

NOTES BY THE WAY

BY R.H. HEWITT

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MEMORANDA

OF A

JOURNEY ACROSS THE PLAINS,

FROM

DUNDEE, ILL., TO OLYMPIA, W. T.

May 7, to November 3, 1862.

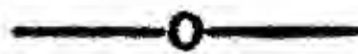
By R. H. HEWITT.

OLYMPIA :

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE WASHINGTON STANDARD.

1863.

PREFACE.



The intention of the present "Journal," is to give a general description of the country, also incidents in camp life along a route for a greater part of the way but little frequented by emigrants, and, as a consequence, but little known outside official circles, but which has recently attracted the attention of "gold seekers." It was aimed at making it complete and comprehensive, only as a narrative of events in the order they occurred. "Taking notes," a business we were not familiar with, became something of a task, through sections where the scenery was of the same monotonous appearance. Repetitions will occur, they cannot well be avoided. We consulted no author, and had the works of no explorer as a guide in making it up. A map of the country was our only chart. The work is strictly our own, and stands on its merits as such.

It will be remarked on perusal, that an erroneous impression extensively prevails as to what in reality constitute the "Plains," it being understood that they are one vast level waste, relieved by an occasional bluff, and intersected by rivers, which is not the case. With but little exception, the plains end when the Rocky Mountains are reached. Necessarily a journey such as we have recorded, is a tedious one, attended by many hardships and dangers, oftentimes hazardous, and of course the circumstances did not admit of the best facilities for making an interesting volume. It was jotted down during intervals of labor attending the trip, and many of its pages were written by the midnight camp-fire in hours that should have been devoted to rest.

It was not our design when writing the "Notes," that they should ever appear in print; but a copy having been requested by many of our friends, and finding it too long and tedious a task for our pen, we concluded to employ the type.

Notes By the Way.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 7:—Bid friends good by at Dundee, Ill., and started for St. Joseph, Mo., distant about five hundred miles by R. R. The weather for several days had been chilly and unpleasant, and vegetation had scarcely shown signs of life. The jaunt across the State was attended by no peculiar circumstance, other than what usually occurs to every traveler. The line of the road is through a beautiful prairie country, of which the State is largely composed. Nothing can now be said recommending the State of Illinois.—The fertility of its soil, the natural advantages it possesses, which enable the farmer to lead a life of perfect independence, if not opulence, are too well understood to require it. To the eye of one seeking merely for a variety of scenery, it presents, after a time, but one appearance; too much of a sameness to be altogether attractive, and they very naturally relapse back to their own thoughts, or seek amusement from the contents of book or paper.—As we advanced, verdure seemed rap-

idly developing; trees were putting forth their brightest foliage, and the flowers are in full bloom. Reached Quincy at 11 P. M.

MAY 8.—Obtained our first view this morning of the "Father of waters," the Mississippi river. At this point it is about one mile wide in the channel, but owing to the unusual rise of the water, it is in reality about twelve miles in width from its overflow. Took steamer for Hannibal, Mo., twenty miles down the river. Many dwellings on the shores were deserted because of the water, and in several instances removed from their foundations. Reached Hannibal at 10 A. M. Here our feet for the first time trod on soil tilled by slaves. At the breaking out of the present rebellion the place was at one time nearly overcome by it. It has suffered much from incendiaries for a year and a half past, which the inhabitants credit to those whose sympathies are secesh. Same evening reached Palmyra, a place fifteen miles west. It seemed quite

a town, but much given to secession, especially the female portion of the inhabitants. Here a delay occurred to purchase mules for our journey.

MAY 10:—Placed animals on the cars and started for St. Jo. Arrived at Brookfield at 12 p. m., the intermediate station of the H. & St. Jo. R. R. Here the train laid by until Monday morning. We have seldom if ever passed a more disagreeable or lonesome day than was Sunday the 11th day of May.—This is a small place consisting only of a locomotive house, a R. R. Hotel, and a few dwellings mostly deserted by their owners. The land along the line of the road is very productive when cultivated; but from the blighting influence of slavery, it is not. Were it not for this, Missouri would become as populous as any State of which our country can boast. The entire State gives evidence of desolation and ruin; R. R. bridges burned; dwelling-houses deserted, torn to pieces, or consigned to the flames. A spirit of vandalism seems to pervade all who are tinctured with this monstrous doctrine of "State Rights," as well as this *infernal, black-hearted rebellion*. The footprints of rebellion are everywhere visible, and at the present writing the iron rule of Martial Law is thought to be the only means that will save the State from ruin. She danced to the tune of secession, and now she is fearfully paying the cost. Through treacherous demagogues was her best interests betrayed, Judas like, and for less than thirty pieces of silver. The blood of murdered thousands calls loudly for redress. The responsibility for the wrongs done the living and the insults to the tombs of the dead rests heavily on those who plunged her into the whirling vortex of secession. Shameless scoundrels ruled and brought her to the verge of ruin. Through this section, as well as in the more remote South, a large portion of the female population have interest-

ed themselves deeply in the political and warlike affairs of the country, and to their lasting disgrace be it said, many of the most barbarous acts were committed by their instigation, as the sickening details of the Big Bethel and Bull Run disasters fully corroborate as reported by Congress.

Left Brookfield, 12 p. m., arrived in St. Jo., 10 a. m., next morning. Day spent in viewing the city, which bore the appearance of having once been a place of considerable importance. But now how changed. Through the agency of this causeless rebellion it was suddenly transformed from a place following the peaceful pursuits of life, to a military position. Secession having been so outspoken and overpowering at one time, that Illinois troops were stationed here to keep the inhabitants in check. Entrenchments were thrown up on an eminence commanding the town; "peace messengers" prepared, and every arrangement made for a bombardment. This contingency was barely avoided by the more furious ones vacating and the remaining ones wisely keeping quiet. At present about 1000 troops are encamped here, which has a very soothing effect on the wounded sensibilities of its "oppressed" population. The city is situated on bluffs, from which a fine view of the surrounding country can be obtained, also a number of miles of the Missouri river, and a considerable tract of the not very congenial sister State of Kansas. This city also bears abundant evidence of the ruthless spirit of war. The incendiaries torch has been busily applied, as indicated by the heaps of blackened rains throughout the city. Many places which once transacted a large business, and paid high rents, were used as barracks and stables, and a general appearance of ruin and desolation is presented. Apparently but little attention is given to purifying the city, and in

many parts of it the filth that exists is really nauseating; a foul vapor arises, which is certain to carry disease and death in its course. Some considerable public spirit has manifested itself, and several large public buildings have been erected. Indeed the place has overdone itself, and now the consequent re-action is taking place. Business prostrated or depressed; enormous taxation; and a seizure of property to pay its expenses, and a sacrifice of possessions at hardly an approximation to its actual cost.

A Roman Catholic Convent has also been built, which with other institutions of a like character, does a good business. What their particular object is we are not informed. In fact this is the most unfavorable time St. Jo. could receive visitors, and we forbear criticising too heavily, and predict that the child is now living that will see St. Jo. a beautiful and thriving city.

CAMP 1, MAY 15:—First experience in camp life to-day. The greatest part of the day was very warm, not to say sultry. In the afternoon a heavy storm arose which came upon us wholly unprepared. As everything is very much in need of rain we concluded to forbear remarks, retain our tempers, and make the best of it. There is an attraction in camp life which has the charm of novelty. So here we are,—six of us,—in our very snug little tent, but our enjoyment is marred by the sickness of one of the party. This morning Uncle was obliged to return to Dundee, on account of the sickness of one of his daughters. Until his return there is no possibility of knowing how long we will be obliged to remain here. It is said the fun of camp life consists in the fun you make of it. So if we extract no pleasantries from this tour the fault is our own. Judging from the beginning we shall have no lack of amusement. We shall see.

