

the howling of the distant wolf, or the subdued mutterings from the Indian camp, broke the stillness of this first night on the plains.

#### A MORNING SERENADE.

Before daylight, however, the more timid of the party were startled from their slumbers by the most unearthly whoops and yells of the Indians, who were tramping about among the camp fires in front of the tents; and many disordered heads, with anxious and inquiring countenances, were to be seen protruding through the apertures of the tents, to ascertain whether they were to be immediately roasted alive, or allowed a short time in which to say their prayers, and write a few parting words to their distant friends.

All was soon explained however, when it became known that Mr. Durant himself, assisted by General Dodge, Secretary Paddock, and a partially standing, but more generally reclining committee of Elkhorns, had these wild denizens of the plains, under the most complete control; and were only making them dance and perform this most unique and savage morning serenade for their own particular amusement.

Quiet was therefore soon restored, and, after a refreshing morning nap, the party was invited to partake of a sumptuous breakfast before again starting westward.

#### THE TOWN OF COLUMBUS.

This goodly town of Columbus should, however, have more than a passing notice.

It is situated near the confluence of the Loup Fork River with the Platte, and is surrounded by one of the finest agricultural countries in the world. Being near