

blood, though this seems absurd to one who examines the grooves with any care. The quiver and bow-case were made either of buffalo leather or deer skin elaborately ornamented with quill or bead-work, or of dog-skin dressed with the hair out, and both cases were connected by a sling-strap ornamented, if possible, with otter fur, which was greatly valued by the plain Indians. When hunting the buffalo, aim was generally taken behind the shoulder or behind the ribs, where the arrow-head by the heaving of the animal's flanks soon cut to a vital part, if it did not penetrate it at the first, and brought it to the ground. The bow and arrow is still in use, and few things more surprised the eastern volunteers in the rebellion of '85 than to find a weapon employed against them which probably had hitherto been associated in their minds with Crecy or Robin-Hood.

Great nerve and readiness were frequently called for on the part of the buffalo hunter, and serious accidents often occurred in the chase. I have listened to many camp-fire stories in the North-West more sensational than the following; yet the two or three which I give, though not very startling, are authentic, and the incidents may be taken as typical of situations which called for coolness and resource. In 1847 Atchamaganis, or "The Trader," left Fort Carlton for the Sandy Knolls to procure meat. He came to buffalo, and after a run drove an arrow into a huge bull. In the act of stooping to draw it out the animal suddenly turned, and The Trader's horse swerved, and threw him clean upon the bull's head, where probably he would have been gored to death but for the lucky chance of one of its horns passing under his belt. This prevented tossing, and there "The Trader" hung, whilst the terrified bull made off at full speed. The situation was enough to shatter ordinary nerves, but "The Trader" took things coolly, and gathering himself together in such a way as to get a purchase, severed his connection with the horn either by the breaking or the loosening of the belt, and so fell to the ground, whilst the bull, too frightened to reflect on things, sped on, and left "The Trader" unhurt. Pruden, another hunter, after a sharp run, got his horse in line with, but slightly to the rear, of a swift buffalo cow, which stumbled whilst he was in the act of drawing the bow, and fell directly across his path. Without an instant's hesitation he urged his horse to the leap, and, springing clean over the prostrate cow, turned and transfixed her with an arrow. Owing to the peculiar bend of the buffalo's horns it was unable to toss a man who lay flat on the ground, and many hunters have saved their lives by a knowledge of this fact, and by acting upon their knowledge on the instant. Massam, an Indian, was thrown in front of a bull by his horse stumbling in a badger hole. In this fall he was caught by the bull and tossed twice, and severely ript in the leg. The third time the bull missed him, whereupon he fell to the ground, and lay still, though suffering dreadful agony. It was not the bison's custom to trample his foe. It would get astride of him, and nose him, and paw up earth upon him, with its fore feet; all of which this particular bull did to Massam, and then, having exhausted its rage, left him. Gardapui, another practised hunter, some twelve years ago was thrown in the snow, and endured for hours the baffled rage of a bull until some fellow-hunters came up and relieved him. These occurrences show what men could do in emergencies; but, of course, the buffalo had also its triumphs, and frequently made away with its pursuer. A bull was once killed which had a human pelvis stuck fast on one of its horns—a strange laurel won in some solitary struggle. The bison, when disturbed, does not rise with the lumbering slowness of the domestic ox, but has the faculty of springing on all fours at once. There is also, sometimes, something very