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MISCELLANEOUS.

From the T[illegible]er.

THE HUNTER'S SONG.

My gallant charger paws the ground,
Impatient of delays
O'er prairie savanna, through forests wild,
Away my boys—away!
Away my boys, away we'll ride
[illegible] hills, or plain—
[illegible] the leaves look green
[illegible] we return again
Who care a for the wolf's wild howl,
The panther's waiting cry,
Or more—the piercing savage yell,
[illegible] the Prairie night!—
[illegible] my boys
[illegible]
We'll make to mistletoe arrayed,
[illegible] path in the lake,
[illegible] shines clear and long it,
When the moon shines clear and long it,
[illegible] we'll track,
[illegible] light—
[illegible] morn's light, my boys,
[illegible] melody,
While the dawning day reveals the way
That we gallop'd joyously.
The sycamore and walnut's shade
Our festival hall shall be;
The green shall be our resting place—
The blue our canopy, my boys,
While [illegible] sheet,
Shall [illegible] our festal couch—
[illegible] my boys, away!
[illegible] rage—
[illegible] the hunting's flash—
[illegible] the prairie's fearful blaze,
And hear the cataract's dash!—
And [illegible] cataract's dash! my boys,
While [illegible] free,
With the sky sublime, and the game in view!
Oh! merry men we'll be
We'll [illegible] at the saddle bow,
[illegible] and fleet;—
[illegible] the leaves look green
[illegible] again we meet, my boys,—
[illegible] buckskin chest,
[illegible] free,
Or home the trackless West.

J. G.

EXPEDITION OF THE U. S. DRAGOONS TO THE WESTERN PRAIRIES.

From the Arkansas Gazette, Sept. 6.

FORT GIBSON, August 26, 1834.

Dear Sir. Your paper of the 19th inst. received here by mail this evening, contains an article headed, '*a desperate engagement between the U. S. Dragoons and the Pawnee Indians.*' This publication, you say, is made on the authority of a gentleman from Washington county, who derived his information from a gentleman who was at Fort Gibson, when the Pawnee prisoners were brought in under escort of a detachment of Dragoons.' Every word of this statement is erroneous; and as I know you will be anxious to correct the error, I hasten to give you a brief account of the 'Western prairie expedition,' by to-morrow morning's mail. I trust that you may have been apprised of the imposition practised upon you, and that it may be corrected in your paper before this reaches you; as much suspense and anxiety will necessarily be produced by the account you have innocently published, among our fellow citizens, who have relatives and friends in the Dragoon regiment, and who are numerous and respectable, in several States of the Union.

There has been no fighting between the Dragoons and the 'Pawnees' or Camanches, or any of the other wild tribes of the prairies; and the regiment has fulfilled its instructions in a manner which cannot fail to be highly satisfactory to the Government. Col. Dodge departed at this post from his expedition, on the 15th instant, with six companies. The field and staff officers were, Colonel Dodge, commanding; Maj Mason; Lieutenant Hamilton, Adjutant; Surgeon Finlay; and Lieutenant Wheelock, who was attached to the Colonel's staff as journalist. 1st company commanded by Captain Sumner and Lieutenant Boreguin; 2d by Captain Duncan, and Lieutenants Moore and Turnette; 3d, by Captain Hunter and Stevens; 4th by Capt. Perkins and Lieutenant Davis; 5th, by Capt. Boone, Lieutenant Izard and Newton, 6th, by Capt. Browne, and Lieutenant Edwards. Col. Dodge brought with him fifteen *Kiowaway* Indians, at the head of which is the chief of their tribe—a *Tow-ee ash* chief, with two warriors—a *Waycoah*, chief of small band who speak the Tow-ee-ash—and a Spaniard, or half breed, belonging to the Camanche nation, and who has all the habits and speaks the language of that nation. This delegation is now at Fort Gibson, and thus far have been highly gratified with their visit

