at his home in Lancaster, Pa., at the age of 83 years. It was the Rev. Dr. John Williamson Nevin. He was a native of Pennsylvania, of Scotch-Irish descent. In early youth he exhibited a strong theological turn of mind, which developed in after years until he became famous as a sturdy champion of Christianity.

He graduated from Union college, Schenectady, at the early age of 18. He entered Princeton Theological seminary in 1823, where he became distinguished as a Hebrew scholar and student of biblical literature. He afterward filled chairs in these branches of learning in Princeton and other colleges. The Western Theological seminary, now a power in the Presbyterian church, owes much of its prosperity to the early labors of Dr. Nevin. In 1840 he took a professorship in the Theological seminary of the Reformed Church at Mercersburg, Pa., and was afterward made president of Marshall college at that place. Through the publication of a tract called "The Anxious Bench" Dr. Nevin became, in 1843, involved in a controversy which nearly created a schism in the Reformed Church, and was the beginning of the movement known as the "Mercersburg Theology." From 1849 to 1853 he edited The Mercersburg Review, and during this time got into a theological controversy with Rev. Orestes R. Bronson, D. D., of Boston, which attracted wide attention at the time. From 1866 to 1876 he was the president of Franklin and Marshall college, after which he retired from public life.

JOHN W. NEVIN, D.D.

ARCHIBALD FORBES.

The World-Famous War Correspondent to Settle Down at Last.

Mr. Archibald Forbes, the celebrated war correspondent of The London Daily News, whose brilliant adventures and thrilling letters from bloody fields on several continents have electrified the world, has married and is to settle down at last. After observing the girls of two hemispheres with the critical eye of a newspaper man, he has selected for his bride a Washington lady, the daughter of Gen. Meigs, now retired quartermaster general of the United States army. The happy couple were married on the 19th inst. in St. John's Episcopal church, Washington.

Mr. Forbes is now in that city, and Mr. T. C. Crawford says of him in a recent letter: "Mr. Forbes is nearly 48 years of age. He is tall, angular and thin. He has a high, sloping forehead, straight nose, dark gray eyes and wears a grayish blonde mustache and imperial. He is quite stiff from rheumatism and exposure. He speaks with a very strong Scotch accent. He could never go through again what he has in the past as a war correspondent. He says that he has served his time as staff and is really now to give way for younger men. He says that there is nothing which will sooner exhaust and break down a newspaper correspondent than to engage as a "special" in the field. He attributes all of his rheumatism and bad health to the exposure and fatigues of his many campaigns. His marriage with Miss Meigs has been postponed several times on account of his ill health. Miss Meigs is in the neighborhood of 28 years of age. She is of medium height, with a very well rounded figure, almost inclined to be stout. She has a very clear pink-and-white English complexion, dark brown eyes and irregular features. Her expression is, however, very pleasant. Her hair is a golden red. She nearly always dresses in black and is considered one of the finest horsewomen of the capital. She accompanied her father during his last visit to Europe when he was in active service. Gen. Meigs went abroad with a staff a year or two before he was retired and assisted in the grand review of the German armies. He also visited all of the great military establishments of Europe, and made a most elaborate report thereon. He lives in one of the handsomest of the old houses of Washington. Since his retirement he has given a good deal of attention to building plans. His latest work was the erection of the pension building in Washington, though he is not responsible for its hideous architecture."

MISS MEIGS.

—For a long time I have wanted that "Queen of Perfumes" for the handkerchief, "Lotus of the Nile." Please tell me how I can get it. Thus writes A. M. Granade from away off in Batesville, Arkansas. When it is considered that the Lotus has not been advertised in the States it must indeed be a wonderful perfume to have become known so far off. 36

An Original Optimist.

From Texas Siftings.

Gilhooly—Why don't you propose to Miss Longcaffin? She is dead gone on you, and she is rich besides.

Gus De Smith—I would encourage her a little if it wasn't that she is lame in one leg.

"For heaven's sake, man, don't be a pessimist. Don't look at it that way."

"Don't look at what?"

"The situation, of course. Don't say she is lame in one leg, but that she has one leg she is not lame in. Look on the bright side of things. Be an optimist."

—Rev. J. G. Stearns writes: "I consider Perry Davis' Pain-Killer the best remedy I ever knew for dyspepsia." 36

He swung with her till the hour was late
And when, however long, said he:
Her father has painted the garden gate
And my pants are a sight to see.
Hereafter, he said to himself, I'll wait
Till the paint has dried on the garden gate.

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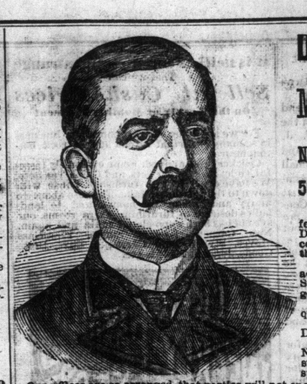

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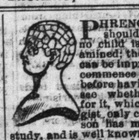

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