

Fort Macleod. 32
July 13, 1876.

Sir

According to order received on July 8, to proceed from the Blackfoot camp for the prisoners "Malaya", I left Bow River on the above mentioned date, I found the Blackfeet encamped about 30 miles above the mouth of Red Deer River that being about 200 miles N.E. of Elbow River. After having secured the prisoner I was detained in the camp by a council of the principal chiefs who invited me to their meeting. They told that they were very glad we had arrived at that time they were in a very unsettled state, owing to communications that had passed between the Blackfeet natives including Blood Indians and Piegans, other Sioux from across the line.

About a month ago the Sioux sent a message to the Blackfoot camp with a piece of tobacco which the Blackfeet showed me. The messenger told the Blackfeet from the Sioux that the tobacco was sent them to smoke if they were willing to come across the line and join the Sioux in fighting the Crow Indians and other tribes with whom they were at war, and also the Americans whom they were fighting at the same time. The Sioux promised to give the Blackfeet if they would join them plenty of horses and mules they had captured from the Americans they also told the Blackfeet that they had taken prisoners and plenty of white women they taken prisoners and they promised to give them to the Blackfeet if they would join them.

They also told the Blackfeet if they would come to help them against the Americans that after they had killed all the whites they would come over and join the Blackfeet to exterminate the white whites on this side.

They also told them that the soldiers on this side were weak and that it would take them but a short time to take any forts that they had built there as they had taken many strong stone forts from the Americans at small loss to themselves.

The Blackfeet had sent an answer to the Sioux, a short time before I arrived to the effect that they could not smoke their tobacco at such terms but that they were not willing to make peace with the understanding of helping them to fight the whites as they were their friends and they would not fight against them. The messenger from the Blackfeet to the Sioux had just returned when I got to their camp with the answer the Sioux had sent.

They had said that, as they would not come and help them against the Americans, that they would come over to this side and show the Blackfeet that white soldiers were nothing before them, and that after they had exterminated the soldiers, and taken their forts that they would come against the Blackfeet.

In consequence of this message the Blackfeet natives, when I reached their camp, were in a state of uncertainty, not knowing how to act.

"Crowfoot", the head chief of the Blackfeet, was authorized by the nation of all of whom were present to ask me that in case they were attacked by the Sioux, without themselves being the aggressors, if in case of their calling upon us, - the Mounted Police, - to help them whether we would do so I told them that in case the Sioux crossed the line and attacked the Blackfeet, without the Blackfeet giving them any cause to do so, we were bound to help them, they being subjects of this country, and having the right of protection as well as any other subjects.

They were well pleased at what I told them and told me that they intended always in the future to be at peace with the whites and particularly with us; that they saw the way we had dealt with them; since we

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