

The Monument at Fort Riley.

The dedication of the monument at Fort Riley to the officers and soldiers of the regular army of the United States who fell in the fights with the treacherous savages on the 29th and 30th of December, 1890 will be one of the few occasions in our history when the deeds of our regular army have been formally commemorated. The monument, it is said, will be the third that has been raised to that army in more than a hundred years.

It is doubtful if in the annals of war and peace a force of officers and soldiers no larger than that which has always constituted our regular army, ever, in a century, performed so much and such varied services and received so little of outward and visible reward, so few pages in written history; so little of preservation in painting and sculpture; in "storied urn and animated bust," in triumphant arch and carven sepulcher and speaking monument.

Journeys and explorations, compared to which the well equipped expeditions of STANLEY were as holiday excursions, are now to be studied only in written reports filed in dusty corners of the War Department, and the battles, of which the conflict at Wounded Knee was but one, have been counted by scores and hundreds, and yet are considered now as unknown and forgotten.

The monument at Fort Riley will stand for those who died fighting, but such are not the only soldiers who have deserved monuments; the regular army has left its dead all over the immense empire of the West and in each grave a hero. Not far from the monument to be dedicated on Tuesday is the humble stone bearing the name of Major OGDEN, who died in the line of duty as truly as any who ever fell in line of battle, facing a viewless and irresistible foe, the cholera, and there have been hundreds like him.

The conquerors and explorers of the great portion of a great continent have left their names upon its map and in the names of military posts. This last is but a fleeting memorial, since posts are abolished and changed and forgotten. How many outside of the army remember brave BRUNETT RILEY, after whom Fort Riley was named? And this reminds one that the army is the keeper and custodian of its own memories and glories, and so, letting a thousand brave stories go untold outside of its own circle, it modestly marks for the world to remember the fight and the dead of Wounded Knee.