

2<sup>th</sup> Mo 1876

from bottom to top  
 30<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> day Clear Our partially trained  
 pony having had sufficient experience of  
 the sweets of domestic life among Kiowas  
 & not seeing the advantages of more  
 education left us in the night for a  
 life of native wildness on the plains.

Our journey this forenoon like the  
 most of our first days travel lay through  
 thin soiled plains, between the broken &  
 isolated mountains, among a growth of  
 the dreary deadlike muskeet, this tree is  
 very late in putting on its spring garments  
 at best, but now appears like many of  
 the Iowa Locust groves after being attacked  
 by the borer, in fact that is the real case  
 with this tree, miles & miles of it we passed  
 through which above ground was almost  
 entirely destroyed, but the root being  
 alive a thorny sprout was springing up  
 to be in turn destroyed by the enemy.

This tree bears a bean in long pods  
 which is sought after in their season  
 by the native inhabitants as an article  
 of food, which they pound into a coarse  
 meal, put sugar with it & mix with  
 water & let it slightly ferment then boil  
 & dry. They have, undoubtedly other meth-  
 ods of preparation, but this gives it a pleas-  
 ant vinous taste not disagreeable to the  
 palate, I have known these small cakes  
 to be again reduced to meal & boiled  
 in the liquor in which meat had been  
 boiled, making a kind of mush.

After travelling rapidly we had  
 passed the mountains, but stopped for