

September 1, 1922
Bird-Rattle

A long time ago Small-Robe- an old man, went on a war party. There were twelve in the party. They started on the war party. They went right along and when they came to Black Mountain where Havre is now they shot some game and they killed a buffalo. They started to butcher it. They had the animal half skinned. They butcher them from the back and when they had the hide half off some one had taken the kidneys out and that is the first thing we do. The buffalo jumped around. They all jumped away and the buffalo jumped up and he stampeded and his skin flapped back and forth and the buffalo went over the ridge and that is the last they saw of him. They got together and were talking about it and some-one said, our forefathers don't like this. This is a bad sign, let us go home. In the olden times when an animal does anythings like this it means bad luck so it is best for them to go home and that is what the meeting was about. They all said it was bad luck, let us go home. The leader of the war party, Little-Robe-Old-Man said no, let us go on. My Father told me that when anything like this happened to me that I am going to get plenty of horses. They continued and they saw a person and they all hid. They all saw this person but some one got up and peeped and said it was a person. They sent a scout out. He got close and they saw that it was a rock and he told the rest of the party to come. It was just like a person. It stood about three feet high. They all gathered around it and began talking about it and some one said this is the second time this has happened to us, it means something is going wrong, let us go home. Butchering-With-His-Head-Down took off his handkerchief and put it on this rock and prayed to the rock to pity him, that he was on this party to see if he could get some horses, that he was poor. There was also a man in the party by the name of Facing-Westward and he took off some of his blanket and put it on the rock and asked the same thing. The two men prayed to the rock and the only two that were saved were these

two. Another man by the name of Shoots-Close said let me give it something. He hit the rock with a stone and broke its stone leg and the rock fell over. Butchering-With-His-Head-Down got angry and said, you are crazy for doing it and they should pray to the rock so he went back and put it up and dug around it and prayed to it. They started again and they were going along and some one cried, the enemy is coming and they all ran for the coulee. One of the party saw what was coming and he saw a good many people taking after them and everyone was striped and they were all scalped. They knew they were not real persons but that they were just seeing things. They had another meeting and they didn't know whether to go home or not but most of them wanted to go home. Small-Robe-Old-Man said it was a sign that they would get plenty of good things. They continued again. They came to the mouth of two rivers and were going to cook and as they were ready to cook they heard someone over the hill crying and mourning. We heard it coming and it was saying you folks are having a hard time. They couldn't see any one but it kept repeating itself. They began to run. Right here they talked again and they wanted to go home. Butcher-With-His-Head-Down was the one that wanted to home the worse and he said it is the fourth time something has happened to us and our forefathers said it was not a good sign. Little-Robe-Old-Man told Butchering-With-His-Head-Down that they had been seeing something to frighten us but my father told me that if anything like that happened to them to keep on going and you will get what you are looking for. They started again and went on with their trip and they came to a buffalo that had been dressed and they tracked the party by following where they had dropped some of the meat. They just took the chunks of meat then and left the bone. One of the party said, what shall we do, there must be some one around. Some of them said we will go down to the bottom of the river and stay there so they all went and the cut bank on the edge of the river, they were sitting on this after they

had gotten a drink of water. Some one saw a horsebacker in sight. They all leaned against the ~~bark~~ so he didn't see them. The rider saw the party all the time but he pretended to look all over the country but all the time he was counting the members in the party. The rider was a Sioux Indian. When he came in sight he dismounted and he kept his eye on the party and when he was through he led his horse and went out of sight. The party of twelve Blackfeet argued again. Some of them said the rider saw them, and others said he didn't. Butcher-With-His-Head-Down told the people of the party you are crazy, you are going against all these things, we have a lot of children you know. We are going on this party so we can get some horses, we didn't go for anything that is bad and now you are trying to cause trouble for all these youngmen. There are four things we have run on to now which are very unusual. That rider saw us, let us go some place where we can be protected. Now they consented to go and make a breast-works. They had taken Butchering-With-His-Head-Down's word. They looked for a good place and they came to a washout and there was brush around it so they went down here. It was away from the river, it was in a coulee. There was just a little water in it. The people of the party, Little-Robe-Old-Man and Facing-Westward said you go to the top of the hill and see if you can see anything. He saw the Sioux's coming. They were in three divisions, one division was tracking them and the other two divisions went on either side. There were some Cheyennes in the party. The Assiniboines, Yankons and the Madens were in the party. There were hundreds and hundreds of them. They had a big camp, it surrounded about two miles. We stayed low. We just saw the one division and that was the one that was tracking us. The fellow that went on the knoll hid right there because if he came back they would see him. (The Sioux's told me afterwards and that is the way I know the story.) There was no other place they could go besides the washout. During this time they had surrounded us. They kept advancing, all three of the parties and when they got

