

of February, an Indian runner came from the hunting ground, and informed Cameron that the Indians were so loaded with furs and peltries, that they could not bring them, and suggested to him to send his men to assist them. He sent Frenier with some ten men, in company with the Indian, to the camp. After they had traveled some three or four days, they were overtaken by one of those sudden snow storms that are so frequent in those vast prairies in that high latitude. They are often so sudden, and give so little warning of their approach, that you may set out on a prairie on as beautiful a sun-shiny morning as you ever saw in winter, and before noon be enveloped in one of these storms; the snow so fine and thick that you cannot see a rod before you. On this occasion, as Frenier's party could not see any wood or timber, they concluded their safest plan was to stop where they were. Wrapping themselves snugly in their blankets, they all laid down and let the snow cover them, except the Indian, who, having purchased several blankets from the trader, wrapped himself in them, and staid on top of the snow until the storm was over, which lasted three days, when he discovered that it was not more than one fourth of a mile to a point of wood, whither he repaired and kindled a fire. He then made use of a pole, poking through the deep snow, where he recollected to have seen the men lay down, and found them all alive and uninjured, except one man a little frost bitten on the hip.

In 1816, and for years previous, the Yanktons were in the practice of making up war parties and going into the Spanish territory, for the purpose of stealing choice horses and mules. When on a march from place to place, there are warriors on duty to regulate the march according to rules promulgated before their departure; and, if any one infringes on these rules, he is punished by having his gun broken, his dog or horse killed, his lodge cut, or causing him to suffer a penalty in some manner. The chief, or leader of the party, is not exempt from these regulations. Any act of this kind performed by warriors on duty is not revenged,