MAY 6:—The usual amount of prep-

aration and arranging preparatory to a long and wearisome pilgrimage. Sun hot and scorching but do not know the degree of temperature. Uncle received telegram announcing the death of Carrie, a daughter about ten years of age. Thus has the rude hand of death entered our little band. The thought is saddening and has cast a gloom over the entire company. Which of us will next be called upon to yield up our life is a matter of which we know nothing, but we hope and trust that we shall be spared the painful necessity of laying another of our company 'neath the sod. Towards evening another storm arose, and gave every indication of being a severe one. Our animals were taken in and safely picketed at an early hour,—which precaution becomes necessary, because of the horse and mule stealing,—and every convenience within our limited means, arranged for protection from the approaching storm. Near midnight the rain was heralded by constant, vivid flashes of lightning, and increasing thunder. About 12 o'clock it burst upon us with fury. The whole Heavens seemed one continued flame, and flashes of chain-lightning chased each other with malignant venom. The thunder crashed and rolled with terrible earnestness, 'till it seemed that the whole artillery of Heaven was brought into action. This lasted about one hour. when it settled into a steady, chilly rain.

MAY 17:—Morning dawned rainy and cold. Nothing transpired of especial interest. Drank coffee this morning for the first time in my life.

SUNDAY, MAY 18:—Each one amusing themselves as best they may. The atmosphere still cloudy and uncomfortable.

MAY 19 to 22:—No circumstance has taken place during a few days past of peculiar interest worthy of record, and camp-life drags wearily. Weather

quite cold. To-day two mules broke from their fastenings and strayed off. Found them about 5 miles north, about 9 o'clock, P. M. A kind-hearted old gentleman took them up and put them in his stable. An act of such disinterested kindness cannot pass unmentioned, especially in this country, where "Jayhawkers," "Bushwhackers" and horse-thieves abound, and we regret that we did not learn his name. From the several disappointments we have met with while here, such as delay and death, and other causes, we have named this, our first encampment, "Camp Disappointment."

MAY 23:—No intelligence from Uncle. Feel quite uneasy and discontented in consequence. This evening Father arrived, which proved a panacea indeed. Uncle will not be able to start before next week, because of the sickness of his daughter.

MAY 24:—A slight activity characterized the events of the day.

SUNDAY, MAY 25:—Quiet and orderly to-day. In the morning appearances indicated a storm, which, however, passed over, leaving a beautiful Sabbath.

MAY 26:—Weather warm, oppressively so. Nothing unusual or alarming to-day. In the evening indications of rain.

JUNE.

JUNE 3:—The preceding days from last date, have hung heavily about our camp. Uncle has directed us to move on to Omaha, Nebraska, 150 miles up the river, where he hopes to meet us, as soon as the recovery of Lucy will permit. An Emigrant Escort starts from that point, and he wishes us to go with it. To-day the camp presented a business-like activity. Wagons were packed and fitted, and all arrangements made for a march. Having lain in

"Camp Disappointment" so long, order "forward," has a peculiarly cheerful, musical sound. We shall take leave of our old camp-ground, around which every object has become familiar, with no regret whatever. Since we have been here, three of our little party have been afflicted severely with the measles, but have nearly recovered, and a fourth, Ella, is now coming down with them. Should she be able to move, the morning is fixed upon for our cavalcade to start. Whatever the events of the day, will be developed on the morrow.

JUNE 4:—Unable to start. The day spent in preparation.

CAMP 2, JUNE 3:—Broke up camp and left St. Jo. behind, at 11 A. M., with buoyant spirits in one respect, from satisfaction of moving, and with heavy depressed spirits in another,—because of the sickness of three of our company. Our carriage we have converted into an hospital, and have spared no effort within our power to administer to the comfort of the invalids, thus thrown upon our care. Thus far it would seem as though some obstacle has been thrown in our way, or some circumstances continually arising beyond our ability to control, to prevent our progress or allow us to move on. But we still have hope that what now appears to us almost incomprehensible, will soon be clear and bright, and that the dark cloud which hangs so gloomily over our prospects will soon recede and reveal its silver lining.

The country through which we passed is not what would be termed beautiful. What should be its attractive feature is decidedly not very charming, but appears dull and forbidding. Judging from appearances but a small portion of it is worked, and that, but indifferently. Towards evening passed through a place called Savannah; a place of not very large dimensions, but

of large pretensions. Here, also, troops are quartered to prevent an uprising of the "over-burdened," "down-trodden," sympathisers with secession, and to rid the country of horse-thieves and murderers. We are told that soldiers are stationed in nearly every town in the State for the same purpose. Towards evening four Indians passed our train. They were well mounted and armed, and evidently bound out on a hunting or some other excursion, which only concerned themselves. Our "dusky friends" appeared to take no notice of us, but to our party they were quite a novelty—being the first we had ever seen in their native country. Pitched our tent at 6 P. M., as near as we could judge, in a very pleasant place, and set our house in order to enjoy camp No. 2 as best we might. Traveled about 17 miles.

CAMP 3. JUNE 5:—Left camp 2 at 7½ o'clock A. M. The country through which the day's journey was performed, was similar to yesterday's record, in many respects. We found some heavy hills and dense underbrush. In the forenoon lost our road going out of the way about 2 miles, and were obliged to retrace our steps. It is not a hard matter to find the wrong way, in a region poorly supplied with guideboards and fences, but having numerous branch roads. The village of Fillmore is effected much by old age, being in a wretched state of dilapidation and decay. Our camp this evening is situated on the line between the rough country, and a broad beautiful prairie which stretches far off in the distance before us. A perceptible change and for the better, is noticed among the invalids this evening. Sky clear and moon shining brilliantly.

We know not how far we advanced to-day. Having no means of computing distances, and as the information obtained from the inhabitants vary so much in their estimate, that nothing

can be accepted as reliable. Knowing our destination and the distance, we hope to reach it in due time.

CAMP 4 JUNE 6:—Our course to-day lay through a large rolling prairie, then into a hilly, heavily timbered section, again into a prairie along side of which our camp is fixed. We saw many uncultivated fields over-grown with wild grass and weeds, and on inquiry learned that nearly all the male population had gone to war. Many dwellings also, were deserted; a reason for this we are unable to give. A mule of the female persuasion slipped her fastenings this evening, and retired from camp-life. She retreated in "good order" about one mile, when she was overtaken and returned. Crossed Terkio river by bridge, and passed through "Mound City." We were obliged to look twice before we could really make out what it was. This also, in common with many other such "cities," have their existence only on paper, or in the idle imagination of land speculators, or their dupes whose names are legion, and who seem willing to be "taken in."

The invalids suffered much from the heat to-day, but they are gradually gaining.

CAMP 5 JUNE 7:—The country we passed through to-day was beautiful, and compared well with that mentioned yesterday. On the margin of the prairie we are camped. The weather oppressively hot, which depresses the spirits of the invalids. Received a call from some of our new neighbors. Found many of a genuine, high-toned hospitality. The villages of Rockport and Linden, which we passed, leave impress of the ruin that pervades the other places mentioned. For the most part, the country is in the state which nature left it, and man found it. When emigration does set this way, and settle-

ments are formed here, then we may expect Missouri will make a populous State.*

CAMP 6, SUNDAY, JUNE 8:—Our time being limited, and a lengthy journey to perform, rendered it necessary for us to continue our march over to-day, which under other circumstances would not have been done. Our route has laid along a prairie, or what is known here as "river bottoms," which consists of an immense tract of level country, on both sides of the Missouri river. On the east side of the road is a line of high, steep bluffs; on the west, the broad expanse of prairie, extending as far as the eye can reach. Crossed the Nishnabottana river, and soon passed the narrows, a neck of land but a few rods in width, which separate that river from the Missouri. The bed of the former, is lower than that of the latter; the streams run parallel to each other nearly fifty miles. This year is the period for the scourge of Egypt, the locust, to appear, and myriads of this destructive little insect swarm among the trees and shrubbery along the road, and their humming can be heard a long distance, as they ply their task. They are said to be plentiful also, back in the country.

