

of contradiction, by one who had the advantage of being present at the fights of Fish Creek and Batoche, of viewing the scenes of the battles of Duck Lake, Frenchman's Butte and Loon Lake, in company with some of the principal actors therein, and of visiting Cut Knife Hill two months after the battle with Poundmaker, in company with two of Lieutenant-Colonel Otter's principal officers, the late Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. Herchmer and the late Major Short.

The story of the fight forms one of the most stirring stories of Canadian history, and the honorable part played in the day's operations by the detachment of the Queen's Own, will be for all time a subject of pride to the members and friends of the regiment.

On a bright May day—and the choicest May days are very bright indeed in the far Northwest—Colonel Otter's particularly business-like little flying column left Battleford, gained the heights above the southern banks of the turbid stream, and took up the trail leading westward towards the reservation of Poundmaker, the great Cree chief.

Poundmaker was, in many respects, the most distinguished Canadian Indian of his generation. He was one of the greatest chiefs the mighty Cree nation ever produced. As a matter of fact the best blood of three great Indian tribes united in his veins, and he appeared to possess in happy combination the best characteristics of them all. He possessed the audacious courage, the noble bearing, the handsome face, athletic figure, and general manliness of the Blackfoot; the industry, shrewdness and skill in the chase of the Assiniboine or Stoney; the caution, cunning and dogged determination of the Cree. And above all he possessed to a remarkable extent that talent of rugged figurative oratory, which is so highly prized among all the tribes of North American Indians. Having been largely instrumental in securing peace between the three great Indian tribes he represented in his person, he held a commanding position among the Northwest Indians at the time of the rebellion.

Just how far Poundmaker had been responsible for the atrocities committed by Indians in the vicinity of Battleford was not known, though there was pretty conclusive proof that some of his young men had taken the war path, and it was known that emissaries from the insurgent half-breeds had been received in his tepees. At the best the great chief was understood to be wavering, and Lieut.-Col. Otter thought that a demonstration in force in the direction of his reserve would have a beneficial effect. So the flying column started out from Battleford that May afternoon of 1885.

In his official report Colonel Otter gave the following lucid explanation of this movement:—"Having learned on the 20th ult. from my scouts, that a force of Cree and Stoney Indians, numbering about 200 men, were encamped near the reserve of the former tribe, some thirty-eight miles from here, and subsequently that Poundmaker, the Cree Chief, was hesitating between peace and war, the