

TOUR OF MR LA TROBE OVER THE HUNTING GROUNDS OF THE OSAGE AND PAWNEE INDIANS. IN THE FAR WEST, ON THE BORDERS OF MEXICO. BY WASHINGTON IRVING.

CHAPTER I.

In the often-vaunted regions of the far West, several hundred miles beyond the Mississippi, extends a vast tract of uninhabited country, where there is neither to be seen the log-house of the white man, nor the wigwam of the Indian. It consists of great grassy plains, interspersed with forests and groves, and clumps of trees, and watered by the Arkansas, the Grand Canadian, the Red River, and all their tributary streams. Over these fertile and verdant wastes still roam the elk, the buffalo, and the wild horse, in all their native freedom. These, in fact, are the hunting-grounds of the various tribes of the far West. Thither repair the Osage, the Creek, the Delaware, and other tribes, that have linked themselves with civilization, and lived within the vicinity of the white settlements. Here resort also the Pawnees, the Comanches, and other fierce and as yet independent tribes, the nomades of the prairies, or the inhabitants of the skirts of the Rocky Mountains. The region I have mentioned forms a debatable ground of these warring and vindictive tribes. None of them presume to erect a permanent habitation within its borders. Their hunters and "braves" repair thither in numerous bodies during the season of game; throw up their transient encampments, formed of light bowers, branches, and skins; commit hasty slaughter upon the innumerable herds that graze the prairies; and, having loaded themselves with venison and buffalo meat, retreat rapidly from the dangerous neighbourhood. These expeditions, partake, always, of a warlike character; the hunters are always armed for action, offensive and defensive, and are bound to practise incessant vigilance. Should they in their excursions meet the hunters of an adverse tribe, savage conflicts take place. Their encampments, too, are always subject to be surprised by wandering war parties, and their hunters, when scattered in pursuit of game, to be captured or massacred by lurking foes. Mouldering skulls and skeletons, bleaching in some dark ravine, or near the traces of a hunting camp, occasionally mark the scene of a foregone act of blood, and let the wanderer know the dangerous nature of the region he is traversing. It is the purport of the following pages to narrate a month's excursion to these noted hunting-grounds, a part of which had not, as yet, been explored by white men.

It was early in October, 1832, that I (Washington Irving) arrived at Fort Gibson, a frontier post of the far West, situated on the Grand River, near its confluence with the Arkansas. I had been travelling for a month past with a small party from St. Louis, up the banks of the Missouri, and along the frontier line of agencies and missions that extend from the Missouri to the Arkansas. Our party was headed by one of the commissioners appointed by the Government of the United States to superintend the settlement of the Indian tribes migrating from the east to the west of the Mississippi. In the discharge of his duties, he was thus visiting the various outposts of civilization.

Another of my fellow-travellers was Mr La Trobe, an Englishman by birth, but descended from a foreign stock, and who had all the buoyancy and accommodating spirit of a native of the Continent. Having rambled over many countries, he had become, to a certain degree, a citizen of the world, easily adapting himself to every change. He was a man of a thousand occupations; a botanist, a geologist, a hunter of beetles and butterflies, a musical amateur, a sketcher of no mean pretensions, in short, a complete virtuoso; added to which, he was a very indefatigable, if not always a very successful, sportsman. Never had a man more irons in the fire, and, consequently, never was a man more busy or more cheerful. My third fellow-traveller was one who had accompanied the former from Europe, and travelled with him as his Telemachus; being apt, like his prototype, to give occasional perplexity and disquiet to his Mentor. He was a young Swiss count, scarce twenty-one years of age, full of talent and spirit, but gaily in the extreme, and prone to every kind of wild adventure. Having made this mention of my comrades, I must not pass over unnoticed a personage of inferior rank, but of all-pervading

