



The Bozeman Trail: Historical Accounts of the Blazing of the Overland Routes Into the Northwest, and the Fights with Red Cloud's Warriors, Volume 1

Grace Raymond Hebard, Earl Alonzo Brininstool

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The Bozeman Trail: Historical Accounts of the Blazing of the Overland Routes Into the Northwest, and the Fights with Red Cloud's Warriors, Volume 1 Grace Raymond Hebard, Earl Alonzo Brininstool "The Bozeman Trail", the latest of Dr. Hebard's works dealing with the history of Wyoming, is a distinct contribution to the historical literature of this country, based as it is upon original sources before untouched, and telling the story of a heretofore neglected but important and picturesque step in the development of the Far Northwest. The subject of the Indian wars in the West is one usually passed over with little comment by writers of history.

The stories of the Santa Fe Trail through the Southwest and of the Oregon Trail are familiar to all readers of our history, but about the other routes, opening the section to the north of the Oregon Trail little has been known. If the Santa Fe Trail was a road of commerce, the Oregon Trail the path of the homesteader, the Overland Trail the route of the mail and express, the Bozeman Trail was the battle ground of the fighting Sioux. It led through the very heart of the territory granted to the Indians by treaties which, unhappily, were kept by neither white man nor red. Here the Indians under Red Cloud, the famous Sioux chief, made a last stand against the white invasion of their hunting-grounds. The hardships and dangers of the pioneers and gold-seekers in this land, and of the soldiers sent to protect them, are among the most interesting and thrilling in the opening of the Far Northwest, told as many of them are in this book in the words of the participants themselves. The ride of John Phillips over two hundred miles in snow and blizzard and through the lines of hostile Indians to bring relief to Fort Phil Kearney can scarcely be equalled in our history for danger and daring. The Wagon-box and Haystack fights are among the most extraordinary encounters between Indians and white men. The picture given by Red Cloud, the Red Napoleon of the plains, by Captain Cook, for more than thirty years his intimate friend, shows the Indian chief as a steadfast friend, a great student of Nature, as well as a noted Indian statesman and fighter.

The introduction is by General Charles King, himself a veteran of the Indian wars and a participant in the struggle along the Bozeman Trail.

The illustrations are by no means the least interesting and valuable part of the work. Most of them have never before been reproduced and are from original drawings made by soldiers while on duty on the Trail. Others were drawn by Dr. Hebard from information furnished by men who took part in the events depicted. These are supplemented by photographs, some of them taken by the authors on their trips over the old trail.

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