

Next to the matter of responsibility for the disaster is the question of whether or not there were any survivors of the Custer battle. The center of the controversy over this point for many years was the Crow Indian scout, Curley, whose claim to the title of "survivor" depends entirely upon an interpretation of what that term means. Curley was with Custer after the general had senarated his command and was with him when he first came into contact with the Indians. Just when he left Custer-at the order of the commander, by the way-is not known definitely, but it has been pretty well established that he was not with him when Custer made his last stand on the barren hillside over which the red wave of destruction swept to blot out five companies of the Seventh. The only genuine "survivor" of that last desperate struggle was not a human being, but a horse, Comanche, the claybank sorrel charger ridden by Capt. Myles Keogh of I Troop of the Seventh. Comanche was found after the battle, wounded in seven places but with tender care his life was saved and he lived to an honored old

are under the direction of the

luster Memorial association, organized

Montana but including in its mem-

ore of persons nationally known who

ment in the work of patriotic societies

erpetuation of historical spots. One of them

E. S. Godfrey, U. S. A., retired, who was

fateful day fifty years ago.

m calls for participation in the cele-

the present personnel of the Seventh

stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, and

eyenne Indians, the sons and grand-

repriated by congress recently for

tion of the troops to and from the

ongress has also passed a bill au-

secretary of the interior to acquire

dians and the detachments com-

the Custer battle, and to

mouth of the Rosebud

on on June 22 and following

There they will be met by

ble monument and historical

but the most interesting part

be the march of the Seventh under

by Custer and his doomed men.

federal government upon which a

erected many years ago, on the

a formal ceremony symbolical of

f the hatchet" between red men

lebration which is attracting na-

ion, will be recalled a tragedy

the entire nation's half century

thich have been heard every year

have intervened since America's

...le into their "Valley of Death."

s battle is so well-known that it

in here. It has been told and re-

there seems to be little that is

Over it has raged many a bit-

and around it has sprung up a

tradition, myth, misinformation

who have worked industrious-

as story of the Custer battle and,

ill are many details over which

d always will be, a chance for dis-

the main certain facts which have

the Custer battle was not the

Sarre," as it is so often called. Cus-

in Indians and fought desperately

all of the 212 men in the five com-

2 Seventh which accompanied him

lust there was no ambush, no slaugh-

ined men, none of the other factors

is over which there has been

has debute is whether or not

the orders of his superior offi-

terry, and by his disobedience

the himself. In many respects

if he no solution without a strict

elation and definition of the

debate. Opinion on this matter

divided. General Godfrey is the

ong those who believe that the

sult from disobedience of orders

is probably as well qualified as

world to make a positive state-

itself into an academic affair

would justify calling this battle a mas-

distorted have been established

" Fortunately, however, it has

n the Custer battlefield, the

d of 100 acres on the site of the fight

Major Reno and Captain Benteen,

warriors who overwhelmed

is co-operating, \$30,000 hav-

Despite indisputable evidence that there was only one real survivor, a horse, and one human being who had a faint claim to being a survivor -Curley, the Crow-during the last half century there have come to light innumerable "survivors" whose claims have been easily exploded by competent authorities but who have succeeded in deceiving many persons not familiar with the Custer battle. In the same manner innumerable "Custer scouts" have gained wide publicity. They bob up at such regular intervals that the headline "Last of Custer Scouts Dies" has become a commonplace. Evidently every packer, wagoner or other civilian employee of the army, who ever had any remote connection with Custer's regiment, some time before he dies gets the idea-or his friends get it for him-that he was a "Custer scout" and either living or dying he enjoys a brief moment of fame. If all of the men who have claimed to be "survivors" or "Custer scouts" had been with Custer on the Little Big Horn on June 25, 1876, it is difficult to see how ten times the number of Indians who were there would have been able to have wiped out Custer's command!

One of the favorite pieces of action about the Little Big Horn battle is that the Indians were led by Sitting Bull and that Rain-in-the-Face personally killed Custer. While it has never been definitely established just how prominent a part Sitting Bull had in the battle (some authorities say that be was not even in the fight) it has been fully proved that the leaders who were principally responsible for maneuvers of the Indians on that day were Chief Gall of the Hunkpapa Sioux, Chief Crazy Horse of the Oglala Sloux and Chief Two Moons of the Cheyennes. As to Rain-in-the-Face's claim to distinction-it is true that there was a feud between him and Capt. Tom Custer, brother of the general, and that he had threatened to cut out Tom Custer's heart. It is also true that Tom Custer's body was found after the battle thus mutilated and, although Rain-In-the-Face is accused of having done this, in the closing years of his life he denied it. His denial was made to a man of his own race, Dr. Charles A. Eastman, and under all the circumstances it is reasonable to believe that he told Doctor Eastman the truth.

Within the last year there has been much dispute over the arms which Custer and his men carried into the battle. Many artists who have drawn pictures of the Custer battle have shown the soldiers using swords, when as a matter of fact there was not a saber in the entire command. The men of the Seventh were armed only with ancient single shot Springfield carbines and Colt revolvers and it was partly because of these ineffective single shot carbines that Custer's command perished.

Another favorite piece of misinformation lays

part of the responsibility for the disaster upon the "cowardice" of Major Reno in not going to the support of Custer. E. A. Brininstool, a historian who has made a special study of this campaign and who has brought to light many important facts about it, has definitely disproved this imputation of cowardice on the part of Major Reno and has done much to show that the man who for so long was "the goat" in this unfortunate affair in reality was something of a hero.