and all-prevailing importance; the squire, the groom, the cook, the tentman, in a word, the factotum, and, I may add, the universal meddler and marplot of our party. This was a little swarthy, meagre, wiry French creole, named Antoine, but familiarly dubbed Tonish; a kind of Gil Blas of the frontier, who had passed a scrambling life, sometimes among white men, sometimes among Indians; sometimes in the employ of traders, missionaries, and Indian agents; sometimes mingling with the Osage hunters. We picked him up at St. Louis, near which he has a small farm, an Indian wife, and a brood of half-blood children. According to his own account, however, he had a wife in every tribe; in fact, if all that this little vagabond said of himself were to be believed, he was without morals, without caste, without creed, without country, and even without language, for he spoke a Babylonish jargon of mingled French, English, and Osage. He was, withal, a notorious braggart, and a liar of the first water. It was amusing to hear him vapour and gasconade about his terrible exploits and hairbreadth escapes in war and hunting. In the midst of his volubility, he was prone to be seized by a spasmodic gasping, as if the springs of his jaws were suddenly unhinged; but I am apt to think it was caused by some falsehood that stuck in his throat, for I generally remarked that, immediately afterwards, there bolted forth a lie of the first magnitude.

Our route had been a pleasant one, quartering ourselves occasionally at the separated establishments of the Indian missionaries, but in general camping out in the fine groves that border the streams, and sleeping under the shelter of a tent. During the latter part of our tour, we had pressed forward, in hopes of arriving in time at Fort Gibson, to accompany the Osage hunters on their autumnal visit to the buffalo prairies. Indeed, the imagination of the young Count had become completely excited on the subject. The grand scenery and wild habits of the prairies had set his spirits madding, and the stories that little Tonish told him of Indian braves and Indian beauties, of hunting buffaloes, and catching wild horses, had set him all agog for a dash into savage life. He was a bold and hard rider, and longed to be scouring the hunting-grounds. It was amusing to his youthful anticipations of all that he was to see, and do, and enjoy, when mingling among the Indians, and participating in their hardy adventures; and it was still more amusing to listen to the gasconadings of little Tonish, who volunteered to be his faithful squire in all his perilous undertakings; to teach him how to catch the wild horses, bring down the buffalo, and win the smiles of Indian princesses. "And if we can only get sight of a prairie on fire!" said the young Count. "By gar, I'll set one on fire myself!" said the little Frenchman.

CHAPTER II.

The anticipations of a young man are prone to meet with disappointment. Unfortunately for the Count's scheme of wild campaigning, before we reached the end of our journey, we heard that the Osage hunters had set forth upon their expedition to the hunting grounds. The young Count still determined, if possible, to follow on their track, and overtake them; and, for this purpose, stopped short at the Osage Agency, a few miles distant from Fort Gibson to make enquiries and preparations. His travelling companion, Mr La Trobe, stopped with him; while the Commissioner and myself proceeded to Fort Gibson, followed by the faithful and voracious Tonish. I hinted to him his promises to follow the Count in his campaigns, but I found the little varlet had a keen eye to self-interest. He was aware that the Commissioner, from his official duties, would remain for a long time in the country, and be likely to give him permanent employment, while the sojourn of the Count would but be transient. The gasconading of the little braggart was suddenly, therefore, at an end. He spoke not another word to the young Count about Indians, buffaloes, and wild horses, but, putting himself tacitly in the train of the Commissioner, jogged silently after us to the garrison. On arriving at the fort, however, a new chance presented itself for a cruise on the prairies. We learnt that a company of mounted rangers, or riflemen, had departed but three days previous, to make a wide exploring tour, from the Arkansas to the Red River, including a part of the Pawnee hunting-grounds, where

no party of white men had as yet penetrated. Here, then, was an opportunity of ranging over these dangerous and interesting regions under the safeguard of a powerful escort; protected, too, by privilege; for the Commissioner, in virtue of his office, could claim the services of this newly-raised corps of riflemen, and the very country they were to explore was destined for the settlement of some of the migrating tribes. Our plan was promptly formed and put into execution. A couple of Creek Indians were sent off express by the commander of Fort Gibson to overtake the rangers, and bring them to a halt until the Commissioner and his party should be able to join them. As we should have a march of three or four days through a wild country before we could overtake the company of rangers, an escort of fourteen mounted riflemen, under the command of a lieutenant, was assigned us.

