

of the timber on or in the Platte river, which was the only woods except those on the banks of the Missouri river we could see.

From this point (old Council Bluffs) we took a more western ^{by} direction & about sunset we arrived at the head of a creek called Sapitlon, where was a little timber, & where we made halt for the night, the first stop we made since we left Bellevue now about 30 miles distance. All hands were soon engaged to look for grass for our animals, which was very short & in the greatest part burned off smooth to the ground & to get some dry wood for fire, & to erect the tent.

The chief too, was unusual smart for Indian character, which ~~secured~~ made him more welcome at our supper.

5th Mr. Serpy, who has been with these, & other Indians in these parts, for twenty years, told us that the Pawnee men were unlike other Indian men, as they were not ashamed to lay hold of a plough or any other farming utensil, & only the instruction was wanting to make them industrious.

6th After a disturbed night's rest, — for most all night did wagons arrive to stop here, & therefore a continual hawing geeing & hoing — we rose at day break, & at sunrise, we had breakfast. cups plates & pans washed, & with light hearts ascended the Prairie again. From this creek to the Elk Horn river, about 9 miles is beautiful Prairie, but along the latter stream is ~~also~~ a strip of timber but so poor that it is hardly fit for any thing but fuel. Two "halfbreeds" keep a ferry here, & without delay ~~they~~ put us across. From this place to the Platte, where we intended to cross it, a distance of about 10 miles, is quite low Prairie

not