



As soon as Lieutenant Whitman learned of the massacre he equipped a detail of his troops with shovels and picks and went with them to the scene of the slaughter and, in an orderly manner, began to bury the dead. When this action on the part of the local military force was observed by the terrified and grief-stricken survivors, who were watching from adjacent cliffs, they felt assured that Lieutenant Whitman had no part in the brutal murders which had been so ruthlessly enacted that morning. Thereupon a number of the Indians returned to their former camp. These gathered about Lieutenant Whitman and expressed their confidence in him—and their great sorrow at the loss of their families and friends. Lieutenant Whitman sought to console the Indians, not only by words of sympathy, but by every act of kindness within his power. He also endeavored to further re-establish their confidence and to allay their fears by assuring them that every possible precaution would be taken against any future attack.