We sent word to the young Count and Mr La Trobe at the Osage agency, of our new plan and prospects, and invited them to accompany us. The Count, however could not forego the delights he had promised himself in mingling with absolutely savage life. In reply, he agreed to keep with us until we should come upon the trail of the Osage hunters, when it was his fixed resolve to strike off into the wilderness in pursuit of them; and his faithful Mentor, though he groaned at the madness of the scheme, was too staunch a friend to desert him. All the arrangements being made, we left Fort Gibson on the morning of the 10th of October, and, crossing the river in front of it, set off for the rendezvous at the Agency. A ride of a few miles brought us to the foot of the Verdigris, a wild rocky scene, overhung with forest trees. We descended to the bank of the river, and crossed in straggling file; the horses stepping cautiously from rock to rock, and, in a manner, feeling about for a foot-hold beneath the rushing and brawling stream.

Our little Frenchman, Tonish, brought up the rear with the pack-horses. He was in high spirits, having experienced a kind of promotion. In our journey hitherto he had driven the waggon, which he seemed to consider a very inferior employ; now he was master of the horse. He sat, perched like a monkey, behind the pack on one of the horses; he sang, he shouted, he yelled like an Indian, and ever and anon blasphemed the loitering pack-horses.

As we were crossing the ford, we saw, on the opposite shore, a Creek Indian on horseback. He had paused to reconnoitre us from the brow of a rock, and formed a picturesque object, in unison with the wild scenery around him. He wore a bright blue hunting-shirt, trimmed with scarlet fringe; a gaily-coloured handkerchief was bound round his head, something like a turban, with one end hanging down beside his ear; he held a long rifle in his hand, and looked like a wild Arab on the prowl. Our loquacious and ever-meddling little Frenchman called out to him in his Babylonish jargon, but the savage, having satisfied his curiosity, tossed his hand in the air, turned the head of his steed, and, galloping along the shore, soon disappeared among the trees.

Geelong Advertiser.

In consequence of the contemplated change in the conveyance of the mails between Sydney and Port Phillip, whereby a twice-a-week communication will be effected, the days of issue of the Geelong Advertiser will be altered so as to ensure the earliest possible publication of intelligence received from the metropolis. The attention of the public is requested to the fact, that no Melbourne newspaper will be able to supply the latest Sydney news to their Geelong readers, as the same will not be published until the day after the arrival of the mail. And although the conductors of the Melbourne newspapers will have the advantage of receiving the news six hours before the proprietor of the Geelong paper, yet he will undertake to furnish the intelligence to his subscribers, as early as the Gazette, Patriot, or Herald can supply the same to the inhabitants of Melbourne; that, in short, the news from Sydney will be published "in Geelong and Melbourne at the same instant of time," thus practically effecting the "annihilation of space." The Proprietor of the Advertiser having made arrangements for procuring an entirely new printing office, will soon be in a position to extend his operations in a manner more commensurate with the demands of the public and his own wishes. Being firmly convinced that Geelong will ultimately be the capital of the colony, it will be his aim to make the Geelong Advertiser, the leading journal in Port Phillip.

New Post Office.

NOTICE is hereby given, that from and after the 1st January next a Post Office will be established as follows, viz:—

At "Bunninyong," on the Portland road; Mr Veitch, to be Postmaster. The delivery from this Post office will embrace, besides the neighbourhood of Bunninyong, the district of Mount Emu, and the Pyrenees.

The mail will be received at and despatched from Melbourne with the Portland mail.

Parties wishing to receive their letters and newspapers through this post office, should particularly caution their correspondents to address communications thereto distinctly by its name; because private localities in their relative position to the different post office cannot be sufficiently known at distant stations to give to the post office department a correct guide for ensuring direct transmission.

SAM. J. USSHER, Acting Postmaster

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE FINE ARTS IN SCOTLAND. FOUNDED IN 1833.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEARS 1843-44. — The Right Hon. the Earl of Stair; the Hon. Lord Meadowbank; Dr. Manro; George Moir, Esq., Advocate; Professor Traill; Alexander Allan, Esq.; David MacLagan, Esq., M.D.; The Hon. Lord Jeffrey; Sir John Macneil, G.C.B.; Professor Wilson; Thomas Mainland, Esq., of Dundrennan; Macduff Rhind, Esq., Advocate; John T. Gordon, Esq.; Professor Spalding; J. A. Bell, Esq., Architect, Secretary and Treasurer.

