

from the government, and appear to be a shiftless and thriftless race of beings. There was about being erected, at this place, a large church, the timber for which was already on the site, I had an interview with the Priest, who is an agreeable person, and gave us much information about his charge, and the Indians generally. The Chief of the Pottawatomies, whom I met here, is a half-breed, and quite intelligent, speaking English readily. This tribe and the Pawnees are at variance, and the Pottawatomies were about raising an army to drive the Pawnees from their vicinity. The Chief said, a year ago, in 1848, the Pottawatomies attempted to form a treaty of peace with the Pawnees, which the latter would consent to on condition that they would use their influence to effect a like treaty between them (the Pawnees and the Kickapoos.) This was agreed to, and the warriors of the Kickapoos, Kaws, and Soux were assembled, and marched with the Pottawatomies to the residence of the Pawnee Chief, shook hands, and changed position with him, as is their custom when they wish to signify perfect friendship. If peace is doubtful, they advance, salute each other, and then withdraw to their own party. After the salutation of the Chiefs, the Pawnee warriors advanced to greet the warriors of the different nations, till they came to a Kaw whose father had been killed when attempting to make peace with the Pawnees. He said he could not make peace with them that day, and immediately commenced firing upon them, when all rushed to arms, except the Pottawatomies, who retreated at a slow pace, without firing, it being contrary to custom to run or fire a gun when on a mission of peace. But after the Pawnees had pursued and fired upon them for the distance of a half a mile, they then turned upon them with a shout, and killed fifteen men and thirty horses. Thus ended the affair, till last fall, the Pawnees, stole from them thirty of their best horses, and recently six more.

He warned us to beware of the Pawnees, as they were hostile to emigrants, and might attack us, five or six hundred strong. He said their method of attack was, to rush upon a company when least prepared for them, and frighten off their cattle with the most hideous yells. They usually prefer a severe thunder-storm, or a very dark night, for their operations. If the mules and horses are tied, a few will stealthily pass among them, and cut their ropes, when others rush in behind, and frighten them off.

About three miles beyond the Catholic Mission, I saw about a dozen Indians, but none, after that, till we had crossed the