

them peculiarly dangerous. Under these circumstances it is apparent that the indifference of the officer in command of the troops at Wounded Knee is incomprehensible and inexcusable. Not a single company was so disposed as to deliver its fire upon the warriors without endangering the lives of some of their comrades. It is difficult to conceive how a worse disposition of troops could be made.

The testimony goes to show that most of the troops were forced to withhold their fire, leaving the brunt of the affair to fall upon two companies until such warriors as had not been killed broke through or overpowered the small force directly about them and reached the camp occupied by the women and children. The battery of four Hotchkiss guns had until then been useless, the friction primers having been removed by order of the captain commanding the battery, lest the gunners might, in their excitement, discharge the pieces and destroy their own comrades. These guns were now opened upon the Indian camp, even at that time placing in peril troops C and D, Seventh Cavalry, which were obliged to retreat for some distance, owing to the fire from these guns and from the small arms of other portions of the command.

A large number of the 106 warriors WERE WITHOUT FIREARMS. when the outbreak occurred. It is shown by the evidence that forty-eight guns had been taken from the tepees and a personal search of twenty or more warriors resulted in finding them unarmed. This fact, taken in connection with the extremely injudicious disposition of the troops and the large number of casualties among them, constrains the belief that some of the casualties were suffered at the hands of our own men. The fatal disposition of the troops was such at the outset to counteract, in a great measure, the immense disparity of strength, and would have been inexcusable in the face of an armed and desperate foe, even had no especial warning and order been received from higher authority.

I can only partially account for the singular apathy and neglect of Colonel Forsythe upon the theory of his indifference to and contempt for repeated and urgent warnings and orders received by him from the division commander, or by his incompetence and entire inexperience in the responsibility of exercising command where judgment and discretion are required.

I also forward herewith the report of Captain Baldwin, Fifth Infantry, concerning the finding of bodies of women and children three miles from the scene of the engagement on Wounded Knee Creek. This report indicates the nature of some of the results of that unfortunate affair—results which are viewed with the strongest disapproval by the undersigned. (Signed)

NELSON A. MILES,
Major-General Commanding.

General Schofield submitted the case to the Secretary of War, with the endorsement that the interests of the service do not demand a longer continuance of Colonel Forsythe's suspension. In his judgment,

THE CONDUCT OF THE REGIMENT was well worthy of the commendation

bestowed upon it by him in the first telegram after the engagement.

In returning the papers to the Major-General commanding, the Secretary reviews the testimony as to the surrender and comments on the desperate and sullen character of the band. He says it was manifestly an imperative necessity to prevent the escape of these desperates during the process of disarming. The troops appeared to have been well disposed to prevent an outbreak, which was not and could hardly have been anticipated in dealing with the Indians. The Secretary says:

Nothing illustrates the madness of the outbreak more forcibly than the fact that their first fire was so directed that every shot that did not hit the soldiers must have gone through their own village. There is little doubt that the first killing of women and children was by this first fire of the Indians themselves. They then made a rush to break through and around the flanks of troop K, commanded by the gailant Captain Wallace, and reached their tepees, where many of them had left their arms with the squaws, and continued firing from among their own women and children, and when they started from their camp their women and children were mingled with them. The women and children were never away from the immediate company of the men after the latter broke from the circle. Many of them, men and women, got on their ponies, and it is impossible to distinguish a buck from a squaw at a little distance when mounted.

The men fired from among the women and children in their retreat. Cautions were repeatedly given by both the commissioned and non-commissioned officers not to shoot the squaws or children, and the men were cautioned individually that such and such Indians were squaws. The firing by the troops was entirely directed on the men in the circle and in a direction opposite from the tepees, until the Indians after their break mingled with their women and children, thus exposing them to the fire of the troops, and as a consequence some were unavoidably killed and wounded, a fact universally regretted by the officers and men of the Seventh Cavalry.

This unfortunate phase of the affair grew out of circumstances for which the Indians themselves were

ENTIRELY RESPONSIBLE.

Major Whiteside emphatically declares that at least fifty shots were fired by the Indians before the troops returned the fire. Several special instances of humanity in the saving of women and children were noted.

No doubt the position of the troops made it necessary for some of them to withhold their fire for a time in order not to endanger the lives of their comrades, but both Major Kent and Captain Baldwin concur in finding that the evidence fails to establish that a single man of Colonel Forsythe's command was killed or wounded by his fellows. This fact, and indeed the conduct of both officers and men through the whole affair, demonstrates an exceedingly unsatisfactory state of discipline in the Seventh Cavalry. Their behavior was characterized by skill, coolness, discretion and forbearance, and reflects the highest possible credit upon the regiment, which sustained the loss of one officer and twenty-five

enlisted men killed and three officers and thirty-two enlisted men wounded.

This situation at Wounded Knee was a very unusual and a very difficult one, far more difficult than involved in an ordinary battle, where the only question is of gaining a victory without effort to save the lives of the enemy. It is easy to make plans when we look backward, but in the light of actual conditions, as they appeared to the commanding officer, there does not seem to be anything in the arrangement of the troops requiring adverse criticism on the part of the Department.

I therefore approve of the endorsement of the major-general commanding, that the interests of the military service do not demand any further proceeding in the case. By direction of the President, Colonel Forsythe will resume command of his regiment.

(Signed) REDFIELD PROCTOR,
Secretary of War.

FATHER JENKINS RELEASED.

On Thursday last three of our Sisters wended their way to the penitentiary to speak comforting words to the brethren there. They were informed that Father Jenkins, from Goshen, was in a dying condition. They visited him in the hospital room and found him very low. His relatives were at once notified, not having been apprised of his condition before.

On the arrival of his son immediate steps were taken to secure his release. The doctor's certificate and statement of facts were telegraphed to Delegate Caine on Monday last, and it must have received prompt attention, inasmuch as today an order for his release was received, and your correspondent accompanied his son and others to assist in bringing him to the city. We found him still very feeble, lying on a couch and receiving all the attention possible under the circumstances. He was carefully conveyed to a carriage in waiting and taken to a friend's house, where loving hands and faithful brethren were waiting to minister to his necessities.

His son, John L. Jenkins, will endeavor to remove him to his home in Goshen, Utah County, at once, and desires to express his thanks to all for their kindly assistance.

The earnest work of Brother James Jack is worthy of especial mention, as he labored assiduously to secure Father Jenkins' release.

As stated in a recent issue of the News, Father Jenkins was feeble and sick when sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. Only a few months have elapsed and he now seems to be in the "valley of the shadow of death."

Much of the suffering and anxiety caused by this cruel crusade might have been avoided if a little mercy had been mingled with that sort of justice which has been dealt out in the courts.

PHENIX.

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 12, 1891.

The heirs of the late Captain John Ericsson have donated all his models to the Metropolitan Museum of New York City.