

**The Indian War Dance at Gray Cliff.**

Those who failed to attend to the Indian war dance missed one of the grandest opportunities of seeing and learning the peculiar characteristics of the Crow Indians ever exhibited to civilized people. The place selected by the agent, Major Armstrong, was well chosen. And that for two reasons no liquor was sold and for romance it possessed charms of excellence. On the one side of the valley stood the towering hills and on the other might be seen the silvery capped waves of the noted Yellowstone bounding over the boulders as they went dancing of their way.

When the train arrived at Gray Cliff we were very much delighted to watch the perfect deportment among those untutored people as they sat in companies, the warriors sitting in front, the squaws in the rear, awaiting their respective turns to obtain their rations.

After the rations were served and the warriors had repaired to their tepees to paint and adorn themselves in battle costume they returned for war. When gathered at the beat of the drum and the Indian's war song, the warriors jumped like magic into the arena where they danced their war prayer and started for the battle field. This they reached about noon, where they continued dancing, shooting, yelling, drum beating and singing until sunset with but short breathing intervals between. As we watched them we had thought they would be tired out before Mr. Villard and his distinguished guests arrived. But no, for as soon as the "King of Railroads" and his party arrived it seemed to infuse new fire into the Indians bosom, give speed to the motion and grace to their gesticulations.

As soon as the distinguished foreigners arrived great desire was expressed to obtain Indian relics, when much of the Indian imagery changed hands.

Combined with the dance was the race course. The Indian's pony vs. the white man's. There being no proper judge to decide who won the first two races a third had to be run. The third was won by the white man's pony by a neck which decided the matter. This gave an inspiration to some of Villard's party, who entered heartily into the sport and kept it up until dusk. At this point the first and second sections moved off, which made quite a lull pass throughout the camp.

However, during the interval the Livingston party enjoyed themselves much by singing. Then they serenaded the agent, Major Armstrong, for the royal banquet spread with all the delicacies that this north west can furnish, to which he invited them.

By this time the fire for the war dance is brightly burning. The war drum beats its reveille and out of the darkness merges the warriors painted, jewelled and armed. Never to so good advantage does the Indian show his trinkets, his paint, feathers and grotesque gesticulations as under the peculiar hue of the war camp fire. We thought we never had seen such a sight as that of this morning and afternoon, but it was nothing to be compared to the war dance of night at which we only regret that more of the citizens of Livingston had not been present.

AN EYE WITNESS.

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