

the son say, that he had already killed some of the English; and he hoped to kill still more of them. Another free Canadian, named Ammelin, who had two sons half-breeds, likewise refused to allow them to go with the party, saying, that he would rather have his head taken off his shoulders, than that they should go. When this was reported to Cuthbert Grant, he said it did not signify, that he would take them along.

Having received a letter from Alexander M'Donell, ordering me to go with Grant if required, I accordingly set out with the party on the 22nd of ~~January~~^{Feb 2}, and, on passing certain freemen's tents near the post of La Souris, Cuthbert Grant forced Ammelin's two sons to join the party. The lad having at first said he must have his father's consent, was asked by Joseph Cadotte how old he was, and having replied, that he was twenty, the said Cadotte told him, that he was old enough to act for himself, and should not mind his father, and accordingly took him on; but his younger brother was allowed by Cuthbert Grant to remain in case his father, who was in bad health, might require his services. At Portage des Prairies, the party met one Desloges coming from Fort Douglas, who informed some of the party that there were many people at the fort, that it was well guarded and so strong that they could not expect to take it. Upon this, many of the party wanted to return, but Joseph Cadotte would not allow it, and upbraided them with cowardice.

In the afternoon (2nd March), the party encamped on the Assiniboine River, at a place called Pointe