

to this river that were made respecting the Cimeron. Encamped for the night near George Washington's, a Caddoe chief. The morning of the 21st, after breakfasting and getting the cattle yoked, our wagon-master, in order to help over the sand-hills which lie between this point and the Agency, concluded to take five yoke of oxen into his teams, which Washington had promised to send to the agent. They had been worked, but having been for some time idle, true to the instincts of the undomesticated Texas cattle, they had become nearly as wild as ever, and had to be caught with the lasso by a Mexican employed on the place. This was very dexterously done, but after being caught the difficulty was far from being ended. Some of the more docile ones submitted readily to the yoke, while those that were more wild would plunge at the men, charging with all the strength and spirit of their wild natures; but, by keeping the rope with which they had been lassoed wound around trees, they were brought up before reaching the objects of their fury, causing the strong ropes to crack again, while they themselves would be thrown clear over their heads, upon their sides or backs, by the violence of the charge. Though thus brought up, and thwarted in their object, the charge was again and again renewed; but they were always arrested in time to prevent a full appreciation of the sharpness of their enormous horns.

This exciting business detained us for several hours, so that we did not get started until nearly noon, and, it

becoming wet in the afternoon, we made but little progress, and went into camp early.

Our train consisted of eight wagons, fastened two together, making four teams; the foremost wagon of each two is called the *lead*, and the hindmost the *trail*, wagon. Every team in this train consisted of five yoke of oxen except one, and that of six. Our course lay through a very hilly and brushy country, belonging to the Wichita and Caddoe reservation.

On the 22d, after deliberately considering the subject, — the tedious slowness of the train, the shocking profanity of the drivers, notwithstanding their kindness to me, — I made up my mind to leave them, and pursue my journey on foot and alone, it being about twenty-three miles to the Agency. Accordingly I tied up my blankets, left them, with my victuals box and satchel, in the wagon I had occupied, and leaving the train to come leisurely on, proceeded on my solitary journey. The day becoming fine, and feeling well and hearty, I made good progress, over shrubby sand-hills, through valleys rich and beautiful, though not very plentifully supplied with water, arriving at the Agency a little after two o'clock P. M.

The Wichita Agency is situated on the bench land, or second bottom, north of the Washita River, at the foot of high, rocky bluffs, in one of the richest and most beautiful valleys of the south-west. Thus was this long and tedious journey finally accomplished, with feelings of thankfulness, though I had no friend to