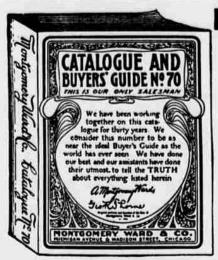
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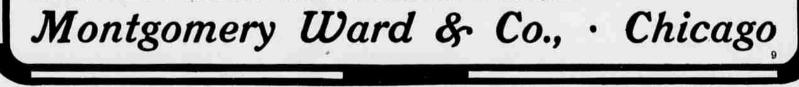
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ammunition, provisions, and astronomical instruments in a retired place, that they might not be entirely destitute of resources after the contemplated rencontre with the Spaniards should have taken place. At sunset, on the 28th of July, as they were about to encamp, they heard several guns ahead of them, which left no doubt that they had arrived near the Spanish camp. On the ensuing morning Captain Sparks, Mr. Freeman, and a favorite Indian walked ahead of the boats, along the sandbeach, with their guns in their hands. The Indian soon discovered some tracks, ran hastily up among the bushes on the bank and then returning, made signs that the Spaniards were there. The party was now halted, the arms examined, and put in readiness for immediate action; then all went on board the boats, and they continued their ascent as if they had known nothing of the Spanish troops. The advanced guard which the Indian had discovered consisted of twenty-two men, stationed a mile and a half below the encampment of the main body. On When the sentinels cried "halt" the seeing the boats they fled instantly,

small cottonwood bushes near the next bend of the river, and shortly after return to their former station. As it was now the middle of the day, the exploring party halted according to custom, and kindled fires to prepare their dinner.

About half an hour after they had halted, a large detachment from the Spanish corps were seen riding down the sand beach, enveloped in such a cloud of dust that their numbers could not be accurately estimated. The soldiers belonging to the exploring party were sent to take possession of a thick cane brake on the immediate bank of the river, at a short distance above the boats, to be in readiness, should there be occasion, to attack the advancing party on their flank. A non-commissioned officer and six men were sent still further up the river, and ordered to be in readiness to assail the Spaniards in the rear.

The advancing party of horse came on at full speed, and neglecting the first challenge of the two sentinels stationed in advance of the boats. second time, they cocked their pieces,

orders, which were to prevent, at all hazards, the farther progress of the exploring expedition, the officers of that party reluctantly consented to relinquish their undertaking. The spot where this interruption took place is two hundred and thirty miles by water above the Coashatay village, consequently six hundred and thirty-five miles above the mouth of Red River.

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We are as yet ignorant of the true position of the sources of Red River; but we are all assured that the long received opinion, that its principal branch rises "about thirty or forty miles east of Santa Fe," is erroneous.

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and hid themselves in the woods, and were in the act of presenting leaving behind their clothes and prothem to fire, when the Spanish visions. squadron halted, and displayed on the

On turning the next bend they beach about one hundred and fifty commanded a beautiful view of the yards distant. Their officers moved slowly forward, and were met by river, extending about a mile, with steep banks on both sides, and level Captain Sparks, whom the Spanish commandant politely saluted, and a sand beaches, occupying more than half the bed of the river. On one parley ensued, which continued about of these, at a distance of half a mile, three-quarters of an hour. The they discovered a sentinel, and soon Spaniards being greatly superior in afterwards saw a detachment of horse numbers, and expressing a detergallop from thence through the mined resolution to fulfill their

