

September trails. It appears that Middleton thought he
 lived in the Democratic (U.S.) main "To the
 victor belongs the spoils". This refers to the furs
 captured. A cache which Balcanine found at
 Lone Lake contained beaver, foxes &c of these
 Middleton took the pick of 27 beaver & 14 foxes.
 Major Boston took in one instance 40 Lynx.
 Hayter Reed now Indian Commissioner & other
 head officers getting their full quota, in
 some cases bales of furs. —

Travelling we see very little game
 a few ducks, some geese going south, an occa-
 sional fox (kit I think) & Sandhill cranes.
 of the last we saw about 50 feeding not far off, &
 I first took them to be cattle or horses, so large
 they appeared, most of them were white or grayish
 the rest dark or black. They are very wary &
 difficult to shoot. —

Thursday 20
 fine

A drive of a mile took us out of the wood brush
 & we pass over rolling country with good grass
 but scarce in water. 25 miles brings us to Eagle
 Hill Creek on the south side of a valley about six
 miles wide. The water in the creek is mostly a succession
 of deep pools with but little current. The whole
 valley bottom is semi-alkaline. Immediately to the
 south & southwest lies the Bad Hills, named so by
 the Creeks as when there they generally have had
 weather - wind & rain. — We continue thro'
 the treeless & dry plains 15 miles, after dinner
 & camp for the night at a patch dried up marsh
 which however was very welcome. —

Friday 21
 pleasant

Onward & southward with the rising sun through
 this uninteresting country. We find it today more
 rolling than yesterday & somewhat steeper, but the
 dry short grass as it is enjoyed very much by the