

two soldiers and seventy-five Crow Indians, he made a forced march to Clark's Fork Pass. Having concealed his men in a pocket of the mountains, he waited a day, until the hostiles had appeared and gone into camp, and then, stealing up, attacked them at daybreak of September 4th. The whole band was captured, eleven being killed in the fight, while the chief loss to the troops was that of Captain Bennett. The Bannocks had with them two hundred and fifty horses, and these General Miles turned over to the Crows, having agreed to give them all they could capture.

The following year, by an expedition from Fort Peck, General Miles once more drove Sitting Bull over the Canadian border. That invisible line of latitude had the curious property of allowing hostile Indians to cross it forth and back without hindrance by the Dominion, while suddenly turning to a wall of steel against our troops that pursued them. But at length, worn out by constant harrassings whenever they showed themselves this side of the boundary, great numbers of them surrendered during 1880 at Fort Keogh.

Railways could now be built and farms cultivated with safety everywhere in the Northwest. Peace had come, and the problem of settlement and civilization had been solved.

As the Kansas legislature had thanked General Miles for his campaign against the Cheyennes, Comanches, and Kiowas, so the Montana legislature expressed its gratitude for the subjugation of the Sioux; while a brigadier-general's star, awarded near the close of 1880, formed the military recognition of his services. Then he was assigned to command the Department of the Columbia.

XI.

For centuries the Sierra Madre of northern Mexico and the region now included in New Mexico and Arizona were the prey of the savage tribe of Apaches. Crafty, active, and seemingly untamable, they found cover in the rugged mountains and trackless wastes, where fierce heats and the lack of water baffled white pursuers.

In the year 1885 a threatened conflict between Indian Territory tribes and the cattlemen had caused the President to transfer General Miles to the command of the Department of the Missouri, with one-fourth of the available army under his orders. These troops were skilfully disposed, and the dangers of bloodshed averted, but

scarcely had this duty been performed, when he was sent to fight the Chiricahua and Warm Spring Apaches, under Geronimo and Natchez, for this purpose relieving General Crook in the command of the Department of Arizona.

When General Miles arrived on the scene he found many of the border industries paralyzed, and it was reported that one hundred and forty persons had been killed by the hostiles within a year. "A more terror-stricken lot of people I have never found," he said. There was some reason, too, for their discouragement. The raiding Indians, not being numerous, were all the harder to find, as "they roamed over the most rugged mountain region on the continent, six hundred miles north and south, and three hundred east and west." They were of astonishing physical endurance, and "as mountain-climbers they had probably no superiors on earth." They rode stolen horses, and subsisted on stolen cattle and sheep, or, failing these, on "their natural food of field-mice, rabbits, seeds, desert fruit, and the substance of the mescal and the fruit of the giant cactus."

Devising a plan of campaign suited to the region and the enemy, General Miles began his work by dividing the whole area into observation districts, and organized a relay system, under which the troops of each district were to follow the hostiles until a fresh command in the one adjoining should take up the pursuit. "The animal does not live," he held, "that can stand being hunted without cessation." Then, on the lofty peaks he established signal stations, which flashed to each other heliograph tidings from mirrors over enormous distances. Thus every movement of the raiders was made known, and, as Major Baird, in his admirable account of these campaigns, has well said, he turned his two greatest obstacles, the mountains and the sun, into allies.

Scarcely were these plans formed when the hostiles, having begun their raids in Sonora, swept northward across the border. The troops, pursuing, struck them again and again, until they found no course open except to turn and head for their fastnesses in the Sierra Madre. Fortunately a treaty with Mexico allowed our forces to cross into that country; and a picked body under Captain Lawton, which General Miles had organized for the purpose, followed Geronimo three hundred miles south of the boundary, day after day and week after week, now over lofty peaks and now down deep ravines, where, with the mercury at