

men, who roam the prairies as an occupation, are subjected.

“*July 24th.*—Near the dry mouth of the Big Sandy Creek, the *Yucca Angustifolia*, palmetto of the Spaniards, or soap plant, first made its appearance, and marked a new change in the soil and vegetation of the prairies.

“The narrow strip which I have described as the bottom land of the Arkansas, varying from half a mile to two or three miles wide, contains a luxurious growth of grasses, which by the judicious selection and distribution of the camps, sustained all the animals of the army of the West, while on the river. The only tree of any magnitude found on its course, is the cottonwood (*Populus Canadensis*), and it frequently happens that not one of these is seen in a whole day's journey; and the buffalo dung and wild sage constitute the only fuel to be procured. About 35 miles before reaching Bent's Fort, is found what is called the “Big Timber.” Here the valley of the river widens, and the banks on either side fall towards it in gentle slopes. The “big timber” is a thinly scattered growth of large cottonwoods, not more than three quarters of a mile wide, and three or four miles long. It is here the Chyennes, Arapahoes, and the Kioways sometimes winter, to avail themselves of the scanty supply of wood for fuel, and to let their animals browse on the twigs and bark of the cottonwood. The buffaloes are sometimes driven by the severity of the winter to the same place, to feed upon cottonwood.

“In addition to the cottonwood and grass mentioned, we find in the bottoms wild plum, wild cherry, willow,

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