

Carcass

“Cut the fiend up into inches, throw his carcass on the plain; / Let the wolves eat the cursed Indian, he'd have treated us the same.”

The dead body of an animal.

Cattle

“Mistake him? Never, Mistake him? the famous Eagle Chief! / That terror to all the settlers, that desperate Cattle Thief—”

A group of animals such as cows, bulls, and bison that are kept on a farm for their milk or meat.

Covet

“And right out into the open stepped, unarmed, the Cattle Thief. / Was that the game they had coveted?”

To wish for, especially eagerly.

Fiend

“Cut the fiend up into inches, throw his carcass on the plain; / Let the wolves eat the cursed Indian, he'd have treated us the same.”

An evil and cruel person.

Fringe

“Sighted him off to Eastward, where the Cree encampment lay, / Where the cotton woods fringed the river, miles and miles away.”

An outer edge; margin; periphery.

Gaunt

“And the gaunt old Indian Cattle Thief, dropped dead on the open plain.”

Extremely thin, especially because of hunger or sickness.

Herd

“Give back our land and our country, give back our herds of game;”

A large group of animals of the same type that live and feed together.

Hollow

“Robbed him and robbed my people—look there, at that shrunken face, / Starved with a hollow hunger, we owe to you and your race.”

Having a hole or empty space inside.

Lair

“But they searched in vain for the Cattle Thief: that lion had left his lair, / And they cursed like a troop of demons—for the women alone were there.”

A den or resting place of a wild animal, often underground or hidden.

Mock

“Go back with your new religion, we never have understood / Your robbing an Indian’s body, and mocking his soul with food.”

To attack or treat with ridicule, contempt, or derision.

Rave

“And then she raved in a frenzy that they scarcely understood, / Raved of the wrongs she had suffered since her earliest babyhood.”

To speak in an uncontrolled way, usually because you are upset or angry.

Rouse

“And that band of cursing settlers dropped backward one by one, / For they knew that an Indian woman roused, was a woman to let alone.”

To wake someone up or make someone more active or excited.

Scarce

“And then she raved in a frenzy that they scarcely understood, / Raved of the wrongs she had suffered since her earliest babyhood.”

Almost not.

Shrink

“He turned, like a hunted lion: “I know not fear,” said he; / And the words outleapt from his shrunken lips in the language of the Cree.”

To contract or lessen in size.

Sin

“How have you paid us for our game? how paid us for our land? / By a book, to save our souls from the sins you brought in your other hand.”

Anything considered wrong.

Tawny

“Over that wrinkled, tawny skin, unfed by the warmth of blood, / Over those hungry, hollow eyes that glared for the sight of food.”

Of a light yellowish-brown colour.