Camp 6 is situated in a beautiful spot, at the foot of the bluffs. In the west in the dim distance, is the river,

* We have been enlightened in regard to the deserted dwellings, mills and farms we have noted so much since we started. It seems their owners or occupants were secessionists, whose howling about their "rights," fancying themselves deprived of them, and ranting about their "oppressions," feeling much aggrieved, had rendered them obnoxious to the better portion of society, and they were invited to vacate, to seek a more congenial clime. They had the impudent assurance to take their families and movable property to free Iowa, uncontaminated by rebellion, for safety, and the ineffable meanness to return and make war on the country which was protecting their families under the false plea of Unionists. Comment is unnecessary. "The dog shall return to his vomit, and the hog that is washed to his wallowing in the mire."

along which a steamboat is plowing its way. In the rear is a singular formation of nature; a semi-circular hollow in the hills, around which they are thrown up like the walls of a fort. Two peaks at either point, stand like grim sentinels, frowning defiance on a foe. The sick ones are slowly on the gain, and we hope soon to have their company in their natural capacity. Crossed the dividing line between the States of Missouri and Iowa this morning, and were pleased once more to set foot on free soil, and breathe an atmosphere untainted by slavery. There is much in Missouri to admire, as well as much to condemn. She is fast shaking off the yoke which binds her, and we look forward for the time to come when she will also assert her majesty as a free and enlightened common-wealth, and give no place to bigotry and intolerance, so much of which is now enclosed within her borders.

CAMP 7, JUNE 9:—To-night we locate in "Pacific city," and an exceeding small specimen of a city, truly. On inspection it seems to have been built during the excitement of railroad times, when "corner lots" were at a premium. With nothing to sustain it, it went down. The country as previously described, answers to-day's requirements. The only thing of note transpiring—took the road opposite the right one, and it led us into a very bad slough, which, however we got through by some trouble, but no accident. Several laughable circumstances occurred to-day, but they will not bear recording. The weather was sultry and the dust uncomfortable; this evening the moon is shining brilliantly, and the very quietness gives a charm to the situation.

CAMP 8, JUNE 10:—The "bottoms" being overflowed by the rising of the river, we were again turned out of our course across the bluffs four miles, over

heavy hills through the little village of Glenwood, which is by far the neatest place we have passed. It agrees perfectly with its name, snugly seated between the hills. It is in good repair, contains several churches, and a large public school. A few miles farther and Bellview and Omaha appeared in sight. Here the road veered round a low marshy section, and on once more clearing a point in the hills, Council Bluffs came in view. Remained here but a short time, and passed on to the river, over which we ferried at an expense of \$3,50. Located camp north of the city of Omaha, near the river.

Throughout this trip we found the best of water in fountains along the road, also grass and fuel.

JUNE 11:—Went out prospecting around the city. The city is well laid out, well built, and pleasantly situated on high land. It is quite an important place, also, being an outfitting depot for emigrants for the plains. It contains several large public buildings and churches, and is very active, for a place seemingly so far from anywhere else. It is the Capitol of Nebraska Territory, and has a spacious Legislative Hall erected on an eminence overlooking a vast tract of country. Standing on "Capitol Hill," numerous encampments are in view, of pilgrims bound for the New Eldorado, while trains can be seen wending their way over the hills towards that point and the Mormon haven.

* * * * *

CAMP 9, JUNE 17:—Left Omaha this morning with heavy hearts and downcast feelings. Remained in camp there seven days, anxiously watching and waiting for the party who are to make up our company. Every day but increased our anxiety, still not a word to inform us of their movements. On consultation, we resolved on moving

forward. Without a guide, inexperienced and a long, wearisome journey before us, we can but use our best endeavors, and hope for a safe transit, until overtaken, if at all, by those who can better direct us. Our course to-day lay through a prairie country somewhat broken by hills, but without timber.—Roads good and weather suitable for traveling. Camped by Elkhorn river; the current rapid, and of a dark muddy color. The country in this part of the world is not very inviting. Passed eight emigrant wagons on the way, and overtook the Escort. Some Pawnee Indians who recently reached this station, report fighting between them and their neighbors, the Sioux. Good camp-ground. Wood water and grass. Traveled 23 miles.

CAMP 10, JUNE 18:—Started out this morning in the rear of the "Escort," and dragged along after them until an accident to one of their wagons enabled us to take the lead. 'Twas a low bleak prairie over which we traveled to-day; many slues were in it, and the roads cut up badly in the wet season. A cold north wind blew all day, making it very uncomfortable. Camped this evening along the Platte river, at the first point where that and the road touch, at a distance of 52 miles from Omaha. This river is a wide shallow stream, very muddy. It is in fact a waste of waters, being of no benefit to humanity, but a drain to the upper country. Good place to camp; water and grass plenty; wood obtained at the "River View" house.

CAMP 11, JUNE 19:—Continued on the same prairie mentioned yesterday, but with better roads. Laying aside all feelings to the contrary, one would almost imagine, even in this distant region, that they were in a land advanced in the arts of civilization. Our route follows the line of the great Pacific Telegraph, and with farm-houses and

ranches scattered here and there by the way, the journey will be for some distance ahead by no means a lonesome one. Our camp this evening is on the prairie, which looses itself on every side. Camped early, after lessening the distance 20 miles. Here we found wood, water, grass and—mosquitoes.

CAMP 12, JUNE 20:—Again have we camped along the Platte. The road in the forenoon was not one of the best, being very sandy in places. Crossed Loupe Fork river by ferry. It was an exceeding crazy, shammy concern, hardly fit to be dignified by the name of ferry; but what there was we were obliged to accept, and as the opposite shore was reached in safety, we pronounced it good enough, and pass it by. The boat crossed nearly half way over the river. It seemed like paying \$3,50 for fording, the ferrying thrown in. Good roads on the west side of the river. This evening used river water for the first time. Water a little stained. Good camp-ground.—Plenty cooking materials, and feed for animals. Advanced 24 miles.

CAMP 13, JUNE 21:—No change in the scenery to-day. For a time in the morning found good roads. The Platte at this season of the year overflows its banks, and in so doing softened the road to such an extent that for a short distance they cut up badly. Our mules dragged us through, and it was a relief to reach hard land again.—Camped by the river, and amused ourselves by shooting at birds. Passable stopping place. Water plenty, grass meagre, wood scarce. 21 miles.

CAMP 14, SUNDAY, JUNE 22:—As we were unable to find a fitting place at which to stop over to-day, it became necessary to continue our march over another Sabbath. It was a matter of necessity, not of choice, and we trust that not often will such alternatives occur. At the present writing a high

wind is blowing, and appearances indicate a severe storm during the night, so every thing is secured and fitted up in expectation of it. Good camp-ground with all things necessary. 23 miles.

CAMP 15, JUNE 23:—A decided improvement in the appearance of the country. As we leave the river and ascend higher land, it assumes a better aspect. Everything needs rain badly; crops are poor for the want of it, and grass is withered for the lack of proper sustenance. During the forenoon the sun shone intensely hot; but in the afternoon clouded up with a pleasant wind. Camped to-night on a broad level plain, somewhat remote from the river, at which we are well pleased, as the myriads of mosquitoes have been an excessive annoyance while we have camped along its borders. Road very good. Forded Wood river, but a small shallow stream. Good place to camp. 25 miles.

CAMP 16, JUNE 24:—Camped about one mile from the river, opposite Ft. Kearney, distant $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Roads good, with an occasional slue. The weather intensely hot. We have now reached the second haven of our hopes, and whether they will be realized or no, remains to be seen. Camped in a very good situation, in company with several trains bound on the same mission with ourselves. Found water and grass, but was obliged to purchase fuel at one dime per stick of cord-wood length. Traveled 25 miles.

