

THE CROW INDIANS.

The following account of the present condition and habits of the Crow tribe of Indians, is given by a correspondent of the *Chicago Tribune*, writing from Fort Phil Kearny, D. T.

"Absareoka is the Indian name for Crow. The nomadic Indians known as the Mountain Crows, number about two thousand souls. They live in the country which lies one hundred miles east, and the same distance west, of the Big Horn River, and near the base of the Big Horn Mountains. They have lived there from time beyond the memory of their oldest men. But little is known of their past history. It is supposed that they came far from the north more than three hundred years ago. They were at one time the most powerful tribe in the North-west, but at present are weak, and unable to cope with their numerous enemies. All other Indians seem to be against them, and repeated attempts have been made to drive them away from their country.

"The Crows are poor, possessing but few ponies; and the few they have are poor in quality and rapidly decreasing in numbers. Other Indians are constantly stealing from them, and they can neither buy nor steal enough to make up for their losses. An Absareoka chief who possesses a dozen ponies is called in his tribe wealthy. The men are ignorant and slothful, and look upon labor as degrading and only fit for women. Riding their ponies after buffaloes and stealing horses from neighboring tribes is the extent of their labors, and in such exercises they find great pleasure. They compel their women to do all the labor, and often reward the overworked creatures with neglect and cruelty. The squaws are sometimes sold to the whites, and a pretty one may be got for a pony. One of the chiefs offered me his daughter in exchange for my horse. She is young and pretty, and I thought her cheap at the price, but, for reasons known to discreet husbands, I declined his generous offer.

"When a buffalo is killed the entrails are torn out and thrown on the ground near the carcass, and the feast is prepared. The papooses thrust their faces into the heart and liver, and eat with the vim of hungry wolves. The squaws wipe the paunch over the grass and tear it into strips a foot long and two inches wide—these strips are tied into bunches of knots and swallowed without much chewing ceremony. The large bones are broken with stones, and the marrow dug out with the fingers, goes down with the paunch. Cartilage, almost as hard as bone, is chopped a little with a knife, and in large chunks passes away. The muscle is cut into large strips; one end of a strip is put into the mouth and drawn in with the tongue, and snake like, it slips down into the great vat. The animal is eaten uncooked. And in their haste they sometimes eat the flesh while it is yet quivering with life. A dozen Indians can finish a buffalo at one sitting. On Tongue River I saw a little squaw put herself outside of at least fifteen pounds of buffalo, which performance made a wonderful change in her personal appearance.

"Stealing with them is an accomplishment and a virtue. Nothing within their reach is safe. Not long since one of the gentle maidens walked into my tent and smoothed her hair with my tooth brush. On making her departure she very skillfully relieved me of a number of articles of no value to herself, but very useful to myself, among them my soap.

"The Crows possess thousands of dogs,

but, unlike other tribes, they do not eat them. They hold them in superstitious reverence, call them "good medicine," and love them almost as much as they do their children. They are a cross between the wolf and the dog, and are of all sizes and colors. They never follow the men, but remain constantly with the women. It is an every-day sight to see an old squaw with twenty or thirty dogs following at her heels. Not long since I rode out to one of their villages which they had pitched near Fort C. F. Smith. As I approached the tepees hundreds of these savage dogs rushed towards me, snapping and howling like angry devils, and kept up their infernal music until I went away. The squaws were drying wild plums and cherries on the ground among dry buffalo chips. The papooses were perfectly naked, and danced around me crying "sugar, sugar," I had no sugar to give them, but flung at them handfuls of dried apples.

"These Indians take their names from striking events that occur in their childhood. The following are the names of a few of the women with whom I am acquainted: Barsah, or "The Runner;" Omatapis, or "The Woman with a Largo Neck;" Eestish, or "The Rabbit;" Panahadea, or "The old Porcupine;" Ooataanoos, or "The Woman who digs gold in the mountains;" Apooahirish, or "One who lives in the clouds;" Soraks, or "The child of the Thunder-storm."

"They are much attached to their own people. None of them can be found living with other tribes. A few of the women are living with white men who are in their country. None of the tribe have ever been east of the Missouri River. This summer several of the chiefs are going to Washington with their agent, Dr. Matthews, to see the white people and talk with their Great Father, the President."