THE object of this Association is to advance the cause of Art in Scotland, by affording additional encouragement to its professors. The following is the

Constitution of the Association:—

- Every subscriber of one guinea shall be a member of the Association for one year.
- The subscriber of one guinea shall be entitled to one chance; of two guineas to two chances, and so on.
- The whole amount of annual subscriptions shall be devoted, after the necessary deduction for expenses, to the purchase of a selection from the works of Scottish artists, exhibited in the annual exhibitions in Edinburgh, with this single exception, that it shall be in the power of the Committee of Management, when thought advisable by them, to engrave, for distribution among the subscribers, such works as may appear worthy of the distinction, provided always that a sufficient number of purchases shall have been previously made. Of this engraving each subscriber of one guinea will receive one plain impression, of two guineas one proof impression after letters, of five guineas one proof impression before letters.
- A General Meeting of the members shall be held annually in May, when a Committee of Management will be appointed for the ensuing year, each member having an equal vote in the appointment of such committee.
- This committee shall consist of fifteen gentlemen who are not artists, ten of whom will go out annually.
- The committee shall be entrusted with full power to purchase what may appear to them the most deserving works of Scottish art annually exhibited.
- The purchase of these works shall take place during the period that the exhibitions in Edinburgh are open to the public.
- Upon the close of the exhibitions, the different works purchased for the Association shall become, by lots publicly drawn, the property of individual members.
- The Committee of Management shall annually publish a report, wherein they shall state the principles that guided them in the selection of the works of art they may have purchased, and enter into such other details as may appear to them proper.
- At the general meeting in May, a secretary and treasurer shall be appointed, who shall be ex officio members of the Committee of Management; and whose especial duty it will be to keep correct lists of all the subscribers, to collect their subscriptions, and, under the direction of the committee, to carry into effect every arrangement for furthering the views of the association.
- At one of the Annual General Meetings of the association, the Honorable Lord Jeffrey, who was called to the chair, said, "That the great aim of the members of this society was to advance a taste for art, and to extend the fame and honour of artists; and he was happy to say that, to a great degree, they had accomplished both these objects, by diffusing a taste for art among the Scottish public, and by raising a higher standard of excellency amongst artists themselves."
- Entirely concurring with these sentiments, the Committee of management take this opportunity of earnestly requesting the attention of all those who have not yet enrolled themselves as members of the association, to its great importance and usefulness as a national institution. The plan of uniting the efforts of individuals, by a small annual subscription from each, into one large fund for the benefit of all.

has established, in favour of art, a new and most valuable source of encouragement. The committee feel well assured that if the Scotch nation provide splendid rewards worthy the ambition of Great Artists, such artists will spring up among us.

The members for the last year, 1842-43, will receive, towards the close of the year, copies of the engraving executed by Mr William Miller, after Mr Robert Scott Lauder's characteristic picture of "Italian Grottoes, entertaining a brother of Santissima, Tinita." An impression from this plate, which is now in the hands of the printer, may be seen on application to any of the Local Honorary Secretaries.

Members for the year 1843-44, will be entitled to copies of the line engraving, now being executed by the celebrated engraver Mr L. Stocks, after Mr Lauder's beautiful painting of "The Glee Maiden."

These engravings will cost the association a large sum; and every copy will, in itself, be worth more than the usual annual subscription of one Guinea.

It is confidently anticipated, that the various works of art to be purchased by the committee, will this year surpass in merit and value those of any former year; and they will, as usual, be distributed by lot among the members at the Annual General Meeting in May.

Subscribers' names for the year 1844-45 (the distribution of paintings for which will take place in Edinburgh in May next) will be received until 5th January, and any farther information required relative to the Association will be procured on application to

ALEX. A. BROADFOOT, Honorary Secretary, Melbourne.

DOG FORMS on Sale at the Stationery Warehouse.

Geelong Retail Market Prices.

