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has its source, among these wild & rocky mount-
ains. Our course for several miles lay
over an elevated plateau of prairie, stony in
places, but mostly so smooth that I could
drive along on a trot, although near at
hand were masses of huge boulders, rising in
all the sublime grandeur of mountain
scenes, but rougher & more serrated than
any mountains I had ever seen in other places.

Indeed the Wichitas, formed as they are
of bare rocks, apparently rent & shivered by some
awful convulsion of nature, lying & standing
in every conceivable position & angle, excel the
mountains of the East in the wild, notched,
jagged, craggy appearance which they nearly
every where present, as much as they may fall
short in their sublimity of magnitude.

Bluff Creek, on which Fort Sill is
situated, has its source in the same
beautiful plateau & which through its
entire course winds about among these rocks
& mountains, sometimes cutting its way
hundreds of feet deep in its rock bound bed,
has its source in the same beautiful
plateau in which the East fork of Rainy
Mtn Creek, - emphatically a stream of
the plains, flowing over treacherous quick-
sands instead of rocks, - rises; the valley
of which we followed down several miles, to
the Kickapoo camp which we found upon
its banks, & where we found an Agency team
which had come out to bring provisions
to them.

The Kickapoos have lately come in
from Mexico when the

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The early part of last summer, a party of
them in company with some Apaches were
pursued from that State by the U.S. troops
who crossed the Rio Grande, following them
to their encampment captured some fifty or
sixty ^{of their} women & children, who have not been
returned to them, but promised them on con-
ditions of their coming in to the territory
settling down on a reservation set apart
for them on the South West side of the Arkan-
sas river, in part payment for land once oc-
cupied by them in the State of Kansas. Their
Agent Andrew Williams has been for some
time waiting at the Kiowa Agency for the
Commissioner, who prevailed on them to leave
Mexico to deliver them into his hands, at
that place, & though they have been some five
or six weeks upon the reservation they still
do not go in, & the Commissioner who is ~~sitting~~
getting eight dollars per day with expenses
borne, is sitting quietly at Fort Sill making
no very vigorous exertions towards getting
such a source of profit off his hands, by
bringing them in & turning them over to
their Agent who is anxious to have that event ac-
complished so as to return with them to their
reservation, so as to be able to provide
some accommodations for their winter
quarters. The women & children who were
captured in the early part of summer
are already on the reservation awaiting
their arrival, while here they & the Commissioner
are dillydallying along, it apparently mak-
ing but little difference to either them or