

cottonwood. Council Grove Creek forms an exception to this, as most of the trees enumerated above flourish in its vicinity, and renders it, for that reason, a well-known halting place for caravans, for the repairs of wagons, and the acquisition of spare axles.

“On the uplands the grass is luxuriant, and occasionally is found the wild tea and pilot weed. As you draw near the Pawnee Fork, 99° west of Greenwich, the country changes, almost imperceptibly, until it merges into arid barren wastes. The transition is marked by the occurrence of cacti and other spinose plants, the first of which, we saw in longitude 98° .

“Near the same meridian, the buffalo grass was seen in small quantities, and about noon our party was cheered for the first time by the sight of a small “band” of buffalo, two of which we killed, at the expense of a couple of fine horses, which never recovered from the chase. Horses occasionally fed on grain, become very weak feeding on grass alone, and should never in that condition be subject to quick work. A violation of this precept, has lost many volunteers their horses, and entailed trouble without end on many experienced travelers “Westward bound.” The next day, immense herds of the buffalo were seen.

“We were now on ground which is traversed by the nomadic tribes of Pawnee, Sioux, Osages, and occasionally Camanches. Their range is seldom farther East than Council Grove. The country thence (East) to the western borders of Missouri is in the hands of Indians, owing allegiance to, and receiving stipends from the United States; they live in log houses, cultivate the