It has remained for Prof. O. G. Libby of the department of history at the University of North Dakota to remove the stigma from the names of other brave men connected with the Custer battle. In addition to the Crow scouts who accompanied the Custer expedition there were also a number of Arikara or Ree Indian scouts. The manner of referring to their part in the battle by most historians is to say "the cowardiy Rees fle l at the first fire." Professor Libby's investigation among the surviving members of this group of scouts, published by the North Dakota Historical society under the title of "The Arikara Narrative," shows conclusively that the term "cowardly Rees" is utterly unfair and untruthful. When the Arikara scouts "fled," they did so expressly upon the orders of General Custer who told them that they were to guide him to the Indian village but were

to take no part in the fighting. But for all the disputes, controversies, charges and counter-charges connected with this battle to make it unique among Indian fights and for all that the general features of its story are well known to most Americans, there is much that is | scalp clean and hands soft and white. | half sick by taking cathartic pills, tabinteresting and thrilling and inspiring which has never yet become widely known. There is the story of the narrow escape from death of Lieut. Charles C. De Rudio, Sergt, Thomas O'Neill Scout Billy Jackson and Interpreter Fred Girard. who became separated from Reno's detachment during the first days' fighting and, after numerous narrow escapes from death, managed to rejoin their command while it was beleaguered on the hills to which Reno was forced to retreat.

There is the story of the brave men in Reno's command who in the face of persistent Indian fire risked their lives to creep down to the river to get water for wounded and dying comrades. They received congressional medals of honor for their deeds, it is true, but they are almost unknown except to a few historians of the Custer battle and it is to be hoped that emblazoned high on the new memorial will be their names. They were the following: Neil Bancroft, Abram J. Brant, Thomas J. Callan, Frederick Deetline, Theodore W. Goldin, David W. Harris, William M. Harris, Rufus D. Hutchinson, James Pym, Stanislaus Roy, George Scott, Thomas W. Stevens, Frank Tolan, Peter Thompson, Charles H. Welch, George H. Geiger. Henry W. B. Mechling, Charles Windolph and Otto Voit. Along with their names should be those of Sergt. Richard P. Hanley, Sergt. Benjamin C. Criswell, Sergt. Thomas Murray, Corp. Charles Cunningham and Private Henry Holden, all of whom were awarded similar medals for various acts of gallantry during the two days of the battle

A reunion of the survivors of the battle was held on the field in 1886, the tenth anniversary of the fight, and at that time Chief Gall of the Sloux and Chief Two Moons of the Cheyennes went over the field with officers of the Seventh and de-

scribed the battle in detail as they remembered it. Gall is long since dead, as are all the other Indian leaders on that fateful day. But their spirits may be there this June, not so much to rejoice again over one of the greatest victories the Indians ever won over the whites, as to rejoice when the "hatchet-burying" ceremony signalizes a final and lasting peace between red men and

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on Noah and the Ark In 1872 George Smith of the British nuseum found an interesting tablet in Nineveh. The inscriptions were deciphered by Assyriologists soon afterward, but Paul Haupt, professor of Assyriology at Johns Hopkins university, has recently rendered a more complete translation. He first restored the tablet to make it legible. Professor Haupt told the American Oriental society at Philadelphia that the inscriptions relate the story of Noah and the ark. According to this account, Noah cut trees down in the jungle and made an ark consisting of six decks which were divided into seven compartments. Two-thirds of the ark was under water when it was afloat. Part of the translation reads: "For our food I slaughtered oxen and killed sheep-day by day. With beer and brandy, oil and wine, I filled large jars, as with water of a river."-Pathfinder Magazine.

Long and Lean

Searcher-At what are you mouthng so?

Barbee-I merely sald, "It's a long lane that has no curves."-Denison Flamingo.

Up to Date "Why do you want a quarter, little

"I'se lost an' I wanna adv'tise."

Silence is sometimes golden and ometimes it indicates guilt.



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"Purges" and "Physics" Bad for Old Folks

AT THE AGE OF 83

While Dr. W. B. Caldwell, of Mon-|bowel muscles, shortly establishing 47 years, knew that constipation was sickens, or upsets the system. Bethe curse of advancing age, he did not sides, it is absolutely harmless and believe that a "purge" or "physic" every little while was necessary.

To him, it seemed cruel that so be kept constantly "stirred up" and

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poisonous, not inflammable or explo-

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us 25c for large household size. Give dealer's name and ask for our free book-



## Restore Leather to Good Condition | ly new product, but it can be obtained thetic party. "What is the matter, at leading paint stores, together with sir?"

skly with a damp (not | years. ich has been previously

becomes soiled and | the dry cloth. An occasional treatdeed cleaning, use nothing ment such as this will keep the furhand water, going over niture in fine condition for many

If through misuse the finish has becake of soap. Next come sticky, it can be helped in the fioth without soap, and following manner: Clean as above dry with a clean directed, and when dry apply a coat gloss as may disap- of wood lacquer which has been he cleaning will be re- thinned materially with a lacquer the friction produced by thinner. Wood lacquer is a relative-

its thinner. Insist upon wood lacquer, as the ordinary lacquer (banana oil) is not satisfactory.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and so it is far better to keep the leather from becoming sticky than to attempt to treat it

see that there is anything at all that I can do about it."-Kansas City Star His Obfuscation "Ah, Mr. Gloom, you look sadly discouraged and worn out," said a sympa-

"I am obfuscated, in fact," wearlly replied J. Fuller Gloom. "My niece, who went to the academy a few months ago, modestly wearing the plain but serviceable name of Amanda, has emerged from the temple of learning decorated with the wildly ornate handle of 'A'Mandee,' and I do not

Hatred is self-punishment.