

and even invited to sit down to table with the latter. When the Indian expressed surprise, Riel said, 'Yes, my brother, this is a nice house, these are nice things, and I have plenty to eat, but, if you do as I tell you, you will have a grander house, better things, and plenty to eat. I am poor, but you will be rich. They call you chief now, but it is for nothing. By-and-bye you will be a chief in reality, and what I say to you I say to all my brother chiefs, and I want you to tell them my words when you go back.' Then he got Big Bear to sign a paper, promising to obey all future orders Riel should give, and to help him in his contemplated fight with the white man. Our chief said he also signed the same paper, which Riel sent round by Big Bear to all the chiefs. Big Bear said, whilst we were in his camp, that he was acting under Riel's orders when he killed the white men. He doubtless forgot to exclude the priests. After such promises of so grand a future it will be easily seen the influence it must necessarily have had upon the poor untutored savages. Many such reports we had through the latter part of the winter, and in spite of lengthy arguments, endeavoring to show the utter absurdity of the half-breeds and Indians thinking to fight the white man, all seemed to no purpose. Towards the latter end of March messengers continually arrived from the east, but generally managed to arrive and depart in the night. On the 2nd April an Indian called and said he had just come from Frog Lake, and that the Indians were all preparing to get up a rebellion. He also said our chief was going to kill a Government ox that day. I at once saddled my horse and rode to the chief's house and saw the cattle being driven up. The gun was ready loaded, and quite a number of Indians at the chief's house. I was given a seat, and the chief began to tell me he was going to kill an ox, and that he would give me a piece of beef. After a long argument and earnest persuasion he put away his gun and said, 'I will take your advice.'"

"I then rode to the camp of another chief, to which the Indians were assembling from all parts of the reservation, and Fort Pitt. He offered me the seat of honour. His old wife was busily engaged cutting up tobacco. She had about a dozen plugs and cut a little from each one, and this all being rubbed together the war pipe was filled and, after the chief took a few draws and performed a few antics, he handed it to me. I passed it on, of course, without smoking from it. This chief began by saying I had not long to stay here, but too long, as trouble had already begun, and he advised me at once to try and get out of the country. In spite of all his counsellors being there, and determined upon joining Riel's ranks, I used my best endeavours to show them their folly in thinking that they could fight and overcome the white man. I was here told that the Anglican and R. C. priests, together with H. B. Co. officials would be safe, while Government officials would be killed. I little thought that at that very moment so many had fallen by the murderous hands of their fellows at Frog Lake. only 20 miles away."