

ponies and mule. This is done by simply fastening the animal by a long rope or lariat, so as to allow him to graze, while he is at the same time secure from straying away. We then proceeded to the lodge of Pacer, the head chief of the Apaches, being escorted by most if not all the dogs in the community, still continuing their deafening clamor, and crowding upon us to that degree that we had to keep them off with clubs,—Dangerous Eagle having generously provided me with one for that purpose. Arriving at the lodge, arrangements for our supper were soon entered upon by the two wives of our host, himself stalking about in his blanket, destitute of shirt, leggings, or moccasons.

The lodge, like nearly all belonging to the wild Indians, was built in the form of a conical tent, made by stretching several tanned buffalo skins, strongly sewed together, over poles set in a circle, crossing at the top in the centre, and fastened by thongs. The tent, being raised and spread, is fastened down by pegs at the bottom. The entrance is a small hole opening towards the east, and covered by a piece of thick skin so tanned as to be somewhat stiff, and ornamented with paint. This is fastened, by buckskin strings, on whichever side the wind may happen to be, so as to form a self-closing door. The opening is not over three or four feet high, and does not extend to the ground, barely admitting a large man. Indeed, it was with some difficulty that I got through with my overcoat on, the side pockets stuffed with comforter and gloves.

The internal arrangements are very simple. A round hole is dug in the centre for the fire, three sides are occupied by the beds, while the side in which is the entrance is used as kitchen, pantry, and general store-room. The beds are elevated above the ground, perhaps from four to six inches, and serve for seats and lounges in the daytime, or when not used for sleeping purposes. They are made by laying small willow rods across a couple of poles, and covering them with buffalo skins prepared especially for the purpose, blankets, and ordinary robes, making, but for the vermin, a comfortable bed.

A large kettle was boiling over the fire, the contents of which were stirred from time to time with the broad rib of a buffalo, while another large kettle was sitting by the fire, in which our coffee was boiling. In due time supper was announced, consisting of boiled beef from the large kettle over the fire, coffee, and very good biscuits, or short-cakes, baked in an old-fashioned bake-kettle, or Dutch oven. After we had partaken all that was desirable, and pushed the dishes back, our host and his two wives finished what was left. A basin of water was then passed around to drink, and to wash our fingers, which is usually done by filling the mouth with water, and spouting it upon the hands, afterwards wiping them upon a dirty cloth provided for the purpose, and passed around to all who have partaken of the meal.

Supper being ended, we withdrew to another lodge,