

great trouble. If we had crossed the river before the emney had come together directly opposite us and before the firing was so bad we might split them. We had not begun to fire at all until this order come to dismount. I and the other Crows had been shooting, but the troops had not.

"In the battle now all of the men lay down to fire, except General Custer. He knelt throughout the fighting. I lay on my belly beside him, loading and firing as fast as I could. We could see the Sioux coming on, coming on, coming on, the war bonnets increasing every minute. At times the clouds of dust and smoke were so thick we could not tell a war bonnet from a bunch of sage brush. The noise was great, the shooting and the yelling.

"I asked General Custer to lay down and fire as his men were doing. He said 'No'. When I spoke to him he recalled that I was a scout, not a soldier and he said to me:

"Get out of this and go back as fast as you can. Go back to Major Reno and tell him to hurry and bring all the ammunition he can."

General Custer was my chief. I had to obey him, but I did not want to go. I was fighting against my enemies. He was fighting them too. I wanted to stay. I have wished that I had stayed and gone down with the others. I would have been buried on the hogback with soldiers and my friends.

But I started back toward Major Reno. I had not gone far when I met Captain Benteen. His men were with him and the mules with the powder and bullets. Then I looked toward the hogback and I saw grey horses running loose. I then knew that the men who led the horses had been called in, for none of the Sioux had gray horses.

"All I could see on the hill was a cloud of smoke, with flashes of fire. The Indians were gathering closer and closer up the sides of the hogback. The dust covered everything, but I could see the war bonnets all around the hillside. They grew thicker and nearer the top of the hill. Then there was nothing but smoke, dust, war bonnets, more war bonnets and the fight was finished.

"I do not know what time this was, but it was some time between 1 and 2 in the afternoon. Then I kept on back. I fought part of the way. I found Major Reno with the horses and mules and they were fighting, too. I joined them and I said to an officer—I don't know his name:

"Let us get off into the valley, where we can have something to fight behind."

"This we tried to do, and finally did, Reno with the horses and mules had been killed and we used their dead to fight behind. There we fought until nearly sundown. Then I said to Major Reno:

"I am thirsty; I must have water.,