

with 600 Indians. We were now marching post haste to relieve Prince Albert, which is crammed with all the settlers from the surrounding district. The Crossing was very picturesque. We waded out to a small island, on the other side of which the water was deep enough for our flat-bottomed steamers to come close in and ferry us to the other side. There is one thing that strikes one in this country—the absence of rock. In these great river ravines, 200 or 300 feet deep, nothing is to be seen but earth and loose stones, all glacial debris. The prairie, everywhere we have been, is the same in this respect. Here and there are patches of loose stones, but generally one goes for many miles without seeing a sign of one.

Yours, —————

Fort Pitt, North Saskatchewan,
June 30th, 1885.

Dear —————

My last letter was written on board one of our four flat-bottomed stern-wheelers, on our way to relieve Battleford and punish Poundmaker and his band of Indians. Our wagons followed us by trail on the safe, i.e., north, bank of the river, the distance being about 160 miles. Prince Albert is near the junction of the north and south branches of the Saskatchewan. We came down the south branch, and then, turning into the north branch, advanced up it in an easterly direction. Since Batoche, I had been the only staff officer, except one A.D.C., Freer, as Lord Melgund was sent back on the first day of the fighting. I had to write all orders, keep duty rosters, choose camping grounds and detail them to corps, arrange the crossings of the river, place the lines of picquets, detail advance guards, etc., etc. It was very interesting, as one knew everything that was going on. At Battleford the force divided, and Major Smith, of the permanent Canadian troops, was made A.A.G. with one part, whilst I went with the General and the other half of our troops. There was great rejoicing when we arrived at Battleford, which was full of settlers from the outlying districts. It is at a junction of the Battle river and the North Saskatchewan, and opposite a ford across the first. We saw here some of the work of the Indians; about half a dozen houses, on the far side of the ford, had been looted and burnt, while several Hudson Bay posts, in the neighborhood, at Carlton, Frog Lake, Fort Pitt, etc., had suffered the same fate.

The General sent messengers to the chiefs of the neighboring bands of Indians to come and see him. The following came:—Poundmaker, Moosomin, Beardsy, and Mosquito, with many of their braves. The first of them appeared a mile or two away, just as we were on parade on the Queen's Birthday, and were firing a *feu de joie*. We had a formidable force on parade, as we had found Colonel Otter's command at Battleford, and about 100 mounted