JUNE 25:—The river being very high, fording or ferrying is very difficult at this season of the year. It is about 3 miles wide, runs in several channels, with a rapid current. Hired conveyance to cross at the moderate charge of \$3,00, to go to the Post Office at the Fort, in hopes that we should hear something from home, also from him who, above all others, we desire

to see. The difficulties attending the voyage, with its results, are deemed a more fitting subject for a note, which will be found appended below.*

CAMP 17, JUNE 26:—Started in good season this morning, sad from our yesterday's disappointment. Here we have a long and wearisome journey of about 335 miles before us, through a piece of country containing not a human habitation, and which is sparsely timbered. The weather again to-day was excessively hot, and I was confined to the "hospital," (which is still kept up,) because of my exertions of yesterday. Camped this evening along with a number of trains. Here, as in Missouri, we have no means of computing distances, but we hope to reach Fort Laramie in good season. Saw a number

* STARTED ON AN expedition across the river to Fort Kearney, with eager expectation of receiving letters from home and Uncle. Reached the ranch on the river at 12 M., and was obliged to await the arrival of the stage, which did not appear until 3 o'clock P. M. The crossing we found to be 4 miles above. Here the river is nearly three miles wide, and runs in three channels, two of which we forded by stage. The third, nearly 1½ miles wide, is shallow, with an occasional deep channel, and a very rapid current. This we crossed in a miserable combination of sticks and lumber, miscalled a boat—a rickety, leaky thing at that, which we were obliged to bail continually in order to keep it afloat, and out of which we had occasionally to get, to drag it over sand bars, with a scorching sun overhead. This was not to be understood as a pleasure excursion, as we learned to our cost before we again reached camp. On the south side we procured passage down to the Fort, four miles, in the mail wagon. On reaching the post office, with feelings running high with anticipation, we found nothing to repay us for our PAINS, and the exertion we had undergone. This was a severe blow and a bitter disappointment. We had traveled 12 weary miles, crossed in fact 3 rivers, tramped through a jungle—a fit home for snakes, lizards and all manner of reptiles; nothing could now be done but to retrace our steps as quickly as our physical condition would allow. Down-heartedness made up no small share of our feelings on our return trip. Another turn of bailing, dragging, &c., brought us on the other shore; another tramp through the jungle, and wading the other two branches—the water up to our armpits—found us clear from the river. Reached home at 11 P. M., wet, tired and exhausted from our exertions.

of villages of what are known as "prairie dogs." Several were shot at but missed. We saw also the skeletons of some buffalos by the way. Several times has it clouded up, with heavy thunder and lightning, and seemingly made desperate efforts to rain; so far it has failed. At the present time a heavy shower is moving to the north. Should it reach us, it would indeed be a favor.

CAMP 18, JUNE 27:—After passing rather an uncomfortable night on account of mosquitoes, we again take up our line of march, which lays through the same apparently interminable prairie. At noon we found what here we call very good water, and plenty of grass for our animals; but as night approached and no sign of water, we were compelled to continue our march till near midnight, when we were brought to a sudden stop by breaking one of the carriage wheels. During the afternoon, a sudden gale arose, which continued until after nightfall, when it increased in severity, accompanied by a slight fall of rain, when it ceased, and all was again quiet. To-night our meal consisted of what was left through the day, it being so late, and all being too tired to go through the process of cooking. Being fortunate enough to break down by a dry slough, water was obtained by digging a shallow well, for our own use and also for the animals.

This is our experience crossing Platte river; the meanest of rivers—broad, shallow, fishless, snakeful, quicksand bars and muddy water—the stage rumbles over the bottom like on a bed of rock; yet haste must be made to effect a crossing, else you disappear beneath its turbid waters, and your doom is certain, horses, wagons, passengers and all. Kearney city, two miles above the Fort, a place of about a dozen houses, is familiarly called "dobey town," being almost entirely constructed of adobes, or sun-dried bricks. The Fort is a wooden structure; that and the buildings attached are of considerable extent. A number of soldiers were walking around, with apparently but little to do; a number of cannon stood in the enclosure rusty from disuse. It is the Western Stage Co's station; here also congregate the worshipers of Bacchus, and "dealers" of cards.

The distance traveled to-day was necessarily great; we had no wish to extend it, and the like of which we hope not soon to repeat.

CAMP 19, JUNE 28:—As morning dawned we found the damage done to our carriage not so serious as we at first supposed, and preparations were immediately made for mending the broken wheel. Among the company we found oak lumber enough to repair it, which we paid for only by thanks. The injury was repaired and we on the way by 11 o'clock A. M. Camp 19 was located along side the river, and we were obliged to wade a channel to an island to obtain wood.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29:—The Sabbath is especially denominated a day of rest. With us it was far otherwise. We tried hard but in vain to reach this point in season to do our work yesterday. To-day we were obliged to wash, and set three tires on our heavy wagon. This evening a heavy storm arose, and the rain fell in copious quantities. It continued with little interruption during the night.

CAMP 20, JUNE 30:—Started early in hopes of making a good day's travel. Morning lowery, and during the day we had a heavy fall of rain. The road was very sandy, and intersected by many sloughs. Reached "Pawnee Springs," where we camped for the night. Sky clear, and every appearance of a pleasant day to-morrow.

Another month has passed.

CAMP 21, JULY 1:—The morning heavy and cloudy, but the clouds soon disappeared, and the day closed beautifully. The roads bad from yesterday's storm, but grew better as night approached. Refreshed ourselves at a large cold spring on the north side of the road. Last night formed a junction with several other companies, and our little army now numbers about 25

effective men. Met two trains of Mormons, one of 40 and the other of 55 wagons, with an average of five yoke of cattle to each wagon, bound to the border for a large number of their poor deluded dupes. We are again camped along side of the river, but our water for cooking purposes we bring along with us. No wood but what we carry along, and we are informed that for over 225 miles we will not be troubled with any unnecessary amount of timber. We are now following up a road which is nearly level, with a few low sand-hill exceptions, of nearly 500 miles in extent. After that hills and mountains.

CAMP 22, JULY 2:—Roads not exceedingly good to-day. Crossed two creeks near each other in the morning, and two teams got stuck in the mud. It was nothing serious, and we soon righted and moved on. At noon camped near a large spring of cold water. This afternoon our road was long and circuitous, through heavy sand and some hills. Separated from part of the company at noon, and it is a matter of doubt whether we are overtaken by them this evening. Good grass, poor water, and no wood.

Up to this time a mirage has occasionally appeared, in the form of water in the distance, with islands. Several times has it been seen, but it excited no unusual curiosity.

CAMP 23, JULY 3:—Here we find ourselves, on the eve of the 87th anniversary of our national independence, 500 miles from anywhere else, in the dreary, lonesome, desert wilds of Nebraska. Met with another slight accident to-day, in the breaking of the evener attached to our leading team. Roads very sandy and heavy. Passed over two long but not steep hills, on which the sand was very deep. Camped this evening near a sulphur spring, near the river. No wood.

CAMP 24, JULY 4:—Struck our camp this morning at a rather later hour than usual, and proceeded but a few miles, merely to change our location for a better, if possible, and to better enjoy our lonely holiday. "Tired nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep," troubled but few of us during last night. Myriads of mosquitoes fed on our blood, and made the night hideous by their ceaseless hum. We again encountered heavy roads to-day, and met another train of the apostles of Joe Smith, bound on the same errand as their more advanced comrades, after a cargo of their devoted brethren. Nothing has taken place to-day to remind us that this is the 87th year of our national existence; that nearly a century has passed since that boldest stroke of all human policy was attempted, declaring ourselves free and independent, and taking our place by the side of the other nations of the globe. Yet such is the case. But now, alas! how changed the scene. From the most prosperous and happy people on earth, we have descended into, or been plunged into a frightful, remorseless civil war. We have been suddenly hurled down from our proud pre-eminence, and are again struggling for that very existence which cost us so dear in blood and treasure. Our rejoicing has been turned into mourning. Our celebrating "with bonfires, the ringing of bells, and the booming of cannons," has been changed to the camp-fires of our armies, and the sound of cannons as they plow the ranks of our foes in the fierce combat, and the tolling of bells as they ring out the sad dirge for the noble dead.

We have beaten "our pruning hooks into spears, our plow shares into swords;" the mighty men are awake.

We passed several graves by the wayside, of pilgrims who have lost their lives in this desert waste.

CAMP 25, JULY 5:—Started on our

way at an early hour. Roads quite smooth where there was no sand. A stiff north wind in the morning. Crossed several small creeks, and forded a few larger ones. Gathered flood-wood from the river. Regaled ourselves from a cold spring of water which issues from the rock by the road-side. Saw rocky bluffs for the first time since leaving Elkhorn river; they seem to be of a sandy nature—indeed we know not how they could be otherwise, when we consider the condition of the soil. Camped this evening by Wolf creek, at the foot of a considerable sand hill. A turtle was secured this evening, and by a cook of the company converted into a pleasant dish of soup, of which we partook to a sufficiency. The odor was good and the taste delicious.