Lieutenant Colonel Kearney, reached this place yesterday, with his command from the post on Washita, where he had been left in charge of the sick regiment, when Colonel Dodge started from that place for the Pawnee (or Tow-ee-ash) and the Camanche towns. The officers attached to Colonel Kearney's command are Captain Trenor, Lieutenant Edwards, Acting Quarter master, Lieutenant Van Derveer, Acting Commissary; Lieutenants Eastburn, Urty, Kingsbury, and Bowman and Assistant Surgeon Hales. All the sick in the charge of Colonel Kearney, with the exception of five or six, have been brought in—these are on the way, in waggons and litters. There were 108 men left for duty with Colonel K. and 86 on the sick report. The officers of the regiment left sick at Washita, were Lieutenants Swords, Shamburg, Urty, Eastburn, and McClure—the latter an excellent and much respected young officer has since died—the others are now at this post, and convalescent, with the exception of Lieutenant Eastburn, who has still a slight fever. Lieutenant Shamburg arrived here several days before the main body of Col K's command, in company with Lieutenant West of the 7th Infantry, who was acting aid-de-camp to General Leavenworth, at the time of the General's death.

Colonel Dodge has invited the chiefs of the several tribes inhabiting the country in the vicinity of this place to meet the delegates of the Tow-ee-ash, Kiowar, and Camanche nations, here, on the 1st day of next month. The Indians invited, and who will probably be represented in this council, are the Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Seneca, Shawanoes, Delawares, &c. &c. The object is to bring these tribes together under the eye and protection of Government officers—'to give them an opportunity of becoming acquainted, and of interchanging those well pledges of friendship, preparatory to further negotiation which may be attempted, for the purpose of establishing a permanent peace among all Indians of this frontier

I think much good may be effected at this council; and that the anxious wishes and expectations of the government upon this interesting subject, will be materially advanced toward consummation. The Pawnees (so they have been called) the Camanches and Kioways, roam over a large extent of the Choctaw country, in their hunting excursions: and it is supposed that some of their towns are within the Choctaw boundary. They have not been on friendly terms with any of the tribes invited to meet them in council; and with the Osages, who also live principally by hunting, they have kept up a continual war fare. Small bands of these tribes most frequently on the prairies, and they kill each other at every opportunity. If this hostile feeling can be allayed by the intercession of the Government now commenced, and friendly understanding be established, between the several marauding bands of the western prairies, in our own Indians, it would be worth more to the United States than it would pay all by expenses of the Dragoon regiment since its organization. The Indian territory will be populate rapidly, and the settlements pushed beyond high water on the Arkansas, Canadian, Washita and Red river.

It was contemplated by General Leavenworth to send a delegation of the Camanches and Pawnee Picts to Washington, should they be found by the Dragoons, and Col. Dodge informed the different tribes when he requested them to send in the present delegation—but I believe it is now the intention of the Col. to send them back to their country under a safe escort, immediately after the Council. I think this is the safest and most judicious course. The transition from wild to civilized haunts, has been sudden, and in seeing Fort Gibson, they believe they have seen a civilized world; and they have now first as much upon the mounds as they can well bear home and return to their people

Hereafter, if it is deemed expedient, a delegation, fully representing all tribes, can be procured without difficulty, to visit the Seat of Government. They will now go home loaded with presents, and tell their people long tales of the kindness they have received; and, from present appearances, they will anxiously return, their nations within the jurisdiction, and seek the protection of the American Government.

The expedition to the western prairies has been pregnant with excitement, with thrilling interest. I have received much important information from the officers, the publicity of which would be highly gratifying to the public. But as a full journal of the march and all the proceedings of the Indian towns visited by the command, will be forwarded to the War Department by Col. Dodge, and, I presume, be published, I will not attempt to give more than a simple outline of such facts and circumstances as can be compressed within the limits of an ordinary letter, and which may serve to gratify the public, in advance of the full report of this interesting campaign.

The regiment left this place on the 18th of June.—When it reached Fausse Washita, several of the officers and upwards of eighty men were sick and unable to do duty. The command was ordered from Washita to search for the Pawnee Pict and Camanche villages, and Col. Dodge, with two hundred and fifty chosen men, and the best horses, left that post on the 7th of July, with ten days provisions and eighty rounds of cartridges. About 700 miles west of the mouth of Washita, they discovered, from a hill, a party of horsemen, who, by the use of glasses, they ascertained to be Indians. Col. D., with some of the other officers, approached the party, in advance of the command, bearing a white flag, and after some apparent consultation, one of the Indians, with a white flag attached to his spear, came towards the troops at full gallop. He represented himself as a Spaniard, taken by the Camanches when quite young; and the Indians in sight were a party of Camanches, on a hunting excursion; about thirty in number. After some talk with the Spaniard, and assurances of friendship given by Col. D. the parties approached each other and shook hands. The Indians manifested a strong desire to be considered friendly disposed They said their camp was about two days march from that place, and invited the Colonel to visite it. On the following day all the Camanches left the troops, with the exception of one, who remained to act as guide. Col D presented him with a gun, with which he appeared delighted. The command reached the Camanche camp on the second day after meeting the first party, and were met about three miles from camp, by about one hundred mounted warriors They shook hands with the officers, and were very friendly. When the troops came in sight of the camp, an American flag was hoisted by the Indians.

