

certained that Riel and Jean had made their escape while Brownings's horse was yet half a mile away from the post; but they made their exit in secrecy.

"If we give the alarm," Riel muttered, as he prepared to get into the saddle, "there will be an instant stampede, and the execution will be stayed."

"I agree with the decision of mon chef. Let Luc remain; he has courage enough to have the thing done with the soldiers at the very stockades." And the two rode away helter-skelter, till a dozen miles lay between them and their treason nest.

"The rebel chief is gone; he skurried away half an hour ago," was the tidings that one of the men brought to Brownings. That officer was not surprised; and ordered that the prisoners, which numbered about a dozen in all, be put in carts, and escorted by a guard of cavalry back to Camp Denison.

They were all tired, and it was resolved that the horses be permitted to rest for a couple of hours before returning.

"I can find the way back to your colonel's camp, monsieur Brownings, as easily by night as in the daylight." Riel and his greasy followers lived like so many swine in a sty; but several brace of quail and chicken, and quarters of elk were found, which the two Cree boys at once began to prepare. A few loaves of bread were found, and a tolerable side of bacon, from all of which, with the pure, cold water that gurgled out of the side of a high ridge, a sumptuous meal was promised.

Stephens objected to the Cree boys doing the drudgery, but Annette besought him so sweetly with her eyes to let "the little scouts" do it, that he desisted. His glance, as he followed every movement of the maiden, had as much of mute adoration, reverent and tender, as ever has been seen in the eyes of a man. How little he had known the worth of this girl, when he toyed with her hair and put a straw into her dimples at her father's house! I suppose he regarded her as thoughtful men