CAMP 26, SUNDAY, JULY 6:—Crossed the bluff spoken of yesterday, about 1 mile in extent, which was by far the most serious one we have yet seen. An hour and a half was consumed in the crossing. Roads very good. Forded several streams to-day. Stopped at noon opposite a spot known as "Ash Hollow." It being at a distance from us, we could observe no distinguishing feature that gives it this name, unless its being the first valley of any extent we have been favored with a view of. Camped this evening at a distance from a ledge known as "Castle Rock," which is also on the opposite side of the river. We know nothing of their appearance and cannot describe them. A slight shower this evening.

CAMP 27, JULY 7:—Struck our camp at an early hour, and started on a long day's drive, through a space of country where grass and water are scarce. Roads good, but the sun shone very hot, with scarcely a breeze stirring. Shot a prairie dog, which somewhat resembled a woodchuck, also a squirrel, in appearance. Of the peculiarities, manner of living, &c., of prairie dogs, we are ig-

norant. They are said to have owls and rattlesnakes as companions in their holes.

CAMP 28, JULY 8:—Roads good, with an occasional low, sandy bluff. Weather cool and pleasant. In the evening a slight shower, with high wind. Our camp this evening is located by the river side, across which is a singular formation known as "Court House Rock," which derives its name from its appearance. It stands isolated from the bluffs, and can be seen at a great distance. The bluffs we passed to-day, on the north side of the road, assume various shapes, a faint description of which will be found below.*

CAMP 29, JULY 9:—Weather beautiful for traveling. Roads during the forenoon were very good, but in the afternoon we found them somewhat rough. At noon passed Chimney Rock, which stands on the south side of the river. From the view we had of it, it seems to be a rough specimen of the monumental art, hewn out by nature. The obelisk or column stands on a pedestal which is very broad at the base, and which tapers to the centre. The whole appears to be about 60 feet high. It is near the river, and from its position can be seen many miles. To the west a short distance stands several piles of rock, each having some distinctive feature, representing buildings, forts and towers, as well as round-

* STARTED out this morning for a trip among the bluffs and rocks, sight-seeing, and in quest of anything that could afford amusement. For some time wandered among the various hollows and steep rocks, until tired with the exercise. An adequate description we cannot give: indeed in any other land than this there is but little that would attract more than ordinary attention. One mound, with forms of rock on the top, which, at a distance, looks like a dog, formed one item of interest, and what is called "Ancient Bluff Ruins," another. They represent castles, fortifications, &c., and we suppose that in resemblance the fact ceases. What traditions exist in relation to them, if any, we are not aware of. Picked up a few pebbles and flowers as a memento of the place.

houses with dome roofs. The main one, on the fore ground, with its perpendicular walls and round centre, seems to form a Capitol. Received in the evening a visit from a few friendly Sioux Indians. Another storm arose, which, like many of its predecessors, contained more wind than water.

CAMP 30, JULY 10:—Good road all day. Passed Scott's Bluffs, a ledge of rock worthy of mention. They stand near the river, also on the south side; they are in places perpendicular, but for the most part are steep but ragged. They stand alone, although they are of themselves of considerable extent, and in common with other prominent points, can be seen from afar. We started in the morning with the intention of making a short day's drive, and camping near a stream where we were told there were many trout. We reached the creek, but found that neither trout, nor fish of any kind had been known to exist there. Moved beyond a few miles, through an Indian village, and located where the grass was of a medium quality. Water unfit to drink within a mile and a half of us. A number of Indians paid us a visit. The weather this evening is unexceptionable, with the moon shining brilliantly. With the gnats during the day, and the mosquitoes at night, ease and comfort are beyond our reach. Purchased a piece of antelope from the Indians, which was eaten with great relish. Met two more Mormon trains, the first containing 49 wagons, the last 33.

CAMP 31, JULY 11:—The weather for a time after starting was cool and pleasant; the sun, however, soon changed it, and the air became hot and oppressive. Roads passably good, with prickly pear and wild sage in abundance. Found timber north side of the river, the first we have seen for many days. All day has Laramie Peak, among the

Black Hills, been in view. This evening another slight shower, heavy wind and thunder. Camp on a sand bank—a most disagreeable situation. Plenty of wood and water, and a moderate, though sufficient amount of grass.

CAMP 32, JULY 12:—Roads in the morning were good, but in the afternoon were sandy, which caused heavy drawing. Heat intense, and dust almost intolerable. Reached Fort Laramie early in the evening, and here we found the absent ones awaiting our arrival. The re-union was a most joyous one. After many weeks separation, with sickness and death, and traveling through a wild and desert waste, the meeting with those who had caused us so much anxiety was most satisfactory. Fort Laramie is situated on the south side of the Platte river, and over the soldiers' barracks the flag of our country floats. Camped about one mile above on the river, with wood and water in abundance, but feed scarce and dry. The soil for the most of the way here is arid and barren, back from the river bottoms.

SUNDAY, JULY 13:—Again was Sunday a day of labor. Overhauling and re-packing loads, washing and cooking. The Sunday with us has been similar in experience to all who cross the plains. The labors of the day closed at a late hour.

CAMP 33, JULY 14:—Remained in camp until after dinner, repairing and re-arranging. Traveled but a few miles in the afternoon; left the main road and camped by the river. Feed excellent when compared to that of yesterday. Wood in abundance, and good spring water for cooking, which is quite a treat, being used to river water so long. A heavy shower passed to the south, giving us but a slight touch. Roads somewhat hilly, but

hard. Weather hot in the morning, and cool in the after part of the day.

CAMP 34, JULY 15:—The road to-day was hilly and rather mountainous. In many places the ascent and descent was steep and very rocky. This continued through the forenoon, and is said to be the worst part of the road through the "Black Hills." They are of different ranges, cut up into separate peaks, and are of a dark appearance. Cedar and pine grows in abundance along their sides, and in the hollows. In the afternoon the road was more in the form of a rolling prairie. From one point an extended view was had, which, in a land of civilization, would have been grandly beautiful. Ranges of hills stretching away to the north and east, and the Platte river coursing along at the foot. To the south also, as far as could be seen, Laramie Peak looms up loftily above all its mates. Snow is still visible on its sides. While camped for dinner a storm arose which poured out rain in copious quantities. A heavy fall of hail, with thunder and lightning accompanying it. Water and grass being scarce articles, our journey was necessarily continued again until late in the evening. We found a good spring of water, but feed nothing extra. Midnight settled down upon us ere the camp became settled and quiet.

CAMP 35, JULY 16:—Roads similar to yesterday afternoon, with hills of gradual slope. Weather hot and uncomfortable. No water for 12 miles this afternoon. Camped by the river. Wood, but feed poor.

CAMP 36, JULY 17:—No essential difference in the forenoon from the roads of yesterday. In the afternoon, by way of variety, we had a few hills and some sand. The weather in the morning was very chilly, and so continued all day. Feed along the road dried up or eaten off; to-night it is

very good, but not extra. Wood plenty and Platte water for cooking. A light, drizzly shower in the early part of the evening.

CAMP 37, JULY 18:—Again was our road a long and circuitous one, to avoid steep hills and deep hollows. Roads tolerably good, slightly mixed with rough places. Passed some iron ore, and one ledge where it lay in immense quantities. Our march continued until near sunset, and even then a very indifferent camp ground was obtained.

CAMP 38, JULY 19:—Started on the road at an early hour. A short stretch of hard road, but for the most part sandy and heavy. Followed the river valley through the day. Grass sparse and withered. Passed through a section of low, swampy land, on which grass grew in abundance, but it was a place to be avoided as a camp ground, as the grass was poisoned by alkali. Our camp is not in a very prepossessing locality; grass scant, wood minus. Acres of brush called grease-wood surround us on all sides. Camped quite early; evening pleasant.

