The Indian or trapper that is a shirewd trailer is a man of close observation, quick perception, and prompt action. As he goes along nothing escapes his observation, and what he sees or hears he accounts for immediately. Often not another step is taken until a mystery that may present itself in this line is fairly solved. The Indian trailer will stand for hours in succession to account for certain traces cession to account for certain traces or effects in tracks, and sometimes gives to the matter unremitting at-tention for days and weeks. The trailer is not a graceful man. He carries his head much inclined, his carries his head much inclined, his eye is quick and restless, always on the watch, and he is practicing his art unconsciously, hardly ever crossing the track of man or animal without seeing it. When he enters a house he brings the habit he contracted in the practice of his art with him. I know a trailer as soon as he enters my room. He comes in through the door softly, and with an air of exceeding caucomes in through the door softly, and with an air of exceeding caution. Before he is fairly in, or at least has sat down, he has taken note of every article or person, though there may be a dozen vacant chairs in the room. He is not used to chairs, and, like the Indian, prefers a more hamble soat. When I was employed by Gen. Harney last summer to take charge temporarily of the Indians that were gathered near Fort Randall, Dakota, to form a new reservation, one day a guide and traffer came to the General's headquarters. I told him to be seated. He sat down on the floor bracing his back against the wall. The General saw this, and in vexation cried out, 'My God, why don't you take a chair, when there are plenty here unoccupied." The man arose and seated himself in a chair, but in so awkward and uncomfortable a manner that he looked as if he might slip from it at any moment. But when this uncouth person came to transact his business with the General, he turned out to be a man But when this uncoult person came to transact his business with the General, he turned out to be a man of no ordinary abilities. His description of a route he took as guide and trailer for the Ogallalas, in bringing them from the Platte to the fort, was minute and exceed-

ingly interesting. Every war party that crossed his trail he described with minuteness as to their number, the kind of arms they had, and stated the tribes they belonged to. In these strange revelations that he made there was neither importance nor supposition, for he gave satisfactory reasons for every assertion that he made. I have ridden several hundred miles with an experienced guide and trailer, Hack, whom I interrogated upon many points in the practice of, his art. Nearly all the tracks I saw, either old or new, as a povice in the art. I questioned as a novice in the art, I questioned him about. In going to the Niobrara River we crossed the track of an Indian pony. My guide followed the track a few miles and then said: "It is a stray black horse, with a long bushy tall, nearly starved to death, has a split hoof of the left forefoot, and goes very lame and he passed here early lame, and he passed here early this morning." Astonished and incredulous, I asked him the reaincredulous, I asked him the reason for knowing these particulars
by the tracks of the animal, when
he replied: "It was a stray horse
because it did not go in a direct
line; his tail was long, for he dragged it over the snow; in brushing
against a bush he left some of his
hair, which shows its color. He is
very hungry, for in going along he
has nipped at those high, dry weeds
which horses seldom eat. The
fissure of the left forefoot left also
its track, and the depth of the indention shows the degree of his
lamoness; and his tracks show he
was here this morning when the
snow was hard with frost. At another place we came across an Indian track, and he said: "It is an old Yankton, who came to look at his traps. In coming over he carried in his right hand a trap, and in his left a lasso to catch a pony he had lost. He returned without finding the horse, but had caught in his trap he had out a prairie wolf, which he carried home on his back, and a bundle of kinikluic wood in his right hand." Then he gave his reasons. "I know he is old by the impression his gait has made, and a Yankton by that of his moccasin. He is from the other side of the river, as there are other side of the river, as there are no Yanktons on this side. The trap he carried struck the snow now and

then, and in the same manner as when he came, shows that he did not find the pony. A drop of blood in the centre of his tracks showed that he carried the wolf on his back, and the bundle of kinikinic that he carried the wolf on his back, and the bundle of kinikinic wood he used as a staff for support, and catching a wolf shows that he had traps." "But," I asked, "do you know it's a wolf? Why not a fox or even a deer? Said he, "If it had been a fox or a coyote, or any other kind of small game, he would never have slipped the head of the animal in his waist belt, and so carried it by his side, and not on his shoulders. Deer are not caught by traps; but if it had been a deer he would not have crossed this high hill, but have gone back by way of the rayine, and the load would have made his steps still more tottering." Another Indian track we saw twenty miles west of this he put this serious construction upon: "He's an upper Indian—a prowling horse thief—carried a double shotgun, and is a macal that killed some white man lately, and passed here one week ago, for," said he, "a lone Indian in these parts is on mischief, and generally on the lookout for horses. He had on the shoes of a white man, whom he had in all probability killed, but his steps are those of an Indian. Going through the myine, the end of his gun hit the deep snow. A week ago we had a very warm day, and the snow those of an Indian. Going through the ravina, the end of his gun hit the deep snow. A week ago we had a very warm day, and the snow being soft he made these deep tracks; ever since it has been intensely cold weather, which makes very shallow tracks." I suggested that perhaps he bought those shoes. "Indians don't buy shoes, and if they did they would not buy them as large as these were, for Indians have very small feet."

The most noted trailer of this country was Paul Daloria, a half breed, who died under my hands of an Indian consumption last summer. I have spoken of him in a former letter. At one time I rode with him, and trailing was naturally the subject of our conversation. I begged to trail with him an old track over the prairie in order to learn its history. I had hardly made the proposition, when he drew up his horse, which was at a ravine, and said: "Well, here is an old elk track. Let us get off our horses and follow it." We followed it but a few rods, when he said it was exactly a month old, and made at two o'clock in the afternoon. This he knew, as then we had a sum and counters in the afternoon. This he knew, as then we find a sum o'clock in the afternoon. This he knew, as then we find the sum o'clock in the afternoon. This he knew, as then we find the sum of the find the afternoon. This he knew, as then we find the sum of the afternoon. This he knew, as then we find the sum of the afternoon. This he knew, as then we find the sum of the find the find the office of all points East affice of Wells, Eagle Tunes of Wells, and Makes of the afternoon. This he knew, as then we shall be was exactly a month old, and made at two o'clock in the afternoon. This he

a few rods, when he said it was exactly a month old, and made at two o'clock in the effernoon. This he knew, as then we had our last min, and at the hour mamed the ground was softer than at any other time. The track before us was then made. He broke up here and there clusters of grapes that lay in the path of the track, and showed me the dry ends of songe, the skunps of others, and by numerous other similar items accounted for many circumstances which astonished me.

We fellowed the trail over a mile. Now and then we saw that a wolf, a for, and other animals had practiced their trailing instincts on the cik's tracks. Here and there he would show me where a smake, a rat, and a prairie dog had crossed the track. Nothing had followed or crossed the track hat the quick eye of Daloria did not detect. He gave an account of the habits of all the animals that had left their footprints on the track, also of the state of the weather since the cik passed, and the effects of the sunshine, wind, aridity, sand-storms, and other influences that had a hearing on these tracks. The old man, like all trailers, was reticent, but on this occasion, seeing that I was interested, became specially communicative.—Ex.

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YOU CAN SET THE NEEDLE WITHOUT A GUAGE AND HAVE

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MIXED TRAINS Will run Daily, Sundays Excepted,

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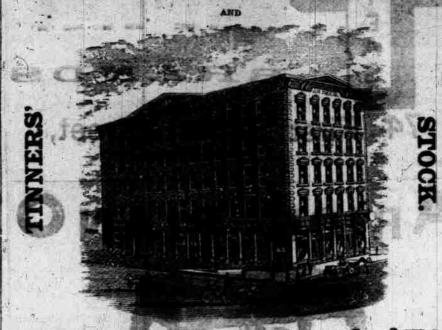
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