The Camanches are represented as wild, savage looking fellows, armed with bows, well filled quivers, spears, and shields, well mounted, and appeared to be accomplished and daring horsemen. Their camp consisted of about two hundred lodges, made of skins, and having a civil form; and the number of Indians assembled in them appeared to be about four thousand. I repeat so early credible but the officers unite in saying, that the number of horses possessed by this small hunting party, and were grazing in the vicinity of the camp, exceeded three thousand! The principal chief of the nation had been at the camp, and they said he was expected back next day. Col. D. remained for the purpose of seeing the chief, but he did not make his appearance; and on the day following, (18th of July) the Colonel resumed his march for the Pawnee Pict (or Tow-ee ash) villages, which he was informed were about sixty miles from the Camanche camp. He at this time had but two days provisions for his command, and in the neighborhood of these numerous bands of Indians, the game was presumed to be very scarce. The probability, therefore, was, that a few days more would reduce the troops to the necessity of killing their horses for subsistence. About six miles from the Camanche camp, Col. D. was compelled to form an encampment for his sick. These he left with a small command under Lieut. Izard, Lieut. Moore, and Dr. Findlay. The main command now consisted of *one hundred and [illegible] effective men.* The country from the Pawnee or Tow-ee-ash villages is very broken and uneven, numerous high hills of granite rock, and, as they approached near to the village, the mountains rose to an immense height, and the passes leading to the village, through them, were rugged as to foot, long and narrow, and would have been a dangerous pass had the Indians contested its possession with the soldiers.

The Pawnee ash or Pawnee Pict village, visited by the Dragoons, is represented as occupying a romantic and beautiful spot. It is situated in a fertile valley, about half a mile in width, on the north bank of a fork of Red river, and [illegible] it is supported by stupendous mountains, composed of ledges of rock, apparently piled promiscuously upon each other, and rising, in some places, to the height of about two thousand feet from the base of the valley. The village consisted of about two hundred lodges, in shape somewhat resembling a cone, generally about thirty feet in diameter, and from twenty five to thirty feet high. They were formed with poles placed firmly on the ground, fastened together at the top, and thatched all over with prairie grass. Comfortable bunks were erected around the inside of the lodges, about three feet from the ground. This town had, at a low estimate, about 200 acres of corn, well cultivated and secured by a rude fence, substantially put up, with poles and bushes. The officers report their corn, beans, melons, squashes, as being very fine; and Col. Dodge informs me that these Indians (the Tow-ee-ash or Pawnee Picts,) have more the appearance of being an agricultural people than any Indians he has ever seen, except those acknowledged to be civilized.

Before I mention any of the incidents which occurred at this village, it is proper to say, that Col. Dodge had a Tow-ee-ash and a Kiowaway girl with him, who were captured by the Osages, and procured for the purpose of accompanying the expedition, before it left this place. He had also small delegations from the Cherokee, Osage, Seneca, and Delaware nations, with him. In approaching the Tow-ee-ash village, from the circumstance of no Indians showing themselves, as is customary on such occasions, the officers were induced to think that they had either abandoned their village or were preparing for a fight, especially as it was known in the village that the troops were advancing. A short distance from the town, however, the command was met by about sixty warriors, headed by an old chief. They appeared much alarmed, begged Col. Dodge frequently not to fire upon their people, and it was with difficulty he could satisfy them of his pacific and friendly disposition. The Pawnee girl was of great service at this crisis. She was immediately recognised by her people, and she lost no time in assuring them of the friendly intentions of the troops, and of the 'kindness she had received at the hands of the Americans.' The troops encamped within a mile of the village, and on the same day most of the officers visited the town, and were received with much kindness and hospitality. They were bountifully supplied with corn and beans, buffalo meat, water melons, and wild plums. Immediately after the arrival of the troops, the Camanches began to come in large numbers into the town.

