

the Battle River Crossing was raided by the Bear's Hill Crees under Coyote, there happened to be a Stoney Indian from another reserve trading in the store, and when the plundering band rode up at full gallop he went out in front of the store and made a violent speech, telling the Crees that they were a parcel of cowards, and that if he had even two of his own band with him, he would defy them all. When at length Coyote and his men rushed into the store and began to appropriate the goods, this Stoney, seeing he was powerless to resist, pushed forward with the rest and became one of the most industrious of the looters, and when the raid was over he had accumulated a good sized stack of plunder which he defied anyone to touch, but as soon as the other Indians were gone he carried it back into the store and gave it over to the store-keeper.

It is unnecessary to call attention to the fact that the distinction drawn between Catholic and Protestant Indians as to loyalty is quite unfounded. It is not true that no Protestant Indians took part in the rebellion. Undoubtedly the majority of the Indians who took part in the rebellion were Catholics, but the explanation is the same as that given in answer to the old conundrum—Why do white sheep eat more than black ones?—there are more of them. Poundmaker is a Catholic; Big Bear may be called an Indian free-thinker. It will perhaps be remembered that there had for years been trouble between him and the Government on account of his refusal to settle on a reserve. His roving, unsettled mode of life made mission work with his band almost impossible, and, besides the band was a cave of Adullam for malcontents and outlaws from all parts of the country, and he and especially some of his councilors prided themselves on their rejection of the white man's religion. But several of the bands in the neighborhood of Battleford were Protestant. Jefferson, the white man who wrote letters for Poundmaker and helped him in other ways, was the teacher of a Protestant mission school. Part of the Fort Pitt and Frog Lake bands was Protestant. So was part of that at the Bear's Hill and all of those at Saddle Lake. It will be understood, of course, that the terms Protestant and Catholic are used only in the nominal sense in which nearly all the Indians in the North-West are Christians. They are Protestant in virtue of being under the care of Protestant missionaries and teachers, and *vice versa*.