

are as distinct as if only made a few months ago. All the buffalo trails crossing the plains lead to water, and are narrow, showing that when they travelled they always went in single file or as it is called, in Indian file. Occasionally when the river widens out considerably the water is very shallow, passing over beds of quicksand and ooze, in which our boats frequently stuck, causing trouble to get them out before the drifting sand accumulated around and imbedded them. An incident which occurred to the writer a little later in our journey, may be mentioned here. In one of the great coulées of these Bad Lands I found it necessary to cross the bed of a small brook which leads from the table-land but which, like most small creeks at this season of the year, was dry, with a bottom apparently of hard sandy clay, on which I stepped, reaching about the middle of the brook, when to my surprise my leg sank up to my knee; placing my other foot down that also sank, and before I could throw myself forward I had sunk up to the bottom of my waistcoat. Fortunately, however, I managed to grab a sage-bush on the margin of the brook and with difficulty pull myself out of the cold slimy sandy ooze. One of my men after sounding the depth with a ten-foot pole remarked: "If you had not grabbed that bush only your hat would have been left, but we should have known where you had gone."

ISLANDS.

We passed many small islands, all more or less wooded and covered with rich verdure of grasses and shrubs. Towards sunset as our boats glide past some of these green spots, often surrounded by clear rippling water, we hear the cooing of the dove and the songs of numerous small birds, and forget the troubles and anxieties we have had in bringing our boats through the shallow waters and quicksands.

"BAD LANDS."

For the past two or three days we have been passing through the "Bad Lands" of this locality. The river averages about 900 feet wide with valleys 500 to 700 feet deep. On both sides are high buttes and long stretches of steep banks composed of sands, clays and sandstones. Wild sage, cactus and a few grasses appear to be all the vegetation these lands will support. These desert