

turkey ; some of their whip-handles were made of hickory. We kept on till I observed, as I thought, a flock of crows jumping up and down in the edge of the wood on our left. I pointed them out to an Indian, who told me they were not crows, but Sioux. We also saw near the wood at the point a band of horses, among which was a white one. We had observed, on the morning when we saw the enemy from the fort, that they had a large white horse. This tended to confirm my suspicion that they were the enemy ; and my Indians were positive about it. A short consultation was held, and I advised, by all means, a retreat ; what else could six men do ? While we were still consulting one of the Indians said that he had seen horsemen passing through the wood, as if to cut off our retreat. No time was to be lost ; we turned about. Then suddenly appeared in the plains to the W. and N. W. of us a large party of horsemen, coming directly on. This caused a halt, as we were surrounded, and began to suspect that the enemy had planned to cut us off. The Indians put on their war-caps, uttering some few words, which I could not hear distinctly, and then began to whistle with a small bone instrument, which they hang round their neck for that purpose. The several parties in the plains to the N. W. and W. assembled on a rising ground, where two horsemen left the main body and rode toward us. We soon saw they had hats on, and thus knew them to be white men ; we rode up to them, and were agreeably surprised to find them to be the two freemen who we had supposed were murdered. They informed me that, on leaving the fort, they had actually taken the road along the river, but had not gone more than a mile when they changed their minds, and struck away directly for their tents across the plains, W. S. W., in hopes of seeing some buffalo. In this they were disappointed, and having no provisions, they decamped, and were then on their way to the point of Two Rivers, where they intended to live on fish ; and the party we saw at a distance were their families.

Having come within two miles of the fort, Little Shell