PARAGUAYAN ARMY OF AMAZONS.

(From the *Buenos Ayres Standard*.)

Lieut. Col. Margaret Ferreira and Capt. Anita Gill, are the female officers in command at the pass of the river Tebicuari, where a very respectable force of girls and women is held under arms to dispute the passage of the river by the Allies. This is the tenor of the advices that last came down from Paraguay, and every well informed person in military matters knows that they are correct.

Brigadier-General Eliza Lynch, with the main body of the female army, is encamped midway between the pass of a river and a small inland town. On the road to Villa Rica the right wing of her army, under the command of the mother of Captain Herrero, has deployed slightly to the left, so as to hang on the invaders should they effect a crossing of the river, and cut up Mrs. Col. Margaret Ferreira and her heroic girls. Relays of girls and women keep constantly arriving at the headquarters of the female commander-in-chief. From what we gather from letters and statements, it would seem that the male portion of the Paraguayan army is very reduced, and are occupied in defending the fortress of Humaita, the positions near Timbo, the encampment at Villa Rica, and the fortification at Lambare. The guerrilla portion of the campaign—or what is termed here the "guerra de recursos"—is entrusted to the women of Paraguay; and reliable data have been received that troops to the north, near the Tranquera Loreto are exclusively composed of women.

As to the exact number of women under arms in Paraguay, at the present it is impossible to say, owing to the varied and conflicting statements; but for years past a great portion of the heavy work attending on camp life, has been performed by the unfortunate daughters of that once lovely country! Even in trenches around Humaita the weak arm of women has shovelled out the earth to make a grave for the allied invaders! Female chasques have gone from point to point over the country with despatches; the steamers and vessels in the port of Asuncion have been frequently discharged and laden by the trembling hands of the women in the capital. Everything of worth and value that these poor women possessed has been snatched from them to assist in the defence of their country! They have toiled in the field for the last four years; they have sowed, raised, and harvested the crops; they have made clothes for the soldiers from the fibres of plants; they have maintained the hospitals, cured for the wounded and sick; they have supplied the army—and now, with Satanic power, they are dragged to the front, and placed in the breach to fight the whole Allied army.

We, for our part, demand of the Foreign Ministers to send commissioners up to Paraguay to investigate the real condition of affairs and report thereon. If, as the news goes, the Allies, in attempting to cross the Tebicuari, have to fight the girls, then the honor of Europe is at stake in at once stopping this horrible war. The allies themselves must see the utter impossibility of carrying on hostilities upon such terms; supposing that it were possible the allied army could afford a regiment or a division so mercenary and so base as to fight the poor Paraguayan women, and if in the battle the Allies were so fortunate as to win the day, not all the wealth of Matto Grosso, not all the trophies of Paraguay, would compensate for the tarnished honor of such an ill-starred victory. If the war is to be carried on under such circumstances, if the Allies must fight the women of Paraguay to carry out the tenets of the tripple alliance, then at least let it be on equal terms; let women be ranked against women, and man against man. South America is a strange land, where such eventualities come to pass, and when women have fought it out on their own line, and the men also fought it out on theirs, then let us take to the children, send for Gen Tom Thumb and his wife, and thus bring to a felicitous conclusion this never to be forgotten Triple Alliance War.

EXTRAORDINARY ECLIPSE.—The total eclipse of the sun which is to take place on the 18th of August next, will present such a long duration of darkness that the astronomers are anticipated it with unusual interest. From near Aden the central line of the eclipse extends to the southern coast of New Guinea, crossing Hindoostan, the Bay of Bengal, the Malayan peninsula, and the Gulf of Siam on the way; and at certain places on this line the duration of total darkness will be at 6:46. At the date in question the moon will not be more than six hours from its perigee, while the sun will not be far from its apogee; a twofold condition which increases the apparent diameter of the sun, nearly at the smallest. Hence the prolonged darkness. Such a chance occurs but rarely, and we cannot wonder that a strong desire exists to make the most of it endeavours to solve certain highly important questions in physical science.