

continued

97

The breaks and ravines cutting the country are especially rough and steep at the heads of Salt and Bear Creeks. Were they are from so to 100 feet deep, with steep banks, formed by a kind of lime rock: they are well timbered with cottonwood and hackberry trees of considerable size and water is found in them in small ponds. To the west of the breaks of Salt Creek is a low range of Sand hills. The valley of Crooked Creek, from the point where I first struck it to its mouth is narrow, generally about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide and bordered on both sides by high and rough bluffs, which increase in height on the south side towards the mouth of the Creek. There is good grass all through the valley, but very little timber, The valley of the Cimmaron is mostly Sandy and sterile, the ground is covered with coarse alkali grass, sage brush and low shrubs. There is no timber on this river but on the south sides a good many well timbered ravines intersect the Bluffs and good fresh water can be found in many of them. The water of the Cimmaron is brackish and so much impregnated with alkali as to be almost unfit for use. 10 or 12 miles below the mouth of Sand Creek the river becomes entirely dry, no water was found in Sand Creek near the mouth. Toward the mouth of Sand Creek the valley is very Sandy. and the Creek itself if bordered by heavy Sand Hills, which near the mouth of it, extend to a distance of about 2 miles from it. The prairie between the mouth of Sand Creek and the head of Crooked Creek is of the same character as described above. Water was found on it in many small lakes and ponds, but none of them appear to be permanent, but depend entirely on rains for the Supply of Water. The upper part of Crooked Creek is, from a point 9 miles below the head breaks to near the point where it bends south, well timbered, large cottonwood trees Hackberry and plum bushes form a chain of small groves on both sides of the creek. The water in the creek is not running but consist of a series of Ponds in the bed of the Creek; these ponds become smaller and are placed at large intervals towards the head of the Creek.

The grazing is very poor on account of prairie fires,