

was no time to retire or consult. Everybody had been quite willing to acquiesce in my actions and orders up to this time. To apprehensions expressed I answered that we were employed by the government to protect the citizens, and let the result of our attempt be what it might, the Indians would at least be interfered with and delayed from going further down the country toward the settlements.

They were camped in a small horseshoe bend. We took position at a point under the bank of the creek. It was not light enough for all to see the sights of their guns. Our distance from them we thought at the time to be fifty yards, but it proved to be not more than twenty-five. While waiting there for it to grow lighter, altogether undiscovered by the Indians, a large spotted dog came from them to us, without creating any disturbance whatever, and went quietly back again.

When we fired some of them fell about the fires, but most of them stooped to grab their guns, and then took posts behind trees, raised a yell, returned the fire, and flanked out from both sides to get into the creek where they could see our strength. Half of us had jumped upon the bank. Had we all had pistols, or the six-shooters of the present day, we could have charged them and kept them running. But as it was, we had to keep our positions to reload our guns. They opened a heavy fire with their rifles. Their powder out-cracked ours; if a shotgun was heard, it was but once or twice out of five or six hundred shots. No bows and arrows were seen.

After a few minutes Clark and Frank Childers on my right flank were mortally wounded from the fire up the creek. Telling the wounded ones to go back as far as they could, I ordered my men to fall back in two squads, to the other side of the creek, to gain the top of the bank, and to post themselves behind trees, which they did, while I stood in my old position under the bank, loading my gun, and watching the Indians approach. As the men got posted, the Indians commenced charging with a terrific yell. I retreated to the other side of the channel of the creek, but found myself under a steep bank five or six feet high. The Indians came on, and jumped down the bank on their side where I had been. One had his gun within a few feet of me, fired, but missed me. I couldn't miss him, and he fell right before me. This shot and the fire of my men from their new position caused them to dart back again a few feet behind trees. I made an effort to get up the bank with my back to it and my face to the enemy; holding by a root with one hand, I swung partially up, but fell back. My men called to know if I was