

**INDIAN SKETCHES, TAKEN  
DURING AN EXPEDITION TO  
THE PAWNEE TRIBES; IN TWO  
VOLUMES, VOL. I, PP. 1-266**

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5-1765

DURING AN EXPEDITION

TO THE

PAWNEE TRIBES.

BY  
JOHN T. IRVING, JR.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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PHILADELPHIA:

CAREY, LEA AND BLANCHARD.

1835.

Entered, June 15th, 1835, according to Act of Congress, by JOHN T. LEVISO, JR., in the office of the Clerk of the Southern District of New York.

ERRATA.

Page 79, line 2, for *settler* read *outlet*.  
" 86, " 17, for *wilted* read *withered*.  
" 151, " 13, for *around* read *round*.  
" 174, " 22, for *wirey* read *wiry*.  
" 224, " 4, for *gave* read *gives*.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 111,

TO

HENRY L. ELLSWORTH, Esq.

DEAR SIR:

Having accompanied you, throughout the whole of your bold and perilous expedition to the Pawnee Towns, permit me to congratulate you upon its success, and upon the benefits secured both to your own countrymen, and to the wild tribes beyond the border, by your enterprize and self-devotion.

With me it was the juvenile excursion of a minor, when every thing was fraught with novelty and pleasurable excitement; but with you it was an official undertaking, full of anxiety and forethought, and I cannot but fear that, to the cares

Ms. A. 9. 2. 111

of your office, was occasionally added solicitude for the safety of your young and heedless fellow traveller.

As it was partly at your own suggestion that the following pages were written, I beg you will accept this dedication of them, as a slight testimonial of my respect and esteem, and an acknowledgment of the kindness manifested by you throughout our wild campaign. If they present but imperfect sketches of the vivid scenes we have witnessed together, you will recollect that they are the first attempts of an inexperienced pencil.

THE AUTHOR.



# INDIAN SKETCHES.



## INTRODUCTION.

*Introductory account of the object of the Expedition; and the persons who composed it.*

FOR several years past the government of the United States, as is well known, has been engaged in removing the Indian tribes, resident within the States, to tracts of wild but fertile land, situated beyond the verge of white population. Some of the tribes thus removed, however, when they came to hunt over the lands assigned them, encountered fierce opposition from the aboriginal tribes of the prairies, who claimed the country as their own, and de-

nied the right of the United States to make the transfer. The migratory tribes were thus placed in a disastrous predicament: having sold their native lands to the United States, they had no place to which they might retreat; while they could only maintain a footing in their new homes, by incessant fighting.

The government of the United States hastened to put an end to the bloody conflicts thus engendered, by purchasing the contested lands, and effecting treaties of peace, between the jarring tribes. In some instances, however, the aboriginals remained unappeased. This especially was the case, with a fierce and numerous tribe of Pawnees, inhabiting the banks of the Platte river, and who were backed in their hostilities by their allies the Otoes, who, though less numerous, were even more daring than themselves. These two tribes laid claim to all the land lying be-

tween the Platte and Kansas rivers; a region comprising several hundred square miles. It had long been their favourite hunting ground, in which it was death for a strange hunter to intrude. This forbidden tract, however, had been granted by the United States to the Delawares; and the latter had made it the scene of their hunting excursions. A bitter feud was the consequence. The tract in question became a debateable ground in which war parties were continually lurking. The Delawares had been attacked, while hunting, by the Pawnees, and many of their tribe had fallen. The Delawares, in revenge, had surprised and burnt one of the Pawnee towns, while the warriors were absent on a buffalo hunt.

The hostile feelings thus awakened among the aboriginal tribes of the Prairies, had been manifested toward the white men. Several trappers and traders, had