

out in bold relief, — deep, cavernous spaces and yawning chasms, — give a jagged roughness to the face of the mountain, from bottom to top. This gives rise to endless varieties of lights and shadows, which absorb the attention, and engross the mind from the contemplation of other and inferior objects.

30th. — Our partially tamed pony, having had sufficient experience of the sweets of domestic life among Kiowas, and not seeing the advantage of more education in that way, took the easier way of securing his independence by leaving us in the night.

After travelling rapidly, we had passed the mountains, but stopped for dinner at the base of Mount Webster, where we found some pure sweet water issuing from its rocky base. I had long been anxious to ascend this, the most elevated of the western Wichitas, but was now too much fatigued and worn out with travel to make the attempt, and was but too glad to arrive at Kicking Bird's camp, which we did about the middle of the afternoon.

Our journey to-day, like most of our first day's travel, lay through barren plains, between broken and isolated mountains, among a growth of the dreary, dead-like mesquite. This tree is naturally very late in putting on its spring garments, at best; but now, like its kindred tree, the locust, is suffering from the attacks of the borer. This gives a sombre aspect to the country, presenting as it does miles and miles of half-dead, broken-down trees. We passed through very many miles of it,

which had this dead-like appearance above ground; but the root, remaining alive, continues to send up briery sprouts, to be in turn cut down by the destroyer.

This tree bears a bean-like seed, in large, long pods, which is much sought after in their season, by the natives, as an article of food. They prepare it by pounding it into a coarse meal, put sugar with it, and mix it with water; then let it slightly ferment, and dry it. They undoubtedly have other methods of preparation, but this gives it a pleasant vinous taste, not disagreeable to the palate. They sometimes break these small cakes, reducing them to meal, and boil in the water in which meat is cooked, making a kind of mush.

The soil south of the mountains is very thin for many miles, when it assumes a better aspect, being richer and covered with good grass. In some places, as we passed, it reached our horses' knees.

It is very noticeable that where the soil is thin and poor the prairie-dog abounds, all through this country, while the better qualities are equally alive with the pocket gopher. Neither of these animals appears in any degree disposed to encroach upon the natural rights of the other.

Game of all kinds is more plentiful south of the mountains than north of them, probably from the fact that the Indians seldom, if ever, encamp there, on account of their fear of being in too close proximity to their Texas neighbors for the safety of their pony herds. We saw many antelopes, some deer, and a great many wolves.

Among the natural objects of interest, passed this ascending was a mountain of Granite with a broad dike of Greenstone running throughout its whole height