

Parle. All went well here. I arrived unusually early at my post, so that I went with a party of Indians on a buffalo hunt to the source of the St. Peter's, the Big Stone Lake, perhaps thirty miles in circumference. We went up in canoes; but long before a buffalo could be seen on the plains, my attention was directed to a rumbling noise, like rolling thunder at a distance, which seemingly caused the whole country to quiver and shake; and as we drew nearer, the awful bellowing of ten thousand enraged bulls was truly frightful. We were now skulking noiselessly along, endeavoring to reach a few acres of wood land before us. A short distance above this was a bay, which was crowded with buffalo swimming in all directions. As far as the eye could reach, the prairie was black with these animals.

On reaching the woods, I was permitted to raise up a little, and peep into the bush, which was also full of them, and some of them within ten yards of us. But I was forbidden to fire. My guides said, when I got on the hill, some fifty yards off, where there were no trees, then I might go ashore, and kill all I could. How the guide got to his place without disturbing them, I know not, for the little bush was swarming with them; but when I made my appearance, they were so excited, running off towards the plains, and I so astonished, that I could not take aim at any one of them; but I fired into a batch, which were brought to bay for a second by my friend on the hill, who had shot three fat cows in as many minutes.

The squaws now went to their work of cutting up the meat. The hides were not cared for, so they only took the skin off of such parts as they wanted for immediate use, or to slice up and dry or smoke—the only means they had for preserving it even for a few days.

My friend, Wyobegah, the marksman, invited me to accompany him a couple of miles to a little lake, where he said we would find lots of buffaloes drinking and washing themselves. We did not want meat; but, savage-like, we wanted to kill game.. On nearing the lake, we could, as he said, see large numbers of animals drinking and washing. A fringe of strong grass, four feet high, surrounded the water. We approached carefully on all