

"Well, that is odd."

"You would think it more odd did you see them tear up the grass round their houses, and leave the flowers only."

"I say, you must be cramming me."

"Cramming you! I assure you solemnly I have found the certain flowers which surround their little abodes spared with much taste. Prairie dogs are gardeners; they leave the *Hedeoma Hirta*, the *Solanum Triflorum*, *Lupinus Pusillus*, the *Erigeron Divaricatum*, *Dysodia Chrysanthemoides*, *Ellisia Myctagenea*, and the *Panicum Virgatum*."

"I would not have believed this had I read it."

"I assure you it is solemnly true, also that they are governed by a Republic."

"Oh, that's too good."

"Nevertheless true that the several millions of prairie dog townships, full of life and motion, are governed as Republics."

"I can't believe it. But has this prairie dog, this resemblance to a squirrel, no amicable relations with other animals?"

"Yes, with the rattlesnake and a small kind of owl, usually found at the entrance of their lodges."

"Ha, ha, ha! Has this dog no enemies?"

"Yes, two, the wolf and the fox."

In conversation such as this the drive over the prairies passed rapidly away, and they were now nearing the creek on the banks of which the rancho to which they