

level, and every where overspread with dead shells of the *Planorbis*. In some places these shells appeared as though they had been collected in heaps. From the top of these banks, the Prairie Butes were in sight to the northward and westward.

As they proceeded up the river, the country continued of the same character, the level being only interrupted by the line of trees that borders the river. These consist of oaks and sycamores.

They encamped at a late hour, on a spot where the prairie had been burnt over, and were much disturbed during the night, by the bears, wolves, and owls. Near this camp was a deserted village.

On the 29th, they for the first time met Indians, who appeared quite shy, concealing themselves behind trees. As they increased in numbers, however, they became more confident, and invited the party to land. Towards noon the character of the country began to change, and trees of a larger size than before were seen, growing out from the banks. A little after noon, they met with the remains of a fish-weir. Some Indians were seen along the banks, armed with bows, arrows, and lances: none but males appeared; they, however, made no hostile demonstrations.

Game and fur-bearing animals had become more numerous, and among them were the lynx and fox. The latter is the species whose fur brings a high price in China, where as much as twenty dollars is paid for a skin. This fox is said to have one peculiarity, namely, that when chased it will ascend trees. Bears were also in great numbers. It is reported that they will sometimes attack and eat the Indians.

Dr. Marsh thinks there is but one species, the grisly bear; but the black bear of the United States is found in New Mexico, and highly prized for its skin; though Dr. Pickering thinks he saw another species, whose summer coat approaches the yellow bear of Oregon. The skin of the young is here sometimes made into quivers, and they are destitute of the horny claws of the grisly bear. The skin of the latter animal is said sometimes to be as large as that of an ox; its food is the same as that of the Indians, and varies with the seasons. Its strength is said to be prodigiously great, and it has been known when lassoed to drag three horses; and when baited in the bull and bear fights practised in California, will check the charge of a bull by putting out one of its paws.

They will also ascend the oaks for the acorns, and break off branches so large as almost to ruin the tree. It has been generally supposed that they do not climb; but all the hunters bear testimony that they can do it, although slowly and clumsily. They are now less