

1872

12th camp, having been duly notified by the dogs that we were approaching something, after making our way through the midst of hundreds of dogs each & every one of which appeared to exert ^{his} vocal powers to the full extent of their capacity we found a convenient place for lariatting out our horses & mules, which simply is fastening by a long rope (usually of buckskin or raw hide & platted like a whip-lash) we proceeded to the Lodge of Pacer, the principal chief of the village, being escorted by all the dogs in the community still & continuing their incessant clamor & crowding upon ^{us} ~~us~~ to that degree that we had to keep them off with sticks (our brave having given one for that purpose) Arrangements for our supper were very soon entered upon by the two wives of ^{our} host who was staking about nearly in native dignity destitute of shirt, pants, leggings or moccasins, clothed only with a blanket & the indispensable breech-cloth. The lodge like nearly all belonging to the wild Indians was built in the form of a conical tent formed by stretching several buffalo skins, tanned without the hair, sewed together, over poles set in a circle & crossing at the top in the center & fastened by thongs, the tent being spread is firmly sustained down by

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12th small pegs; the entrance is a small hole opening toward the east & covered by a piece of thick painted skin fastened by buckskin strings on which ever side the wind may happen to be, so as to form a self closing door. The opening is not over 3 feet high & does not extend to the ground, no more than admitting a large man, indeed it was with some difficulty that I got through with my overcoat on with the side pocket stuffed with comfort & gloves. Internal arrangements were very simple, a round hole was in the center for the fire, 3 sides were occupied by the beds while the side in which is the entrance is used as a pantry & general store room, the beds are elevated above the ground, perhaps six inches & serve the place of chairs when not used for sleeping purposes, they are made by laying small rods of willow or narrow wood, across a couple of poles & covering them with buffalo robes, blankets &c making (excepting the covering) a comfortable bed. In due time supper was served consisting of excellent coffee, boiled meat & bread such as they make being a kind of salaratus short cake baked in an old fashioned bake-kettle. After we had partaken all that was desirable, & pushed the dishes back our host & ~~the~~ his two wives finished what was left & a basin of cold water was passed around, to drink & to wash our hands by spitting