

Saturday, May 9th. A beautiful warm day. We have had to-day a cricket match between Q.O.R. and the rest of the columns. We had an excellent team. George Lyon, H. Brock, D.O.R. Jones and some others of cricket fame were on the team, and we win.

Saturday, May 23rd. Another fine, warm day. Father Cochin has returned from Poundmaker and says he is coming in to surrender. The whole of the half-breeds are to be here on Monday. The priest gave us information about the fight at Cut Knife. He was present for a time, and thought our people had a marvellous escape. Poundmaker had with him in the fight 380 braves and about 40 half-breeds. Riel had told the Indians that the "Yankees" were coming to help him, and when they saw the dark tunics of the Queen's Own they thought they were friendly and would turn on the Red Coats as soon as the firing began.

The Indians were pretty well punished and Poundmaker wanted to surrender, saying that the other troops were coming up, and if they fought like those at Cut Knife the Indians could do nothing. The Stoneys persuaded him to hold out, however, and as day after day passed without molestation, they decided to move and join Riel. Every day they expected to be attacked, and advanced in fear and trembling. They would march a few miles each morning and then spend the rest of the day making rifle pits and preparing for an attack. At last came the news of Riel's defeat at Batoche, and they saw the game was up. The priest did not think we could have advanced at Cut Knife. A deep ravine was before us, and we should have been terribly cut up in crossing that.

At this point it is as well to break in on the extracts from the diary, to explain that Major General Middleton with a portion of his column, reached Battleford and assumed command on May 24th. The General's column had marched across the barren prairie and great alkali plains from Qu'Appelle to Clark's Crossing, on the South Saskatchewan. The original plan of campaign was that Middleton, having reached Clark's Crossing, thus covering Saskatoon and the other settlements up the South Saskatchewan, and making a demonstration calculated to attract the attention of the half-breeds and Indians from both Battleford and Prince Albert, Colonel Otter's column should descend the river by steamers and scows with supplies and ammunition from the crossing north of Swift Current, joining Middleton at Clark's Crossing, where an advanced base, with large stores of supplies, would be established. Clark's Crossing was conveniently situated, with regard to both Prince Albert and Battleford, and when the plan of campaign was first laid down the General was given to understand that there would be no difficulty, as soon as the navigation of the Saskatchewan was open, to keep the depot at Clark's Crossing replenished by steamers running either from Swift Current or from Medicine Hat, where the railway crossed the river. Reliable navigation of this part of