

dispatched two of his younger brothers ahead, to return and meet us with his pipe and stem of ceremony, and to relate no news whatever, nor answer any questions. Having given them sufficient time, we sent Little Shell ahead, requesting him to relate no news until after the ceremony of smoking. We soon perceived all the Indians coming from the fort at full speed, with nothing on but their breech-clouts, shoes, and weapons. Little Shell, who acted as commander-in-chief, galloped on, myself next to him; we passed the Indians without saying a word, and on to the river-side, where we found everybody alarmed. No one knew what was the matter, but the mysterious proceedings of our two messengers had caused them to suppose the enemy was at our heels. We crossed Panbian river and dismounted; the pipe was lighted and passed around. Little Shell then related our adventure, paying me the compliment that my keen eyesight had saved them from the enemy.

This was about 2 p. m. During the remainder of the day the Indians were forming a plan to pursue the Sioux by night. About dark we perceived a party of men, women, and children coming down to the E. side of Red river. They proved to be a band of freemen, almost naked, who left their old camp at the foot of the Hair hills yesterday, and had come across the plains. About eleven o'clock this morning they arrived at the point of Two Rivers, where they fell upon a broad road and found several articles which they knew to be Sioux property. This gave them a great alarm; and while they were still looking about, picking up what they could find, they saw us coming. They instantly ran along the woods, down the bank, and thence along the shore, where they made a raft and crossed over, leaving their carts and horses standing on the edge of the plain. Those were the horses we had seen, one of which was white. Thus all the day's adventures proved to be mutual false alarms.

This evening another freeman arrived from the salt lake on Park river, bringing two cartloads of grease. This man fell upon the war road at the Grand Point, S. of the Bois