

and yet mean to attack. (B.) That as the first line approaches the enemy's position the leading characteristics will be increasing confusion, constant loss of leaders and changes of command and a forced mingling of units as the closing to flanks or centre can no longer be carried out, the whole summed up in the word "pell-mell," and that practice in overcoming this confusion and disorder, in fighting in "regulated disorder" is fire-discipline. (C.) That the troops in rear of the first line must be kept in close order as much and as long as possible; the formations adopted must be regulated chiefly, not so much by the impossible hope of avoiding loss under the rain of unaimed fire as by the best means to preserve the offensive spirit and the forward impulse of those who remain. (D.) That the maxim of Sunwarof still holds good, "the weapon itself is nothing, the man behind it is everything," and that therefore moral considerations always have been and always will be supreme.

Lieut. 1st Gordon Highlanders.

STEWART MURRAY

### Sir Fred. Middleton's Suppression of Rebellion in the North-West Territories of Canada, 1885.

By General Sir Fred. Middleton.

Continued.

Poundmaker opened the ball by making a long oration, embellished with allegories and the usual Indian flowers of speech. The gist of it was that he knew little of what was going on, that he had done his best to keep his young braves quiet, and that now he had come to make his peace, which he seemed to think was very praiseworthy of him. Several braves followed him, but it was difficult to understand what they were driving at. At last a squaw came forward and wanted to make a speech, but I objected, saying that, like the Indians themselves, we did not admit women to our councils in war time, and that I could not listen to her. When this was translated to her, the dirty but crafty old woman shrewdly remarked that we ourselves were ruled by a woman. In answer, I allowed that such was the case, but pointed out that our gracious Queen only spoke on war matters through her councillors, among whom were no women. The old lady did not seem to see it, and she was dragged away, grumbling loudly, by some of her friends. Poundmaker kept a dignified silence during this little interlude. After the braves had all finished I made a short speech, in which I pointed out the ingratitude of the Indians, who had been well treated by the white men, in joining the halfbreeds in rebellion, and that now, when they heard of the defeat and capture of Riel, they came in with lies in their mouths begging for peace. I then went on to say that, in obedience to orders from the Government, I should arrest Poundmaker and four of his braves, bearing the curious names, when translated, of Lean-man, Yellow-mud-blanket, Breaking-through-the-ice, and White-bear, and that the rest could return to their reserve, first giving up the men who had committed two deliberate murders of white men a short time before. Upon this, a brave, wearing an European woman's straw hat with ribbons, stepped out of the semicircle, and, sitting at my feet, which he grasped with his two hands, confessed to one of the murders. Strangely enough, this man's name, when translated, was "the man without blood." Another Indian now stepped out, and, stripping himself to the

waist, advanced and confessed to having committed the other murder. I then declared the pow-wow at an end, and the prisoners were taken off by the mounted police, and eventually sent to Regina. The next day, the 27th, the rest of my force arrived by steamer under command of Lt. Col. Van Straubenzie. A small party of mounted police, under Major Perry, arrived early in the morning from the Alberta Field Force, which he had left at Fort Pitt, where they had arrived on the 25th after great difficulties and arduous work under the command of Maj. Gen. Strange. This party had been sent down the south bank to see if any information could be obtained of Big Bear's people, whom General Strange believed had started off to join Poundmaker. On finding that General Strange was at Fort Pitt, I at once sent off a steamer with supplies for his force, in charge of Captain Belson, putting a company of the 90th, under Captain Forrest, on board, also Major Perry and his party. When nearly half way to Fort Pitt, the steamer was boarded from a canoe by a messenger from General Strange, with the account of an engagement with Big Bear's people, and Captain Belson, very wisely, having landed the mounted police, returned at once to Battleford for further orders. It appeared that General Strange, having received certain information, had marched from Fort Pitt late in the day on the 27th with all his available force, and came up with the enemy in a strong position on a wooded ridge, from which he drove them, and bivouacked there for the night. The next morning, the 28th, he followed up their trail and came upon them strongly posted, near a hill called "Frenchman's Butte," well covered by a swampy creek. After engaging the enemy for some time, and having three men wounded, it was reported by scouts that the creek was impracticable for his men to cross, so considering his force not strong enough to run any risks, General Strange determined to return to some open ground six miles to the rear, from whence, after a halt of two hours, he fell back to Fort Pitt about five miles distant. It was a pity General Strange had not waited for my arrival, when a more decisive blow might have been struck. He reported favorably of his troops, specially mentioning the names of some of his officers, Brigade Major Dale, late Madras Fusiliers, Major Steel, Mounted Police, Lieutenant Strange, now Royal Artillery, and others. I immediately issued orders for the whole of my column to be ready to leave next day, the 30th, for Fort Pitt, by steamer, except the mounted part, which was to march by the trail on the south bank. Lt. Col. Otter and his column remaining at Battleford. Accordingly the next morning, May 31st, we left in three steamers. The day after, when within six or seven miles of Fort Pitt, Major Dale, Strange's brigade major, came on board with the information that the Alberta Column had left Fort Pitt, and was then camped some twelve miles on its way back to Frenchman's Butte. Major Dale also brought the very welcome intelligence that on his way to me he had come across the Rev. Mr. Quinney, his wife, and some halfbreeds, who had escaped from Big Bear's camp in the confusion caused by the attack at Frenchman's Butte. Maj. Dale left with the escaped prisoners, and a message from me to General Strange that I would be with him next day. On the 2nd I landed, and with a small escort rode off to General Strange's camp, leaving orders for the troops to be disembarked and camped where they were. After a disagreeable ride we found Strange's camp pitched near Big Bear's late position, he having ascertained that morning that the Indians had abandoned it. Indeed, we afterwards heard that they had done so the day after the fight. I found Strange had sent Major Steele to follow the trail of Big Bear, who had apparently gone northwards. He had also sent Mr.

