

police. The Indians were badly scared, for they thought the demonstration was intended for them. However, after a long halt they came on. There was a pow-wow, the Indians sitting on the ground in a semi-circle, and talking very well, even eloquently. The gist of what they said was that they could not restrain their too-impetuous young men, but that they themselves had taken no part in the looting, murdering, and burning. The General said: "Then you are not fit to be chiefs," and they were all made prisoners. About 200 guns and rifles were taken from them.

Colonel Otter's fight with Poundmaker's band at Cut Knife was after the houses and stores on the Battle river had been burnt—presumably by Poundmaker's band—though this was denied. Colonel Otter put 350 men in wagons, with a Gatling and a 9-pounder, and started to go 35 miles to Poundmaker's reserve, to punish him. He was caught in a prepared ambush as he was climbing the steep, bushy slope, after fording the Cut Knife Creek. The Indians had rifle pits at the edges of the bushes, and were mostly unseen. The fight lasted eight hours, and ended by Colonel Otter putting his men into the wagons again, and returning to Battleford. The net result was that Poundmaker, finding that he was not pressed, closed in on Battleford, killed some patrols, and captured 30 loaded wagons with their teamsters. Our victory at Batoche frightened him, however, and he came in when sent for.

Big Bear's band was now the only one out on the warpath; he had looted Fort Pitt and Frog Lake, and had murdered nine or ten settlers. He had with him some 30 prisoners, many of whom were women. Two of these were said to be settlers' wives, whose husbands had been shot before their eyes. These women were put up to auction, and sold to the highest bidder. One we afterwards recovered, but the other remained voluntarily with her purchaser. Big Bear had a band variously estimated at from 300 to 800 men, and at this time was said to be near the ruins of Fort Pitt. General Strange had been sent up in command of a force of some 800 men from Edmonton on purpose to intercept Big Bear. He was in great fear of his communications being cut, and had disposed of 500 of his force along the line to guard it, so that when he came up with Big Bear on the 27th May he had only 300 men with him. On that day he only drove in some scouts, killing two of them; but the next day he advanced too near a hill called Frenchman's Butte, and found Big Bear occupying a really strong position, lining the top of a ravine, with rifle pits on the edge of the woods. The ravine being very marshy, and passable only in a few places, made an excellent ditch for his front. General Strange had really too small a force to storm such a position, especially as it was uncertain whether he was largely outnumbered or not. He tried to turn the Indians' position, but the valley was marshy all along, and no good crossing could be found. After an indecisive action, and the loss on our side of four of a French-Canadian regiment wounded, General Strange retired about