On the 22d of July, the day after his arrival at the Towayah town, Col. Dodge held a council with the chiefs in their council house. He addressed them in an appropriate manner, assuring them of his friendly feelings, and the desire of the Government to better their condition, and establish peace of their red brethren of this country. He concluded by inquiring for Mr. Abby, the ranger, who was supposed to have been captured by them last year, and demanded the restoration of a little boy by the name of Matthew Wright Martin, who was made captive by them some weeks previously, and was known to be in their possession. The Col. offered to restore to them their lost daughter, whom he had redeemed from the Osages, and brought to her home. The old chief, Weter-ra-sah-ro, replied: He said he did not know where Abby was, but the boy was at his village. After some consultation with his people, however, he said Abby was captured by a band of Oway Indians, living south, near St. Antonio, in Mexico, and that they had killed him near their hunting camp on Red River. This statement was corroborated the next day by the principal Camanche chief, who arrived in the village and had a talk in council with Col. Dodge. There appears therefore, no doubt but that poor Abby had been murdered.

I find that it would exceed the bounds prescribed for this letter, to detail all the occurrences which took place at the various councils held with the several bands of Indians, assembled in this village. The presentation of the two Indian girls to their respective tribes, are represented as being very affecting scenes. And the delivery of little Martin to Col. Dodge was equally interesting. He is the son of Judge Martin, a highly respectable citizen of Fayette county, A. T., who was murdered, with one of his servants, some distance from this, while encamped on the route on a hunting excursion, taken for the benefit of his health. The boy is about 8 or 9 years old, and is very poorly clothed and in delicate health for his age. When he was first brought into the Indian council house, by order of Col. Dodge, he was quite naked; and he was evidently much alarmed, believing, from the hasty manner in which he was conveyed from a lodge about two miles distant, that the intention was to kill him.

He was asked by Col. Dodge, before he noticed who was in the lodge, whether he was not glad to see the troops? when he suddenly looked and said, '*are you white people?*' The little fellow was overjoyed, when he really found he was once more in the presence of white people—notwithstanding the complexions of the western officers before him, who had been exposed for upwards of forty days to the scorching rays of a vertical sun, in the barren plains of the west, would trust to pastry, literally his first expressions of surprise. It appeared that the boy's life was saved by the interposition of a savage warrior—'If the rest of the party wished to dispatch him. Col. Dodge made this warrior some handsome presents, and gave the boy a pistol to present as a present from himself. The reasons for distributing his Indian, by making him these presents, were properly explained, and appeared to be well received.

On the 23d of July, the chiefs came to the Dragoon camp, and held a talk at Col. Dodge's tent. The great Camanche chief, Tow-we-quenah, who had just come into the village, appeared and shook hands with the officers and the friendly Indians who had accompanied the expedition. Like the Towayahe, he said his nation desired to be at peace with the Americans, and all the red men under their protection. He proposed to Col. Dodge to exchange the Kioway girl for a Spanish girl in the possession of his people But the Colonel replied that he would not sell the girl—he wished to deliver her to her own people without price. About this time the council was disturbed by about thirty Kioway warriors dashing into camp at full gallop, and halted directly in front of the Colonel's tent. The squaws and children, who were present, appeared much alarmed and fled for their village.—These warriors appeared to be much excited, and assumed a menacing attitude at the tent door It appeared upon inquiry, that a band of Osages had recently massacred a large number of their women and children, in the absence of the warriors, and they now wanted revenge.

Col. Dodge immediately addressed them—assured them of his friendly intentions, if they were disposed to be at peace, and that the Osages present had not participated in any outrage committed upon their people. The Kioway warriors, during this talk, generally remained on their horses, and kept their bows and other weapons disposed so as to be ready for instant action. They, however, gradually became pacified, and retired, to meet in council the next day.

