

between the joints) are oblong and flattened, being longer and thicker than a man's hand. A second species, the *C. mamillaris* N. occurs on the dry sandy ridges between the Pawnee villages and the Platte. The beautiful *cristaria coccinea*. Ph. (*malva coccinea*. N.) is very frequent in the low plains along the Platte. Its flowers have nearly the aspect of those of the common wild rose, except that they are more deeply coloured.

We arrived at the Platte a little before sun-set, the distance from the Pawnees being, according to our computation, twenty-five miles. After entering the valley of the river we travelled several miles across an unvaried plain, and at length passing down by a gradual descent of a few feet, we came upon a second level tract, extending to the river.

The soil of the first of these portions is a bed of sand, intermixed with small water worn pebbles and gravel, that of the latter is more fertile, and produces a luxuriant vegetation.

Our guide informed us that the Platte, opposite the point where we entered its valley, contains an island which is more than one day's journey across, and about thirty miles in length.

of food for that season, but defend themselves from its rigors by accurately closing up the entrance of the burrow. The further arrangements which the Prairie dog makes for its comfort and security are well worthy of attention. He constructs for himself a very neat globular cell with fine dry grass, having an aperture at top, large enough to admit the finger, and so compactly formed that it might almost be rolled over the floor without receiving injury.

The burrows are not always equidistant from each other, though they occur usually at intervals of about twenty feet.*

* In these villages, where the grass is fed close, and where much fresh earth is brought up and exposed to the air, is the peculiar habitat of a species of *Solanum* approaching the *S. triflorum* of Nuttall, which he says occurs as a weed "about the gardens of the Mandans and Minatarees of the Missouri, and in no other situations." It appears to differ from the *S. triflorum* in being a little hirsute, with flat, runcinate pinnatifid leaves, and the peduncles alternating with the leaves. The *Solanum heterandrum* of Pursh, now referred to the new genus *Androcera* of Nuttall, is also very common, but is not confined, like the plant just mentioned, to the marmot villages. We collected also the *Psoralea cuspidata*, Ph. *P. esculenta*, N. *P. incana*, N. also a species of *Hieracium*—*H. runcinatum*. Plant hirsute, leaves all radical, elliptic-oblong runcinate; scape few-flowered, somewhat compressed, and angular; glands on the hairs of the calix, very small and diaphanous; about one foot high; flower small. Hab. in depressed, grassy situations along the Platte.