

JIM BAKER, THE SCOUT.

Baker came to the Rocky Mountains in 1837, a young man of twenty. He was raised on a farm in Illinois and has visited his old home but once or twice after he left.

I first met Baker in 1860 at Denver, Colorado. He then lived on a ranch on Clear Creek some four miles northwest of Denver, where he erected and kept, from an early day, a toll bridge across the creek, on the old Cherokee trail from the Indian Territory to California. It was on this trail that gold was first discovered at

Jim Baker was interpreter and D. C. Oakes was the Indian Agent.

The conference was held in the Middle Park near the Hot Sulphur Springs. It lasted for several days, long enough for the Indians to consume a lot of provisions and a herd of some fifty beef cattle, which the government had furnished them on the ground. When this was all consumed the Indians left, nothing agreed to,—the treaty was a fizzle. It was lucky for us that it did not result in a massacre of all the whites, some fifty or more of whom were present. Colorow, an old fraud among the In-

thing authoritatively, which soon allayed the excitement and restored order and made all again quiet.

Old Jim never told us what Colorow said that created the excitement, until after the conference was ended and the Indians had gone; then he told



D. C. OAKES. KIT CARSON. LAFAYETTE HEAD. H. P. BENNET.
UINTAH UTE COMMISSION OF 1866.

the head of Cherry Creek in 1858 by the Green Russel party. This trail was used by the military in passing from the Santa Fe trail north to Lar- amie, and to Salt Lake; it entered the mountains at La Porte and crossed the range at Bridger's Pass and so on via Ft. Bridger and Salt Lake City, and was a section of the Overland Stage Route in 1863.

In 1866 I traveled from Denver into the Middle Park in company with Baker and D. C. Oakes, going to meet the Uintah Utes to effect a treaty.

dians, was a sub-chief of a small band present at the treaty. He it was who suddenly broke out in a loud voice, with threatening gesticulations towards where Baker stood surrounded by the whites. What he said none of us understood, but it startled the Indians and seemed to threaten bad work; this made old Jim, who heard and saw it all, spring for his rifle, which stood at a tree hard by, and caused the hair to rise on the heads of the whites present. Ancotash, the head chief of the Uintahs present, however, at once cried out some-



Jim Baker, about 1880.

us that Colorow's words were to "take the scalps of Old Jim and every white man there" which might have been attempted had not Ancotash yelled out to Colorow "to leave the camp at once or he would take his scalp," so Jim said. The result was no scalps taken, heap eating, no treaty.

Old Jim was quite a philosopher in his way and could moralize on men and things quite as intelligently as many men of far more school education than he ever had. He told me that he had travelled with Sir George Gore as guide and hunter, and



Jim Baker, about 1897.

with two other English travellers, through the Rocky Mountains and got lots of ideas from them. General

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