

soil, rear cattle, and pursue some of the arts of peace. They form the connecting link between the savage of the plains and the white man of the States.

“The latitude of our camp a few thousand feet Southeast of where the road crosses the Pawnee Fork, is  $38^{\circ} 10' 10''$ ; and the longitude by chronometer, is  $98^{\circ} 55' 22''$ . The height above the sea, indicated approximately by the barometer, is 1,932 feet: the point is but a short distance from the junction of the Pawnee Fork and the Arkansas river.

“The section of the country embraced between this point and Bent's Fort, is totally different in character from that just described; but the change is gradual, and may be anticipated from what has been said in reference to the appearance of the country so far East as the 98th degree, or the 97 meridian.

“Our route from Pawnee Fork to this point was along the Arkansas river. The approximate height of Bent's Fort above the sea, is 3,958 feet; and the height where we first struck the river at the bend, is 1,658 feet; the distance between these points being 311 miles; the river is about seven feet and four-tenths per mile. Its bed is of sand, sometimes of rounded pebbles of the primitive. It is seldom more than 150 yards wide, and but for the quicksands is everywhere fordable.

“The bottom land, a few feet above the level of the water, varies in width from half a mile to two miles, and is generally covered with good nutritious grass. Beyond this, the ground rises by gentle slopes into a wilderness of sand-hills on the South, and into prairie on the North. There are one or two exceptions: for instance, at the

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