McKay, Hudson Bay Company, with some scouts, by another trail, who afterwards came across a party of Indians with Mrs. Gowanlock, Mrs. Delany and other prisoners, who had separated from Big Bear's party, and whom they took in to Fort Pitt.

We went over Big Bear's late camp, and found that the Indians had made numerous rifle-pits, but they were not all well placed, a good many of them being too far back on the plateau. The gully below was full of carts, broken and sound, harness, old bedding, blankets, bacon, flour, cooking-pots, etc., most of it being loot. This abandonment of, to them, valuable property, showed that the Indians were getting demoralised. General Strange informed me that the trail taken by Major Steele was impassable for teams owing to the very bad muskegs, and he wished to take his force by Union Lake towards Frog Lake. This I agreed to; but I did not believe that the trail was so difficult as was made out. "Norwesters" were still rife, and I determined to follow Steele's trail myself. I returned to my camp by the river and next morning, June 3rd, having directed Van Straubenzie to move our camp to Fort Pitt, I started back to Strange's camp with all the mounted men, viz., Boulton's, Herckmer's, Mounted Police, the Surveyor's Scouts, and Brittbank's, (late French's) about 225 in all, with Major Short, Captain Peters, Lt. Rivers, twenty-five artillerymen, one gatling, and 150 infantry, selected from each regiment, under command of Major Hughes of the Midlanders, all carried in carts. We had a very hard march, and it rained all day. Found Strange waiting to see me, his force having left for Union Lake.

At 2 a. m. next morning I was awoke with the news that Major Steele had caught up the rear of Big Bear's party crossing a ford, and had killed five of them, three of his own men being wounded. Strange started to catch up his force, and we started at day-break on Big Bear's trail after Major Steele. The first part of the road was terrible, owing to numerous muskegs, but everyone worked hard, and we managed to get the gatling and the teams through, the latter being lightly loaded. On our march, at one of the enemy's halting places, we found a rough mound, which a half-breed scout, we had as interpreter, declared to be a grave. As there were fears that the Indians might kill some of their prisoners, I had given orders that the ground in the vicinity of our march should be well searched for graves, and that they should be all opened, and reclosed carefully if only Indians were found therein. This one was opened in my presence, and was found to contain an Indian chief, who had evidently been badly wounded by a piece of one of Strange's shells. We found more carts here, some with food in them, and a great many furs hidden about, some of which were presented to me by their finders. A silver mug was picked up here with an inscription on it, "Presented by General Rossier to Katie Maclean," which I took charge of and afterwards returned to the young lady herself.

We halted at a point some ten miles from Fort Pitt where the trail from there joined the one we had come by. I heard such awful accounts of the trail ahead that I set men to work to make travoies. A travoie is made by fastening two long poles at one end, the other two ends dragging on the ground, and being kept apart by two transverse sticks on which the load is put. This affair is dragged by a pony, dog, or squaw as the case may be after the Indian fashion, and sent into Fort Pitt for some rough pack saddles that the indefatigable Belson had prepared for an emergency. I also sent back my infantry, much to their regret, but I felt they would keep us back, and ordered the second gatling to join us under Lt. Rutherford, B. Battery. I sent for the other gatling more to console the mounted force for the loss of the infantry than