

Fahrenheit, strongly impregnated with sulphur and other mineral substances, which incrust the stones, small sticks, leaves, and grass, which dipped into the water, with a cream-colored crust, while a slimy sediment of a deep scarlet adhered to the stones at the bottom. This spring is at the base of a rocky mound, several hundred feet in height, and is a strong body of water, affecting the whole creek into which it flows with a strong sulphurous smell, through its whole subsequent course to the Washita River.

I filled a bottle with water from this spring, in order to have it analysed; but it being a long time before I had any opportunity for procuring the analysis, its peculiar properties became dissipated; & its elements could not be satisfactorily ascertained; though when first put into the bottle it was strongly impregnated with sulphur, as well as other minerals.

CHAPTER XVII.

VISIT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. — COUNCIL AT THE WICHITA AGENCY. — THOMAS WISTAR'S SPEECH. — J. E. RHOADS' SPEECH. — OTHER SPEECHES. — SIMILAR COUNCIL AT THE CHEYENNE AGENCY, AND AT THAT OF THE KIWAS AND COMANCHES. — START FOR CADDO. — ADVENTURE AT THE WASHITA, AND RETURN.

THOUGH the Comanches — with the exception of parties of young warriors, who continued to raid in Texas — kept pretty quiet through the winter, it became very evident, towards spring, that they, with the Cheyennes, meant more than an ordinary season of raiding. The season for procuring robes had been unusually prosperous, and large quantities, amounting in the way of trade to thousands of dollars, were expended in the latest improved revolvers, cartridges, and other ammunition.

Members of Congress, in the mean time, were discussing the propriety of turning the whole Indian work over to the military department, when a portion of the Executive Committee of Friends met at Washington,