

a rear guard behind, thus preventing any from straggling away.

Their buffalo hunts were conducted in the same military order. The soldiers, going out first, surrounded a tract of country in which were a large herd of buffalo; and no one might chase a buffalo past this ring guard on pain of having his horse shot by the soldiers.

Within the ring, hundreds of men on horseback were chasing and shooting those huge creatures, with revolvers, or bows and arrows, until each had killed as many as his female attendants could skin and take care of; when the day's sport is ended.

Not so the work of the woman. When her lord has killed a buffalo the woman's work begins. She has to skin it, the meat to secure, and all to pack upon ponies or mules, and carry to camp, where the meat must be cured. This is done by cutting it into thin sheets, and hanging it over poles in the hot sunshine, where it is soon dried thoroughly; then it is packed fresh, in packages of about one hundred pounds each, and enclosed in a nice folding sack of thick buffalo skin, prepared especially for the purpose. This is not dressed down thin after being fleshed, but well tanned, and of the full thickness of the skin; the hair side nicely ornamented with paint, for the outside of the sack. This is cut out like a huge envelope, so that the ends and sides will fold over whatever is put in them, and secured by strong buckskin strings. By being thick it retains its

form, and is very useful for carrying other things besides meat and tallow.

After the meat is taken care of, the skin must be looked after. Those taken at this season of the year are mostly dressed for lodges. They are first staked on a smooth spot of ground, and water put upon them, when they are ready for fleshing. This consists in removing the flesh with an instrument made of a straight bar of iron, about a foot in length, flattened at one end and filed to an edge. This being grasped in the hand, and a succession of quick blows given, the work slowly proceeds. The skin is then dried, after which the hair is removed in a dry state, and the skin reduced to the proper thickness by dressing down on the hair side. This is done with an instrument made by firmly tying a flat piece of steel, filed to a bevelled edge at one end, and with the corners rounded, to a large prong of a deer's horn. This is so trimmed, in connection with the body of the horn, as to form an elbow, and is used a little as a carpenter uses his adze. This work is usually done in the cool of the morning.

The brains of the animal, having been properly taken care of for the purpose, are now soaked and squeezed by the hand until reduced to a paste, and applied to both sides of the skin, which is afterwards worked and rubbed until flexible.

The preparation of robes is from winter skins, and differs from the foregoing only in being dressed down on the flesh side, so as to leave the wool and hair upon the