

Welcome morning at length dawned, to the inexpressible relief of all. Breakfast was cooked and eaten with hearty relish; and before the young sun had gilded the lofty summits of the pine forest the train was in readiness to proceed. Just as the teams were preparing to move, about twenty mounted Arrapaho warriors, daubed with hideous colors and dressed in picturesque costumes, armed with spears, bows and arrows, tomahawks and knives, rode into the opening from the road along which we were shortly to travel. These Indians were stalwart fellows, tall and straight as arrows. As they spurred clear of the timber, and advanced toward the centre of the glade, they presented a fine appearance. But their sudden and unheralded advent conveyed an impression far from agreeable. The women uttered low screams and exclamations of alarm; the children clung to mothers in terror, and even the faces of the men showed a degree of very grave concern.

Following closely on the heels of the warriors' horses came a number of mounted Indian women and children. Most reassuring and welcome was the appearance of the latter, for it bespoke no present hostility on the part of the savages. Had they intended an attack on our party they would have left their squaws and "papposes" behind. This was in accordance with all known experience of Indians and their peculiarities of conducting war. The scowling savages, with bedizened faces, glowing in brilliant vermilion and ghastly green and yellow, set off with picturesque head-dresses and handsome buckskin suits, decorated with bright-hued beads and eagle feathers, advanced and made salutations of peace and good will. The men in the party responded with an apparent spirit of cordiality. However, there was an ill-concealed insolence in the manner of the Indians, and a low, cunning leer in their glittering, snakish eyes as they shot rapid, penetrating glances here and there. In an instant, with a sort of instinct, they took a mental inventory of everything—the number of men capable of bearing arms, the women and children, and wagons and teams. Nothing seemed to escape their notice. Notwithstanding their profuse professions of amity, our party watched every look and movement like hawks. They made it convenient to keep their weapons in their hands in readiness for use at a moment's warning. This want of confidence was not lost on the savages; for the malignant, devilish frown deepened, and they began conversing rapidly and in an undertone in their gibberish, which consisted principally of a series of gutturals and swinish grunts. By this time the entire party had filed into the opening. There were probably fifty—bucks, squaws and papposes—besides a pack of ugly, yelping dogs. The Indians, sniffing the savory remnants of breakfast, freely circulated among the wagons, peeping under the canvas covers with a swaggering impudence, and eagerly picked up every scrap of food that had been thrown aside. Everything was soon in readiness, and, at a signal from the leader, the wagons were put in motion. For a minute or more the Indians stood silently observing the departure of the train, and then wheeling their horses rode

sullenly away to the east, and soon were lost in the depths of the pine forest.

Our train pushed on through the dense pine belt until noon. Straggling bands of Arrapahoes were met all along the road; gaudily decked warriors, from whose spears and broad leathern wampums hung scalps still raw and bloody, the coarse, black, snaky locks showing they had been rudely torn from the heads of Indian foes; filthy-looking squaws, squalid children and mangy, snarling dogs. Both bucks and squaws were mounted, while the dogs and papposes were conveyed in the usual Indian "drags"—two poles lashed to each side of a pony, and a buffalo hide fastened loosely across from one to the other of the forraer. The ends of the poles dragged on the ground. On this primitive sleigh and vehicle combined children, dogs, blankets, robes and provisions were deposited and conveyed from place to place. The savages did not offer to molest our party; but they scowled like painted devils at us, and often yielded the road with great reluctance. Our progress was necessarily slow and heavy, the rain of the previous night having fallen in such quantities as to render the road extremely muddy.

About twelve o'clock the train emerged from the gloomy pine forest, and came out on the summit of a high, bold mountain. Here we halted for dinner. This mountain could not be less than one thousand feet high, and commanded a magnificent view of the wide, level plain, stretching far away from the base for miles. From the elevation we could easily see the North Platte some ten miles to the west, and trace its winding course by a belt of dark, green timber fringing on either side the grassy banks. To the great concern and alarm of all, a large Indian lodge, or village, was seen just at the foot of the mountain. The road the train must soon follow passed through the centre of this village. Not less than eighty large skin tents were pitched along the verdant banks of a little stream that poured its icy waters out of the range of mountain spurs over which we had just passed, and meandered across the prairie toward the Platte. Drove of piebald ponies thickly covered the plain, and browsed upon the luxuriant herbage that spread like a green carpet. Hundreds of swarthy Arrapahoes were seen swarming about the tents, or lounging lazily on the grass around smoldering camp fires; for, although it was midsummer, the air in those elevated mountain regions was raw and chilly.

The arrival of the train did not long escape the sharp vision of these American Arabs. Soon, by twos and threes, and then by dozens, they came straggling along the rough, steep side of the mountain. We found them just as inquisitive and far more insolent than those encountered during the day. Some begged for victuals; others almost demanded them. Food given them was devoured ravenously. At least five hundred Indians, principally men, had reached our halting place before the train was in readiness to commence the descent. The road was narrow and tortuous, leading down the precipitous side of the mountain. It was both difficult and