

and your own correspondent.

A march of one mile, across the Smoky River, and we camp. The reason that we have such an escort may be seen by the subjoined letter:--

"MEDICINE LODGE CREEK, October 5th, 1867.

"Sir--I have the honour to inform you, that as far as I am concerned, I feel perfectly safe among these Indians without soldiers, yet, if the honourable Commissioners feel otherwise, it might be better to have an escort with them, and in this event I would suggest that you bring regulars, and in number not exceeding two hundred. I make this suggestion for the reason that the strictest military discipline will have to be enforced while these soldiers are among the Indians. This discipline is not often found outside the regular army. It would be wiser to come without any soldiers, than to come with a few; hence/p.217/I name two hundred as a sufficient number for an escort, and few enough not to alarm the Indians. I will meet you at Fort Larned, and will have some of the chiefs of each tribe with me. Do not leave that post until I get there.

"Your obedient servant,

"THOMAS MURPHY,

"Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

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