CAMP 39, SUNDAY, JULY 20:—Moved forward to-day in the vain endeavor to obtain a suitable camp ground to enable us to enjoy the "rest" of former Sundays. We did not succeed in gaining one until near night, when we stopped near the Platte Bridge, amid hard grass and alkali. The bridge, which is nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile in length, is the first evidence of civilization we have seen in many days. Here the Telegraph crosses to the north side of the river.

CAMP 40, JULY 21:—Laid by until noon to recruit stock, and to perform such other duties as were deemed necessary. Near by stood a deserted residence, in which were a fire-place and other conveniences which we had not. Possession was immediately taken, and operations at once com-

menced. With kettle hanging in the fire-place, the oven standing in front, New England's historic reminiscences were vividly called to mind. The roads this afternoon were in places very sandy, and a few hills. Traveled for some time by the river, where the bluffs came near the margin on either side, and the channel of the stream runs narrow and deep. The hills are quite lofty, and in places composed of a red rock. Through this section clouds of mosquitoes tormented the teams, and rendered traveling very irksome and disagreeable; in the evening the same. Left the Platte behind, and are now following the course of the Sweet Water river. Poor feed, but has been better.

CAMP 41, JULY 22:—Roads to-day unexceptionable—smooth and hard.—Weather cool, with a slight fall of rain in the afternoon. Passed between two ledges of rock this morning, of some extent. On the north side of the road they appeared like a stone wall, in an advanced state of ruin, or decay; on the south rocky bluffs of gradual slope. Camped this evening by Grease-wood creek, where feed is quite good; water passable, and fuel grease-wood and sage brush. At this camp the mosquitoes have relieved us of their presence—we do not regret their absence.

CAMP 42, JULY 23:—Our caravan started on the way at the usual time, over roads similar in all respects to those of yesterday, which continued until nearly noon, when it descended somewhat to a lower level, and was very sandy. In the midst of this plain were several alkali springs and lakes; some salaratus we gathered as a remembrance of the spot. On leaving this we entered a defile of the Sweet Water mountains, a range composed chiefly of grey granite. Stopped at noon by a bridge crossing the river near Independence Rock. This is a

pile of rock, oval shaped and regular. It is 600 yards in length, and 120 wide; the exact elevation we do not know.—Some of the party ascended the highest point and unfurled the old flag to the breeze. From here we trailed between two ranges of these "rocky mountains," of which the river is the divide, and camped between them this evening. Five miles from the river crossing, is the cut in the mountains, bearing the euphonic title of "Devil's Gate." We obtained but a passing glance, and are enabled to record but the extent of our view. The river rushes through this cut in a narrow channel. The sides are of perpendicular rock, 400 feet in height. The appearance from the road was grand beyond description, and it is a curiosity well worthy of notice. Persons from the party that climbed the range looked like mere pigmies, so far above us and so distant were they. Camped by the river, with good feed, but no wood.

CAMP 43, JULY 24:—An occasional sandy plain or hill, a few sections of rocky road, and some smooth places, made up the country over which we traveled to-day. In places we traveled near the mountains, and several times a glance across the country to the north, revealed snow in view on the more lofty peaks. The weather in the morning was warm and sultry; at noon a storm arose, which chilled the air so that an extra amount of clothing was not uncomfortable. Camped in quite a romantic spot; the different forms of the mountains however, are about all that make it so.

CAMP 44, JULY 25:—Left camp after the appointed time, and moved out into a broad level valley or plain, barren it was too, which we traversed for six miles, away from the river. Here the river and the road passes through a Canyon in the mountains; the river having washed out the road in several

places in this pass, we were obliged to ascend a hill deep with sand—pass round the mountains and regain the main road. We ascended one of the loftiest peaks to make an observation. The rocky sides of the mountain were steep and ragged, and with great difficulty was the top gained. From this elevated position, an immense tract of country was brought plainly in sight, diversified by mountains and plains; many miles of the river in its winding, snake-like course could be traced, and the snow capped peaks of the Wind River range seemed near by. The descent was even more difficult than the ascent, lowering ourself from crag to crag and rock to rock, sometimes suspended over a deep gulf by the hands. It is presumable that the feet of humanity seldom tread on this isolated spot, and that the human voice seldom disturb its elevated solitude. We regained our company tired but satisfied.

Yesterday passed the grave of a man murdered on the 6th inst., by a person who up to that time was his traveling companion. To-day we passed the tomb of his murderer. He was caught, tried and shot the next day. Retribution was in this case speedy and summary. The tedious, tardy, and too often doubtful manner of administering what is termed "justice" in the States, has but few admirers or advocates on the plains.

The road this afternoon was very good. A high wind blew up the dust in a manner that did not contribute to our comfort. Camped this evening on a low, wet, swampy piece of ground, which emitted a strong, disagreeable odor, flavored also by the perfume arising from the carcasses of animals within a few rods of us. The water was sulphury and bad; the feed, where we are, scant and poor; while within a quarter of a mile below feed is good. Take it altogether, this is the most miserable location we have had the

misfortune to be placed in; a dirty, sandy, pestilential hole, a repetition of which we trust we shall not be called upon to endure.

Such we found the place known in guide books as "Ice Spring." On digging as directed, no ice was found.—Perhaps it thawed before we reach it.

CAMP 45, JULY 26:—Started on our march at 4 o'clock A. M., without our breakfast, and traveled ten miles to the river, which we forded, and then halted until noon. Left the mountains behind us this morning, and traveled through a country intersected by low sandy or gravel hills. We followed nearly a straight course until towards evening, when we crossed a high stony bluff, and in so doing traced a crooked, serpentine track, for a long distance. On this bluff and the flats to which we descended, a high wind prevailed, directly in front, loading the atmosphere with sand and dust, covering everything, and filling our eyes, to a painful extent. Here is a good place for goggles to be used. Camped this evening in a hollow, between two ranges of hills named Rocky Ridge. It was near this spot that a mail station was interfered with in the early part of the season, some men in the employ of the Telegraph and Mail Co. murdered by the Indians, and their stock and cattle stolen. From present appearances we have bettered ourselves but little in regard to feed for animals. Whether we remain here over Sunday or no, remains a matter of doubt, at present. Several other emigrant trains are with us. We were obliged to ford the river with our animals this evening, as we have done on former occasions, to obtain forage.

CAMP 46, SUNDAY, JULY 27:—Decided to move forward to seek better accommodations; in fact it was our only choice. Stopped at Strawberry Creek, 10 miles distant; feed nothing above the extra. The first three miles of our

journey was a succession of hills and hollows; there was but little sand among them, which was in our favor. During the afternoon there sprung up a severe gale of wind, rendering it almost impossible to travel, because of the intensity of the flying dust. A cold but slight rain was a fitting accompaniment. While this gale was existing, we forded a branch of the river. Its channel lay between the hills; by its side were several immense snow banks. With our knife we carved out a piece and carried it to camp as a curiosity. The curiosity, or singularity, consists of our finding snow and eating it in mid-summer. Two miles from this ford we crossed Willow Creek; turned from the road and followed it up two miles, and were enabled to obtain good feed and water.

JULY 28:—Being where there was an abundance of grass for the teams, we concluded to remain in camp. During the afternoon we were visited by our accustomed gale of wind. Nothing happened of note save the appearance of two antelope, and all writing letters "home to our friends," which we were so fortunate as to be able to send by way of Salt Lake.

CAMP 47, JULY 29:—Two miles from camp we came to the river again. Here 70 soldiers were stationed for the protection of emigrants from the encroachments of Indians. Here also the roads diverge, leading off in different directions, but both arriving at the same point. One is familiarly known as "Lander's cut-off," to which preference is given as being the shortest and best road to Ft. Hall; the other the old route, very rough and mountainous, and difficult to travel. Without hesitation it was decided to take the "cut-off." We turned to the right, parted company with some who had traveled with us, and moved out into a strange, and to our party, unknown country. The roads were a mixture of level

plains and hills—some of them very steep and rough—hollows and sloughs. At noon some of the party prospected for gold, but found only mica as a result of their investigation. Crossed some immense beds of quartz rock and gray granite. Huge piles or boulders of the latter reared their heads in many places in the crest and sides of the hills, which gave the scenery a more picturesque appearance. On descending a steep hill, we came upon the river, which here rushes along with fearful velocity through a cut in the mountains, and assumes a closer proximity to our idea of a mountain torrent, than we have before been enabled to record.—Crossed the same on an old partly broken down bridge, and camped by a small creek one half a mile beyond, where we found good feed, and what is more singular still, abundance of wood. The weather to-day as has been for many days past, cool, and woolen clothing by no means the most uncomfortable thing to endure. The gale this P. M. not so severe as usual, with a slight fall of rain.