close they retreated. They made so much noise it sounded like thunder. They came back a little closer and then they went back again. They came back again and the chief of the party, Little-Robe-Old-Man, said as soon as they come to this line I am going to shot one of them. They came again and they came to the line and the man that was in the lead was shot by Little-Robe-Old-Man. They all retreated again. The other party came in all the time. The other party on the west side and Butchering-With-His-Head-Down shot him, the leader. They advanced again and the man that had broken the man's leg chased all the Siouxs away. It was Heavy-Shield's son, Shoots-Close. He is the one that broke the stone's leg and he went again and just as he was coming back some one hit him in the same place he had hit the stone and his leg was broken. Butchering-With-His-Head-Down dosen't know who said let us go but he said it was as good as any place because they had water to drink and protection. They didn't want to obey but they all started to run out of the washout. Shoots-Close stayed in the washout because he couldn't run. When the Sioux's got out they watched them and the enemy got in on both sides and they were thick as grass and they made a regular lane. They were shooting and you could hardly see. Here comes the medicine lodge again. Butchering-With-His-Head-Down made a vow that if he got home that his mother was going to make a medicine lodge. They were old so naturally they were behind so they, Little-Robe-Old-Man and Butchering-With-His-Head-Down were behind. They were running about even and Butchering-With-His-Head-Down was telling Little-Robe-Old-Man to do his part with his gun. Butchering-With-His-Head-Down worked over and so Little-Robe-Old-Man used his gun for a cane because he had been wounded. He was excited and couldn't run and he thought about my children and it frightened me, (Butchering-With-His-Head-Down is the one doing the talking), He saw the party coming and it was a leader who had a tom-makaw. . . .

He was close to Little-Robe-Old-Man and was going to use his tommahawk and some one warned him. He turned very slowly and just about the time the man was there he shot and dropped him. They killed Little-Robe-Old-Man right there. All this time I was so frightened I couldn't run but just as soon as I saw they had killed our leader I ran. I went fast then. There was so much dust and smoke you could not see but as I was running I saw a man walking with his hands in the air hollering etc. It was the brother of Little-Robe-Old-Man. He knew his brother had been killed. They killed him. We were running hard but there were already four killed. As we were running along we had come to a coulee, they went over and I came to a washout and it was just big enough for one man. I threw up the sage brush so they couldn't see my tracks and I sat with my gun ready. The Sioux, when they retreated they came right up on me. While I was sitting there I saw a Sioux coming. I had a bear claw necklace and they were turned upward and I was naked and we saw one another. He stopped at one and I nearly made up my mind to shoot him and I saw him talking to the Sun. He was praying to it. As soon as he was through talking he went in back of me and I thought he will shoot me now. He didn't bother any at all. It was Three-Son's son, a Piegan by the name of Rattling-Old-Man, Split-Ear's brother. It was about sun down and they killed all of them but him. Two of them got away, Butchering-With-His-Head-Down and Facing-Westward. They are the two that prayed to the rock. As soon as he knew they killed all my party and as soon as they went back I ran up the creek and stopped where they wouldn't find my tracks. I saw a big hole and crawled in it. As soon as I got in they came back and I thought they saw me. They were right over me running around and looking and they were raising Cain among themselves. The sun was down and they went back. I stayed until it was dark and then I went out. I made up my mind that I would go back to my brothers who had been killed and get some moccasins. It made me feel badly so I ran back. I ran all night. I

didn't stop and about morning I lay down and tried to sleep and I heard some noise. I heard some one say here he is. The party said let us go up to him. I recognized the voice, it was Little-Robe-Old-Man's voice. He had been killed but he had his voice. Little-Robe-Old-Man said let him sleep. He kept coming and he got home. When he got back he told his people all his party had been killed. Probably Facing-Westward is on his way back. After the battle was over the Sioux said he saw Butchering-With-His-Head-Down in the washout and he spoke to the Sun to help them to get some scalps and I am not going to kill this Blackfoot. Bear-Claws saw Butchering-With-His-Head-Down. The Sioux were talking and said there were twelve in the party. There were fourteen in the party at first. The Sioux were talking about it. They knew they killed all of them. Bear-Claws said nothing. He was an old man. He got up and told the council to be silent, he was going to tell them something. Some did get away. Where we first saw them there was one Blackfoot, I saw him. I told the Sun, I prayed to it and told it, I am going to keep this man in secret. The fourteen that went were Little-Robe-Old-Man, Chief, Butchering-With-His-Head-Down, second Chief, Facing-Westward, (he got back), Jumping-Into-The-Water, Rattling-Old-Man, Big-Horn-Sheep, Shoots-Close, Takes-Gun-Inside (Little-Dog's brother), Flying-High-Bird, Returning-Crane, Small-Body, Far-Side-Chief, Cree and Ice-Body (Red-Eagle's grandson and Little-Dog's brother).