On the 24th of July, Colonel Dodge, with his officers met the chiefs of the different tribes in a general council, about two hundred yards from the camp. An old chief, the father of the Kioway girl in possession of our command, addressed the Kioways—said he had spoken with his daughter, and he knew the friendly feelings of the white men who stood before them.—The girl was then presented to her people, who used the most extravagant demonstrations of joy. Many of the chiefs threw their arms around Col. D. and cried like children. The women present all embraced the girl, and exhibited much feeling. All the hostile feeling of the day previous appeared to have vanished, although small parties of the Kioways, well mounted and equipped, had been constantly arriving in the village. The council broke up this day, to select a delegation from the several nations, to accompany the Dragoons to Fort Gibson, and then perhaps, visit the President of the United States at Washington.

The tribes represented at the Tow-ee ash village, were the Camanches, the Kioways, and Towayas. The Camanches are the most numerous tribe, and appear to rove undisguised over the whole extent of country bordering on the Mexican line, from Red River to the Rocky Mountains. They have no permanent villages, but follow the buffalo at all seasons, carrying their lodges with them, and establishing a town wherever they choose to hunt. The Kioways are not so numerous as the Camanches, but they are a more fearless and warlike people. They dress and equip themselves in a style surpassing in richness and elegance all the other Indians of the far West,' and they are large, athletic and fine looking men. They formerly occupied the regions of the Rocky Mountains, and have only been a few years the near neighbours and allies of the Towayahs and Camanches. The Towayahs are the Indians who have been hitherto called by us Pawnee Picts. They are not known by this name to the Camanches or Kioways, and do not recognize it themselves, but answer by the name of Towayah. I am convinced of what I believed for some time, that the Camanche Indians are the most powerful and troublesome on the frontier. There is no tribe called among the Indians Pawnee Picts. Pawnee, I have understood, signifies hard, in the Camanche language—and Pict, from the Latin Pictus is defined 'painted, or a person whose body is painted.' The Towayahs (called Pawnee Picts) paint and tattoo their bodies and faces more than any other tribe known in this country. If I had room I might go on and trace the origin of this national name to one of the most powerful tribes in North Britain, in the 10th century. There appeared two distinct tribes at that time, called the Picts and Scots. Historians speculate largely upon the origin of the former name. They have been represented as the race of free Britons beyond the Roman wall, who stained their bodies when going to war, and were called by the Romans 'Painted Men.' But I have not time to pursue this subject.

I will, in another letter, endeavour to describe the appearance of the country over which the Dragoons have passed on their long and tedious march They saw and heard of mines of immense value, a description of which will be interesting to the public. To give you an idea of the location of the Towayah village, I note its distance from the points known to the geography of the country. It lies nearly west of Fort Gibson about 250 miles; from St. Antonio it is about the same distance, and about 300 miles from Santa Fe.

The Dragoon regiment has not yet been organized since Col. Kearney arrived from Washita. Col. Dodge and his officers have had a responsible and fatiguing duty assigned them, which they have performed without skirmishing and the Indians have left this place broken down in body, but not in spirits. They are now encamped at various points in the vicinity of Fort Gibson; and as soon as men and horses are sufficiently rested, they will proceed to the stations assigned them for the winter Colonel Dodge will establish his head quarters at Fort Leavenworth, on the Missouri, with four companies, commanded by Captains Wharton, Hunter, Duncan and Ford. Lieutenant Col. Kearney will be stationed near the mouth of the Des Moines river, with three companies, commanded by Captains Sumner, Boone and Brown. A Major Mason will be stationed near Fort Gibson, with three companies, commanded by Captains Trenor, Bean and Perkins.—The Major has selected a site on the Arkansas river, in the Creek country, about 20 miles above this post. On the last of this month, the companies will be mustered and paid by Major Stuart, the Paymaster, who is now here for that purpose, and I presume they will then make preparations to march to their destined stations

Captain Ford arrived here from his home, twenty-one days after the regiment had left for the Prairies, and too late to follow He was ordered by Col. Mason, commanding here, to take charge of the Dragoons who were left sick, and he is still here. Captain Wharton, with Lieutenants Lupton and Watson, returned here from their escort of the Santa Fe traders, about four weeks since, and are also here awaiting the general movement of the regiment.—Surgeons Hales and Porter, of the Dragoons, are both sick, and Doctors Wright and Findlay are the only physicians now here fit for duty. Dr. Holt is at the post on the Canadian, but an order arrived here from head quarters by this evening's mail, authorizing Col Mason to withdraw the troops from that post, and I believe he will do so.

Yours respectfully, &c.

S. C. STAMBAUGH.