

four in all, en route for Regina, where they afterwards arrived safely. The other steamers went on to Prince Albert. I sent two teams loaded with flour, bacon, tea, &c., to the Roman Catholic priests at Batoche, to enable them to relieve any distress among the women and children that might arise. The column marched at 10 a.m.; the day, though fine at first, turning to heavy showers in the afternoon. We did the thirty-five miles to Prince Albert in two days, arriving there early on the 19th after an eighteen miles march, and we were met by the Bishop of Saskatchewan and Lieutenant Colonel Irvine and a good many of the inhabitants, who presented me with an address. The Mounted Police looked smart and well, and were a fine body of men. The town, which is a straggling one, runs along the right bank of the North Branch of the Saskatchewan. It had been hastily and imperfectly put in a state of defence at different points, but as the ground about it was clear it must have been all along tolerably safe from attack, as halfbreeds and Indians are not fond of attacking even slightly protected positions in open ground, and it was evidently not considered liable to attack from the river, no attempt having been made to protect that side of the houses. In point of fact there was no attempt at attack made by the enemy, on Prince Albert, or its immediate neighbourhood, as the Bishop of Saskatchewan lived near a large school or college, which was situated a little distance from the town, and was not molested.

We remained halted at Prince Albert for three days, during which time I was busily engaged in receiving from, and despatching telegrams to, my different detachments, and in making arrangements for going on to Battleford. On the 22nd of May I embarked my force in steamers, except the mounted men and transport who I directed to march by the north trail, crossing the river at Fort Carlton. I took on with me from Prince Albert Mr. Hayter Reid, Assistant Indian Commissioner, who was kindly lent to me by Lieutenant Governor Dewdney, and whose knowledge of the country and Indians was of great assistance to me. To my great regret I was obliged to leave Captain Wise at Prince Albert, his wound not being healed.

The next day, the 23rd, as we were steaming on to Battleford, a canoe was seen to shoot out from the bank ahead of us. We slowed down, the canoe ran alongside, and an Indian, accompanied by a white man, boarded us. The Indian proved to be a messenger from Poundmaker; the white man—a Mr. Jefferson, an Indian instructor, who had been captured by the Indians—accompanying him as a sort of interpreter. The Indian handed me a letter written in English which read as follows:

"Eagle Hills, May 19th, 1885.

"Sir,—I am camped with my people at the east end of the Eagle Hills, where I am met by the news of the surrender of Riel. No letter came with the news, so that I cannot tell how far it may be true. I send some of my men to you to learn the truth and the terms of peace,

and hope you will deal kindly with them. I and my people wish you to send us the terms of peace in writing, so that we may be under no misunderstanding, from which so much trouble arises. We have twenty-one prisoners, whom we have tried to treat well in every respect. (Mr. Jefferson informed me that the teamsters had been released before he started.) With greetings.

His
 ("Signed) POUNDMAKER. X
 mark.

"To Major General Middleton,
 "Duck Lake."

I sent back the following not quite grammatical answer:—

"Poundmaker,—I have utterly defeated the halfbreeds and Indians at Batoche, and have made prisoners of Riel and most of his council. I have made no terms with them, neither will I make terms with you. I have men enough to destroy you and your people, or, at least, to drive you away to starve, and will do so unless you bring in the teams you took and yourself and councillors, with your arms, to meet me at Battleford on Monday, the 26th. I am glad to hear you have treated the prisoners well and have released them.

(Signed) FRED MIDDLETON,
 "Major General."

Next day, the 24th, we arrived at Battleford, and were received by Lieutenant Colonel Otter, commanding there. The principal part of this straggling town is situated between the Saskatchewan and the Battle rivers, but at some little distance from the former. The houses of the Judge and others, and a native college, were on the south side of the Battle, and that part only was molested by the Indians after it had been deserted, who burned and pillaged some of the houses the night of Lt. Colonel Otter's arrival and halt some three or four miles short of Battleford. The other part was surrounded by fine, clear, open grass land, and was never attacked by the Indians at all, the goods left in the abandoned houses being found untouched on the arrival of Otter's force. The weakest spot in the whole settlement was the Police barracks or stockade, which, hastily and imperfectly strengthened, was situated in the vicinity of a large coulee, and there all the inhabitants were collected. As the 24th of May fell on a Sunday, the next day I had a parade of all the troops to celebrate Her Most Gracious Majesty's birthday. On the 26th, Poundmaker and his people came in about 1 p.m., and we held a "pow-wow" in front of the camp. It was rather an interesting sight. The Indians, in war paint, to the number of about seventy, squatted themselves down in a semicircle in front of my chair, Poundmaker, a tall, fine looking Indian, taking up his position between the Indians and myself, Hourie, my interpreter, standing close to Poundmaker. Outside the semicircle were to be seen a few squaws, squalid and dirty as usual. Close round me, in a semicircle to match the squatting Indians, stood all my officers, the whole completely encircled by the men of my force.

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The Military Gazette is and always has been supported principally by shooting men, whose organ it has always been, and whose interest it is always ready and eager to champion. Wishing to do something on its own accord, to help the riflemen, the new owners of this paper have decided to offer a handsome price for competition to any regiment or company in Canada. In doing this they are not trying to pose as philanthropists; they have a selfish object as well as the promotion of rifle shooting in view. This object is to increase the usefulness of the paper and enlarge its field by increasing its circulation. The more subscribers we have the better our paper will be.

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