CAMP 48, JULY 30:—To-day we crossed the summit of the Rocky Mountains, the back-bone of our country, the dividing ridge between the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific. We paused not to consider as did Caesar of old, nor await the casting of the die; but moved on with that ease and dignity becoming persons in our condition. We now find ourselves on the Western slope of the mountains, in Washington Territory; Nebraska we have left behind; the kingdom of the "Latter day Saints"—or sinners—lies to the left or south of us.

The roads were for the most part but a repetition of those of days past, until towards evening, when we entered a section of country coming nearer to our estimate of what the plains were before we attempted their crossing. Ere we reached this level, we had to descend

several long, winding hills. Crossed two rushing streams, one of which was bridged, the other we forded. Having no chart to guide us, and for want of accurate information concerning them, we supposed them to be the Little and Big Sandy. Camped by the latter. The weather to-day was cold, and the wind piercing. We are now at an altitude of 7,085 feet above the level of the sea.

CAMP 49, JULY 31:—Supposing ourselves, and rightly too, to be on the wide extensive desert, spoken of yesterday, we prepared to move out at an early hour, and endeavor to clear it if possible, before dark. At noon found good grass and water. In the afternoon made a long drive, over a comparatively level section, on which sage brush grew in immense quantities, and grass in places, until at camping time we arrived at Green River, a wide deep and rapid stream. Here we found several large trains encamped waiting to effect a crossing. A temporary ferry had been established, and all possible expedition was being used to urge a speedy passage. The roads to-day were very unexceptionable. Soil composed of gravel and coarse sand, mixed with particles of quartz, that glistened in the sun-light. The weather of last night and to-day was to us a singular phenomenon. Last night water froze in pails so hard that on turning it bottom upwards it would not run out. This morning the air was pure and rare, but cold and biting. Indeed, how could it be otherwise, while being surrounded by mountains covered with snow. This afternoon the sun in front, was scalding hot, while on the opposite side near the freezing point was attained; the wind was light and suffocating. We are now among the Green River Mts. Prospects ahead of another cold night. What the morrow will bring forth is for the morrow to demonstrate. No feed but sage-brush.

In the manner faintly described in the foregoing pages, has another month passed while on the road.

CAMP 50, AUGUST 1, 1862:—On consultation with the company, it was decided not to cross the river at this place, because fifteen miles farther was another stream as difficult as this, which we necessarily would have to pass. A few miles below the two formed a junction, where a ferry had been placed. To go down the river to the ferry was concluded on; although it would consume some time, and take us some out of our way, it was thought to be the best in the end. At 3 o'clock in the morning camp was aroused, and an hour later found us on our way, dragging along over a rough and uneven piece of country; part of the way along the river bottoms and then over steep high bluffs, where they reached the river; to ascend the last, extra teams were required. A few miles out stopped for breakfast and to feed the animals. At the river the animals had to swim—the boat being too frail—and the wagons ferried, which was accomplished in season and safety. Camped a few miles beyond. Good water, no fuel, grass excellent.

CAMP 51, AUG. 2:—The situation of last night was not deemed in every way suitable to remain any length of time, so we started to seek a better. The route similar to that already described, until we reached a low swampy piece of land through which the road passed and which it was impossible to avoid, because of its extent. It was skirted on both sides by high bluffs, leaving this as our only pass. Here we located for the present although the "situation" is not a very desirable one.

CAMP 52, SUNDAY AUG. 3:—After prospecting for a while it was found that by some labor a very passable road

could be made through the swamp. A few hours were spent in cutting willow brush to fill in holes and form a kind of corderoy bottom over which we were transported with but little trouble.—Gnats and mosquitoes interfered very much with the peace of both animals and travelers to-day. But a good breeze soon settled their dignity. Late in the day we moved out a few miles and camped between two ranges of mountains, with good feed and water. Another very disagreeable wind greeted us on the road, and is still blowing.

CAMP 53, AUG. 4:—The most of the day was occupied in the usual operations that employs all the time of days while laying still, such as cooking, washing and renovating. Towards night the order came to move on, which was a little unexpected, but nevertheless was with evident good grace complied with. Soon after starting the road entered a Canyon in the mountains, along which a small but rapid stream coursed. Snow lined the sides and peaks of the mountains on either side; for twelve days we have not been out of sight of it. Into this narrow defile we went, and trailed over the roughest road for a few miles, that we had yet found.—Crossed the creek five times. At one place descended a steep but short hill, where the teams had to be taken from the wagons, and they lowered by hand and ropes, and by this means dragged over a frail bridge. The remaining places were forded. A high wind prevailed most of the way, and dust was not wanting. Camped at a point where the mountains draw near together, in company with another considerable train. The moon shining brilliantly, and the cheerful light of the several camp-fires lend a more pleasant charm to the spot than it otherwise would have. The myriads of mosquitoes that kept us company on the way have become quiet.

The coolness of the evening, and the smoke existing, have induced them to withdraw in silence. We do not complain particularly of their "insinuating ways," but after associating with them a while one can appreciate their absence. Having fortunately cut grass for the mules, we were enabled to favor them with a hearty meal, else they would have fared much worse than we.

CAMP 54, AUG. 5:—We sallied forth this morning, poorly knowing the character of the country through which our path led, and the difficulties we would have to encounter and overcome. For two miles the road was most abominable. It has been better, but is now badly washed. Rough, stony and side-lining barely names it. The creek was forded five times, and holes in it filled with stones in several places. A wagon belonging to one of the party in going through was broken. We escaped without accident, but have no wish to turn and try it over. The morning was cold and the mountains so high, that it was late ere the sun arose sufficiently to warm the atmosphere in this dark and cheerless place. On clearing this hollow we passed across a level table a short distance, and stopped for noon, having made a long drive and accomplished but a short journey. The road for the afternoon was ascending and descending high and steep mountains.—The ascent was tedious, the descent even more so. At the base of each, other creeks interred as obstacles to delay rapid progress. Toward evening we changed our course from due west to north through another Canyon. The mountain sides and hollows were heavily timbered with spruce and poplar, and the road was made by cutting them down and dragging them out of the way. Throughout the afternoon, guats mosquitoes and large horse-flies seemed to conspire to annoy both ourselves and

the animals. The kicks and pawings of the animals, and the many slaps that were given, and the sundry hard things that were said, fully attested as to the annoyance. Camped at an early hour, wearied and careworn from the labor of the day. Owing to the circumstances, made but a short distance this afternoon.

CAMP 55, AUG. 6:—What was said of the roads of yesterday, is equally true of to-day, and if possible, even more so. Crossed three lofty mountains; to ascend, the road wound around them in the form of a spiral stair-case, like that of the Tower of Babel. The rock and earth was cut down sufficient to make a track on the sides. The descent was not so gradual, and in places was dangerous. Through the ravines the roads are very rough, often following some distance in the bed of a creek. On the tops of these mountains we were elevated high above many surrounding peaks. In the gulfs below are beds of eternal ice and snow, and dense, almost impenetrable growth of brush and timber.—Along the tops and sides of the mountains fires have raged and spread, taking everything in its way. Many trees have fallen, while others stand, blackened, tall and limbless, pointing spire-like Heavenward, as a silent record of the relentless flames that have passed over them. Saw two graves by the roadside, on the top of one of the mountains; one was that of a lady, enclosed in a neat picket fence; the other a man supposed to have been killed by Indians.—The last hollow we entered, seemed to be down, down to a limitless abyss. A deep, swift stream we found, when at last we reached the bottom, rushing like a torrent at our feet. This we repeatedly crossed, as also a number of muddy sloughs. For several rods a log-way had been laid, which was much the worse from the amount of travel that had passed over it.

