

people are a great hinderance to their wild, roving, unsettled way of life.

5th Month, 8th. — Arrived at the Agency, after a journey of two days in coming from camp, which is now upon Pecon Creek. The removal occupied several days, so that we have been travelling most of the time since last date.

On first leaving the Washita, we passed over some rough, hilly country, underlaid in part with red sandstone, and in places with gypsum, with occasional petrifactions of wood of various qualities, and some crystalized gypsum. This land gradually gave place to high, elevated plains, from which very extensive views may be obtained. From one place, nearly the whole system of the Wichita Mountains was in full sight, — from those in the distant east, near Fort Sill, to those in the south-west, — embracing in the range Rainy Mountain, Mount Webster, or Rattlesnake Mountain, so called by the Indians from the immense number of rattlesnakes inhabiting its rocky sides; while in the east, north, and west, stretched out the ever-varying monotony of the plains. Slight elevations and depressions of but a few feet are distinctly marked, one beyond another, for miles and miles. In travelling over these, the scenery is ever changing, and yet unchanged. One is constantly meeting with depressions, ravines, cañons, &c., not discernible at a short distance, all varying one from another, and yet strikingly alike. In looking over the plains, one looks over these, seeing nothing of them;

On one occasion, while travelling on these plains, where there is no water, except the miserable mixture that collects in the buffalo wallows, I became very thirsty; on mentioning the circumstance to the young Indian who was my travelling companion, his eye swept the surface of the plains for a moment, when he struck into a gallop at an angle from the course we were pursuing, bringing up suddenly at a low mound, formed by a peculiar creeping vine, having a very ^{compact} dense dark green foliage, spreading close to the ground at the edges but rising some eighteen inches high in the middle, forming a dense mass of foliage of an oval form some six feet by eight.