

valley, in which the stream
breaking into small trib-
butes affording water. At
the hunters joined us with
While preparing to start
ment, they found them-
surrounded by a party of
informed them that their
ered a large Utah village
lade, (South Park,) and
party, consisting of almost
village, except those who
to war, were going over
The main body had as-
k of the river, which af-
fected than the branch we were
had followed our trail, it
ght add our force to theirs.
them that we were too far
t, but would join them in
the Indians went off appa-
By the temperature of
elevation here was 10,430
the pine forest continued,
ed.

On, we continued our road—
ugh open pines, with a very
We surprised a herd of
the shade at a small lake
; and they made the dry
as they broke through the
e of about three-quarters of
ing ascended perhaps 800
the summit of the divid-
would thus have an esti-
of 11,200 feet. Here the
elf into small branches and
nearly in the summit of the
ery narrow. Immediately
reen valley, through which
d a short distance opposite
tains, whose summits were
ks of naked rock. We
satisfied ourselves that im-
these mountains was the
the Arkansas river—most
g directly with the little
which gathered its waters
untains near by. Descrip-
e character of the moun-
e head of the Arkansas,
arance amply justified, de-
making any attempt to reach
have involved a greater
an now remained at my dis-

arter of an hour, we de-
summit of the Pass into
our road having been very
and interrupted by the pines
the mountain side. Turn-
ing, we encamped on a bot-
pass near its head, which
is in the dividing crest of the

Rocky mountains, and, according to the best
information we could obtain, separated only
by the rocky wall of the ridge from the head
of the main Arkansas river. By the obser-
vations of the evening, the latitude of our
encampment was $39^{\circ} 20' 24''$, and south of
which, therefore, is the head of the Arkan-
sas river. The stream on which we had
encamped is the head of either the *Fontaine-
qui-bouit*, a branch of the Arkansas, or the
remotest head of the south fork of the
Platte; as which, you will find it laid down
on the map. But descending it only through
a portion of its course, we have not been
able to settle this point satisfactorily.

In the evening, a band of buffalo furnished
a little excitement, by charging through the
camp.

On the following day, we descended the
stream by an excellent buffalo trail, along
the open grassy bottom of the river. On
our right, the bayou was bordered by a
mountainous range, crested with rocky and
naked peaks; and below, it had a beautiful
park-like character of pretty level prairies,
interspersed among low spurs, wooded
openly with pine and quaking asp, contrast-
ing well with the denser pines which swept
around on the mountain sides. Descending
always the valley of the stream, towards
noon we descried a mounted party descend-
ing the point of a spur, and judging them to
be Arapahoes—who, defeated or victorious,
were equally dangerous to us, and with
whom a fight would be inevitable—we hur-
ried to post ourselves as strongly as possible
on some willow islands in the river. We
had scarcely halted when they arrived,
proving to be a party of Utah women, who
told us that on the other side of the ridge
their village was fighting with the Arapa-
hoes. As soon as they had given us this in-
formation, they filled the air with cries and
lamentations, which made us understand
that some of their chiefs had been killed.

Extending along the river, directly ahead
of us, was a low piny ridge, leaving be-
tween it and the stream a small open bottom,
on which the Utahs had very injudiciously
placed their village, which, according to the
women, numbered about 300 warriors. Ad-
vancing in the cover of the pines, the Ara-
pahoes, about daylight, charged into the vil-
lage, driving off a great number of their
horses, and killing four men; among them,
the principal chief of the village. They
drove the horses perhaps a mile beyond the
village, to the end of a hollow, where they
had previously fortified at the edge of the
pines. Here the Utahs had instantly at-
tacked them in turn, and, according to the
report of the women, were getting rather
the best of the day. The women pressed
us eagerly to join with their people, and

would immediately have provided us with
the best horses at the village; but it was
not for us to interfere in such a conflict.
Neither party were our friends, or under our
protection; and each was ready to prey up-
on us that could. But we could not help
feeling an unusual excitement at being with-
in a few hundred yards of a fight, in which
500 men were closely engaged, and hearing
the sharp cracks of their rifles. We were
in a bad position, and subject to be attacked
in it. Either party which we might meet,
victorious or defeated, was certain to fall
upon us; and, gearing up immediately, we
kept close along the pines of the ridge, hav-
ing it between us and the village, and keep-
ing the scouts on the summit, to give us
notice of the approach of Indians. As we
passed by the village, which was immedi-
ately below us, horsemen were galloping to
and fro, and groups of people were gathered
around those who were wounded and dead,
and who were being brought in from the
field. We continued to press on, and, cross-
ing another fork, which came in from the
right, after having made fifteen miles from
the village, fortified ourselves strongly in
the pines, a short distance from the river.

During the afternoon, Pike's Peak had
been plainly in view before us, and, from
our encampment, bore N. 87° E. by com-
pass. This was a familiar object, and it
had for us the face of an old friend. At its
foot were the springs, where we had spent
a pleasant day in coming out. Near it were
the habitations of civilized men; and it
overlooked the broad smooth plains, which
promised us an easy journey to our home.

The next day we left the river, which
continued its course towards Pike's Peak;
and taking a southeasterly direction, in
about ten miles we crossed a gentle ridge,
and, issuing from the South Park, found
ourselves involved among the broken spurs
of the mountains which border the great
prairie plains. Although broken and ex-
tremely rugged, the country was very inter-
esting, being well watered by numerous af-
fluents to the Arkansas river, and covered
with grass and a variety of trees. The
streams, which, in the upper part of their
course, ran through grassy and open hol-
lows, after a few miles all descended into
deep and impracticable cañons, through
which they found their way to the Arkan-
sas valley. Here the buffalo trails we had
followed were dispersed among the hills, or
crossed over into the more open valleys of
other streams.

During the day our road was fatiguing
and difficult, reminding us much, by its steep
and rocky character, of our travelling the
year before among the Wind river moun-
tains; but always at night we found some