

Arrangements were also made with Colonel Mizner by General Dodge, for an escort of twenty infantry, ten of whom were to be mounted; this precaution being deemed prudent, if not absolutely necessary, on account of the late depredations of the Indians in the vicinity of the route by which we proposed to return.

EASTWARD BOUND.

All preparations being perfected, we bade our friends at the Fort adieu, at an early hour on Friday morning, and started on our backward course. The weather was now, and had during the past few days, been perfectly delightful. The sun, perhaps a little too hot during mid-day, had blistered our ears and noses somewhat; but the soft, balmy air of the Plains tended to elevate our spirits; and the hazy, dreamy state of the atmosphere, rendered the dissolving views of the distant mountains truly enchanting. Our road for several miles was the same which we had previously followed to the Fort.

DEATH OF THE ELK.

On reaching a point some six miles from the Fort, in the vicinity of a beautiful lake, we were electrified by the appearance of a very large and beautiful Elk-Stag upon the verge of the lake; and apparently transfixed to the spot by some mysterious and fatal power which he could not control. Several shots were fired almost simultaneously, and after staggering a few rods he fell. When we reached the noble animal, life was extinct.

Modesty, while it will not justify any material departure from truth, always forbids the historian of any great achievement from arrogating to himself peculiar prowess,