

4th Nov 1874

by the trail

Bear followed them, some 20 miles to the South, but being sick he had to come back.

After writing a letter to the Agent for Kicking Bird & eating a second breakfast I was desired to accompany 3 young men to the Southward, endeavor to follow the trail, see if they had been left behind & if so bring them back, the object of my going being to explain ^{the} business in case of falling in with soldiers, so that they might search the country as far as Red River.

Without giving the subject sufficient thought I started, Slumbling Bear going on a head & climbing a mountain pointed out to us the place where we should find the trail. We then travelled on making a short tarry for supper until after Sun down, when we alighted, took off our saddles, in preparation for the night, when my ears caught the faint tinkling of a bell, to which I called the attention of my wild companions, who immediately sprang upon their unsaddled horses & were off like the wind in the direction of the sound, leaving me ^{in charge} with of their saddles & blankets, in a half an hour or so they returned driving a couple of ponies having no mark of having ever been handled, except the wearing of the bell. They had strayed many many miles from any herd, finding them to be perfectly wild, one of them was shot for supper, but having not felt ^{as} well, for some hours, & having partaken of dinner about 4 o'clock P.M., I declined to partake