

this transportation was all at the risk of the Contractors, the Superintendent had no control over their movements. We have been here from the evening of the 30th ult, and our latest intelligence from the train is their crossing of the Kansas on the 17th ^{any} ult. Our ✓ delay will be chiefly caused by the failure of the Contractors to bring the Government stores up in the time fixed.

Owing to these circumstances, Col. M. had to make temporary provision for meeting the Indians on the Monday following our arrival. It is a standing rule with all Indians, that whenever they meet, especially upon occasions of this character, they must have presents of some kind or other. Generally, they expect tobacco to smoke, provisions to eat, and at times, other presents, such as serge, blankets, vermillion, knives, beads, etc., etc., as circumstances may require. Without these, no man living - not even the President of the United States - would have any influence with them, nor could he get them into Council, or keep them together a day. Col. Mitchell understands the habits of these wild tribes intimately, and knows well how much to give, and what to withhold, and he makes his distributions in strict conformity with his knowledge of their wants and character. - Provisions are the great and most important item. I have yet to see the first Indian, whether chief or notorious brave, that is not ~~hungry~~ or wanting something to eat. The time was, not many years since, when all these Indians lived on the buffalo and game of the plains, and desired nothing more; but the ingress of the emigrants, and the introduction of the manners and customs, possibly I might say, the vices and dissipation of so-called civilized life, have changed their appetites and desires in many particulars. Coffee sugar and some few things of this kind, and now more sought for and desired than almost any thing else. - The Colonel, foreseeing these difficulties, made his arrangements at the Suttler's store, and his wishes have been seconded by the proprietors of that