

12th Mo. 1873.

Started back to Kicking Birds camp, about 10, o'clock. Saw a number of buffalo.

About half past 4, o'clock P.M. we perceived a party of Indians driving ponies, & though they were at least two miles out of our course, our guide insisted on going to them, in fact was determined to go, & as we were comparatively unacquainted with the country, & knowing we could not get into camp until long after night, & it being cloudy, we could have no object to guide our course, we had no alternative but to go along with him.

They proved to be a party of ^{seven} ~~off~~ young Kiowas, who had left immediately after my leaving them last summer, on a raid into Mexico. They stated that at the first they were very successful, getting a good many ponies & mules, two scalps & several blankets, but they were afterward chased by the Mexican soldiers, who recovered most of their ponies & mules, so that the trophies of the expedition were two scalps two or three blankets, & a few old worn out Mexican mules & ponies.

They left their stock upon a creek where there was plenty of good green growing grass, & accompanied us to camp, but the night being very dark the guide missed the camp by several miles, but after reaching Rainy Mountain Creek, nearly to the Washita river, we discovered our whereabouts, changed our course, & followed the creek up for many miles, arriving at the camp late in the evening.

The Return of the Warriors

On approaching the camp, our guide called to us to come on ahead, & after we were some distance ahead of them, the Warriors struck