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Indians -
Buffalo
Hunting

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The carts, to the number of two hundred and thirteen, advanced in three columns some being drawn by oxen and others by horses. They formed files much longer than would at first be imagined if one did not know ~~that~~ that to each of these conveyances are attached shafts of from fifteen to eighteen feet in length.

In addition some horsemen dispersed in all directions and disappeared in the distance, only coming back in the evening to the place indicated in advance for the camp. Like skilful sailors,

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these children of the prairies march for entire days through hills and valleys which, to the eye of the stranger, offer nothing distinctive, and they arrive in the evening, sometimes in complete darkness, precisely at the point indicated

He had not seen any buffalo but in place of this he brought two cranes, one of which spanned eight feet and three inches. This bird, the flesh of which tastes bad, is abundant in this part of the country. It feeds on roots which it ~~pulls~~ digs out of the ground and pulls up with its bill. When wounded it becomes a redoubtable adversary. Raising its head to the height of a man, it pursues in its turn the huntsman and tries to pluck out his eyes. It has happened that young savages have had their bellies pierced and their intestines devoured by this ferocious bird.

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We had hardly traveled more than a half hour when we caught sight of a herd of buffalo bulls. We recognized them from ~~quite~~ quite a distance by their habit of keeping ~~together~~ farther apart than the cows do. We advanced at a gentle gallop and were within two or three rods of them while they were still grazing peacefully. Then we slowed our horses down to a walk; for, if one goes up softly, they do not take flight until one gets very close to them.

Although they showed little anxiety at our approach, they gave evidence of bad humor. Some threw into the air eddies of dust with their front hoofs; others rolled on the ground like horses, then, with the agility of a hare, they sprang up quickly. A few, more careful of their gravity, looked at us fixedly, letting escape from time to time a dull and muffled bellowing; the repeated

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switching of their tails showed us, nevertheless, that our presence was not any more agreeable to them than to their companions.

At last the signal was given; we strike spurs to our horses and these thick and heavy masses flee swiftly before us. Several are overthrown at the first onslaught; others, feeling themselves mortally wounded, stop, furiously tearing up the ground or pawing it with their front hoofs like rams. Under a bristling tuft of hair their eyes sparkle with rage and warn the most intrepid hunters to keep at a respectful distance.

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