Bread, per Alb loaf	0 0 6 to 0 0 6
Beef, per lb	0 0 0 0 2
Mutton, per lb	0 0 0 0 2
Butter, fresh, per lb	0 0 9 0 1 0
— salt, per lb	0 0 9 0 0 0
Cheese, English, per lb	0 1 2 0 1 6
— colonial, per lb	0 0 8 0 0 0
Eggs, per dozen	0 0 9 0 1 0
Bacon, per lb	0 1 0 0 1 6
Potatoes, per cwt	0 2 0 0 4 0
Tea, per lb	0 2 0 0 3 0
Coffee, ground, per lb	0 0 9 0 1 0
Sugar, loaf, per lb	0 0 8 0 0 7
— brown, per lb	0 0 2 0 0 4
Milk, per quart	0 0 4 0 0 0
Soap, per lb	0 0 5 0 0 6
C dirts, mould, per lb	0 0 5 0 0 7
— dip, per lb	0 0 5 0 0 6
Alc, colonial, per gallon	0 2 0 0 0 0

Geelong Prices Current.

GRAIN, &c.	
Wheat, per bushel	0 3 0 — 0 3 9
Flour, first, per ton	10 0 0 — 12 0 0
— second, per ton	8 0 0 — 10 0 0
Barley, per bushel	0 4 0 — 0 5 0
Malt, colonial, per bushel	0 8 0 — 0 0 0
— imported, per bushel	0 0 0 — 0 7 0
Oats, per bushel	0 2 6 0 0 0
Hay, trussed, per ton	4 0 0 — 3 0 0
Maize, per bushel	0 6 6 0 0 7 0
Rice, per lb	0 0 1 1/2 — 0 0 9

STOCK.

Working bullocks, pair	10 0 0 — 14 0 0
Fat bullocks, per head	4 10 0 — 5 10 0
Milk cows, each	3 10 0 — 6 0 0
Cattle, mixed, per head	2 0 0 — 2 10 0
Sheep, with stations	0 8 0 — 0 10 0
— without stations	0 6 0 — 0 8 0
Ewes, clean, each	0 9 0 — 0 10 0
— Fat Wethers	0 8 0 — 0 10 0

BUILDING MATERIALS

Bricks, per thousand	0 12 0 — 0 14 0
— delivered, per 1000	0 16 0 — 0 0 0
Boards, per 100 feet	0 10 0 — 0 0 0
Quartering, per 100 feet	0 10 0 — 0 0 0
Battens, per 100 feet	0 10 0 — 0 0 0
Shingles, per 1000	0 16 0 — 0 0 0
Laths, per thousand	0 15 0 — 0 0 0
Plating, broad, per 100	0 18 0 — 0 0 0
— narrow, per 100	0 10 0 — 0 0 0
Cedar deals, per foot	0 0 7 0 0 0
Pine, per foot	0 0 6 0 0 0
Nails, batten per lb	0 0 6 0 0 10
— shingle per lb	0 0 10 0 0 0
Stone per cubic foot	0 0 0 0 0 0
— rubble per perch	0 4 6 0 0 6
Lime per bushel	0 0 6 0 0 0

SPIRITS, &c. (DUTY PAID.)

Alc, in bottle, per dozen	0 10 0 — 0 13 0
Alc, colonial, per hhd	3 10 0 — 3 15 0
Porter, per dozen	0 12 0 — 0 0 0
Brandy, per gallon	1 0 0 — 1 5 0
Gin, per gallon	1 0 0 — 1 5 0
Rum, per gallon	0 16 0 — 0 15 0
Port Wine, per dozen	1 10 0 — 2 0 0
Sherry, per dozen	1 5 0 — 1 10 0
Negrohead Tobacco, lb	0 4 0 — 0 5 0
Colonial square fig per lb	0 2 6 0 0 3 0
— sheepshead tobacco	0 1 5 0 0 2 0
Cigars, per thousand	2 0 0 — 3 0 0

MISCELLANEOUS.

Tea, Hyson skin, chest	4 0 0 — 6 0 0
Sugar, Mauritius, ton	20 0 0 — 24 0 0
Hams, per lb	0 1 0 0 0 0
Gunpowder, per lb	0 3 0 0 0 5 0
Salt, per cwt	0 8 0 0 10 0
Turpentine, per gallon	0 7 0 0 8 0
Oil, boiled, per gallon	0 9 6 0 0 0
— sperm, per gallon	0 10 0 0 12 0
— black, per gallon	0 5 0 0 0 0
Corrosive sublimate, lb	0 10 0 0 12 0
Spirits of Tur, per gal	0 8 0 0 9 0
Vinegar, per gallon	0 4 0 0 6 0
Woolpues, each	0 6 0 0 8 0

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