

valley, in which the stream
 breaking into small trib-
 buttles 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-
 cended the branch we were
 had followed our trail, in
 to add our force to theirs.
 them that we were too far
 to, but would join them in
 the Indians went off appa-
 By the temperature of
 elevation here was 10,430
 the pine forest continued,
 and.

On, we continued our road—
 through 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
 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
 self into small branches and
 nearly in the summit of the
 very narrow. Immediately
 green valley, through which
 and a short distance opposite
 mountains, whose summits were
 like naked rock. We
 satisfied ourselves that im-
 these mountains was the
 the Arkansas river—most
 directly with the little
 which gathered its waters
 mountains near by. Descrip-
 ed character of the moun-
 the 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-
 scended the Pass into
 our road having been very
 and interrupted by the pines
 the mountain side. Turn-
 ing, we encamped on a bot-
 tom 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, created 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 pine 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