

night to attack us. This was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the fort, in full view of the blockhouse and stockades. They had purposely struck out of their direct route, to place themselves in view of their intended place of attack. Here we found upward of 100 pairs of old shoes, some scalps, remnants of leather and buffalo-skins, saddle-cloths made of buffalo robes, whips, pieces of old saddles, rolls of bark containing war caps, bark and willow dishes; also, paunches and bladders of water for a journey. Upward of 100 willows, about six feet long, with a fork about the middle, were stripped of their bark, and stuck in the ground. This, I am told, is for the purpose of hanging up their war-caps before attacking an enemy. We also observed some places where they had seated themselves in the long grass by twos, threes, and fours, to adjust their war-dresses. At every seat we found a quantity of swan's down, colored with red earth, under which we found from one to four small stones, about the size of an egg, also daubed over with red earth; and near by were stuck in the ground the same number of willows, about two feet long, stripped of their bark, and daubed with the same red earth. Such a place is called by the Indians "the spot of the last sacrifice," as it is here that they adjust themselves for the battle, and generally make a sacrifice of different articles they have brought with them for that purpose, to insure the protection of the Supreme Being, or, as they term him, the Master of Life.

Having collected several articles we proceeded on the road of the war-party, who, in coming down, had kept close to the woods, following every bend and turn of the river and frequently going down to the water's side. Their trail was like a well-beaten buffalo-track in the long grass, and we supposed the party had consisted of upward of 100 men, though they had but few horses. From the different construction of their shoes, we concluded they must have been of three different tribes—Yankton, Gens des Feuilles, and some other. We also picked up several pipe-stems and some of their arrows, the feathers of which were of the