

them failed in their objects, and unable, for want of pecuniary means, to get back to their native lands, they married Indian women and settled down to the wild life of the hunter. From these alliances originated the greater part of the half-breed population which spreads over the semi-wild regions of America.

But to go back to our journey. That day we travelled thirty miles. Rather a long march for horses that had just ended a long journey by railway; and after leaving Fargo, living on grass too tender yet to be substantial. Furthermore, most of them were not broken to harness. The same speed was kept up the two following days; the result being that the horses failed rapidly in flesh and in strength. On the morning of the 18th we found many of them disabled, and two of them went down to rise no more. The reasons the Commissioner had for ordering such marches are still a mystery to me; for, if water was sometimes scarce along the road, the river being almost always in view, could easily be reached across the prairie.

The capacity of Col. French, as commander of the expedition, was already being questioned among the men. We began to discuss what would become of us if, when once on the vast prairies, several hundred miles from human help, he would attempt to make marches such as we were then experiencing.

The disabled horses being unable to go as fast as the rest, were left to follow behind in charge of a small party of men, and it fell to my lot to be one of them. As for the main body, they went on as fast as before, and reached