Before clearing this we were obliged to camp in as poor, miserable and disagreeable a place as could well be imagined. Destitute alike of verdure and timber. The mountains were separated only by the creek. All day has the dust been insufferable, and here the condition was not altered, while to aggravate the senses, the strong perfume of a dead horse tainted the atmosphere.—Pitched our tent in the dirt and carpeted it with willow brush, as we had often done before. What was still worse, there was no feed for the stock but willow, and this, too, after a wearisome day's march. The sky became overcast with clouds, obscuring the moon, and fires were kindled to dispell the gloom. A cold supper was eaten this evening in silence, and camp soon became quiet. Emphatically then, we are crossing the Rocky Mountains. Starting was delayed this morning by reason of a mule of ours straying from camp, and returning to the place where we halted yesterday for dinner, a distance of about ten miles. It was pursued, overtaken and returned.

CAMP 56, AUG. 7:—From the circumstances mentioned last evening, being without feed, we were again hurried off at an early hour to seek it. A few miles out we found what we were in quest of in abundance, and what was just then most needed, and stopped a few hours to breakfast both animals and party, near by a good spring of water. This morning for the first time in many days a slight shower occurred, which served to lay the dust, but at the same time make the roads very slippery, and hard drawing. For a novelty it thundered while it rained. A minute description of this part of the route we are unprepared to give, farther than to say, we are still among the mountains; that the face of the country is mountainous, and that they are of a gigantic size. Pass-

ed over three mountains to-day, similar in every essential to those of yesterday. From the summit of the last, our eyes rested on a scene most pleasing; never were the children of Israel more gratified with a view of the promised land, than were we when our eyes first rested on a beautiful valley that lay spread out before us at the base of the mountains. Beautiful, indeed as was the picture, the result proved that the facts as they appeared, were not enlarged upon nor overdrawn. "It was all our fancy pictured it." Having been shut up in the mountains four days, here at last we thought, some little enjoyment could be taken. In this valley was another grave, made but yesterday. What a place to die:

"Hearts are bounding, mirth is gushing, all is joy
but yet anon,
Comes the wail of dying mortals, and the pilgrims
travel on."

Camped in a very pleasant situation, with all necessaries in abundance. It is pronounced by those who have taken the journey, and best able to judge, that this year has been as hard as any ever known for crossing the plains.—Owing to the unusual severity of the past winter, the grass was killed, and the melting of the immense quantities of snow that had fallen, caused an unprecedented rise in the water, it softened the road in many places, washing it entirely away in others. It needs but the heat and emigration of '52 to make it equally as disastrous. Evening beautiful, but cold.

CAMP 57, AUG 8:—Moved out of camp without manifesting any particular haste, intending to make but a short drive and stop for the day. A few miles served to place us in a situation we oft had wished for. The valley bottoms resemble much the form of a vast meadow, with grass of excellent quality.—Overtook a large train near a considerable stream, which we crossed and lo-

cated on the opposite side. Wood being scarce we necessarily had to go to the mountains, one and a half miles distant to obtain it. The remainder of the day passed pleasantly. There is a dearth of amusement here, yet in the evening our neighbors over the creek seem to enjoy themselves well.

AUG. 9:—Part of the train concluding to remain in this place until Sunday morning, the rest, having much anxiety to see the end of this journey, separated from us, and moved on. The large party near us also moved past. During the day many other pilgrims came up and camped with us. Among them were a number of acquaintances we had formed on the road and left behind. So we have company enough and our situation is far from being an unpleasant one.

CAMP 58, SUNDAY AUG. 10:—Moved down the valley a few miles, then drove through a gap in the mountain that bordered it on the west; following as usual in such places, the course of a stream. A number of crossings were made; but one appeared anyway difficult, and this was affected with but little delay. Here the Canyon turned again to the north. Soon after changing our direction, we came to a salt spring; passing a bluff, another and larger one. A meadow with excellent grass being near, we halted to feed and dinner. This salt spring is, without doubt, as strong as any brine could be, unless manufactured. The water in evaporating gathered in a thick coat over a large plot of ground, and as pure and white as could be, and of extra quality. This the company all agreed, was the most natural curiosity on the road. Some was gathered in flakes as a remembrance, and some for table use. The roads this afternoon were in places good and again had we not found worse, we should consider very bad. The roughest and the most to be dreaded was in the bottoms of the Canyons,—

Ascended a mountain by a long road but generally smooth. Descended but a short distance, and camped for the night, near a creek, with good feed, and wood in endless quantities. The day was cool, the evening chilly. It is fair to presume that the poet who so longed for a "lodge in some vast wilderness," never crossed the plains, else he would have written little in that strain.

CAMP 59, AUG. 11:—A keen frost last night, made a very chilly morning. The first move made after starting was to cross a mud-hole, the next to ascend the mountain for some time, and barring a few ups and downs, descend into a valley. Along this we drove, crossing a number of creeks, but none that gave us any trouble worthy of record. Stopped for noon in this valley, with good forage. One noticeable feature from this point, the mountains become smaller, and more distant from each other; evidence sufficient, we think, to warrant us in the belief that we are getting beyond them, a circumstance none cares how soon it takes place.—Mountain scenery is sometimes lovely, but on this we have been feasted to a surfeit. This afternoon the country has assumed a slightly different aspect. The road good. It led us down into another valley, in the middle of which is a pond or lake, encompassed by a swampy border. Quantities of ducks covered its surface. Around this we passed on the south and west sides, by the foot of the mountain. Rising on higher land we soon selected a site for an encampment, near by a spring of good water. Scarcely a breeze blew all day, and the clouds of dust were blinding as well as suffocating.

CAMP 60, AUG. 12:—To-day the roads wound around somewhat among the hills, taking advantage of ravines and valleys to afford a smoother way. This to a great extent was nearly attained;

in places however, there were many boulders which were very porous, being perforated much like a sponge. In the morning the sky was cloudy, and the air close and confined; the sun soon dispelled this, and shone hot and blistering.—Crossed several creeks and one considerable stream—the Little Blackfoot we afterwards learned—was wide, deep and rapid. At this place the river runs through a wide, open prairie; it is low in the earth, with high, perpendicular banks, of solid rock. For some distance we followed the course of the river, until on turning to the westward entered a valley in which camp is located. We encountered to-day more than our usual allowance of dust; we have long been accustomed to it in unlimited quantities, but it was this day more blinding than ever. We have so far cleared the mountains that we feel slightly jubilant—much like lifting up our voice in song and discoursing something after this manner:

“Oh aint I glad I got out of the wilderness,” &c.

The hills are barren and treeless; the valleys well stocked with the prolific and never ending sage brush, but prickly pear has disappeared. Camped this evening on a rise of ground, amid sage and dirt sufficient to render it anything but agreeable. At the time of writing it is raining quietly, but there is a prospect of its short continuance. At this place a notice was posted, warning emigrants of Indian troubles, and advising them to stop here and gather in large companies, to pursue with safety the remainder of the journey to Ft. Hall.—“In union there is strength.” The story as we can gather it from the notice, being dimly written with a pencil, is nearly as follows: On the 5th inst., as a party of packers were returning home from California, they were set upon by Indians, at or near our present camping ground, and three of them wounded, and fourteen of their horses

killed. The next day, ten miles beyond, a company of six men with two wagons were attacked, four men killed and one wagon taken away with all the provisions and fixtures belonging to it. The first smacks a little of doubt, as no trace of the dead horses can be found.

We are camped in connection with another company, composed mostly of families. Information of this character, very naturally created no little excitement. Little groups are gathered here and there, discussing, and expressing opinions concerning it. Some entertain doubts as to its truth, while others give it full credit. Many were the suspicious glances given to the distant mountains, as if they boded us no good. Doubtless before another sun shall set, we will obtain more clue to this matter, part of which seems to be wrapped in mystery. Combined we number one hundred well armed, effective men, and consider ourselves safe from an attack, but in such an event, strong enough to cope with a large band of these mountain robbers.

CAMP 61, AUG. 13:—We had been but a short time on the way when a stampede occurred among the cattle of the train we are with, by getting frightened at a dog. One man was injured, but not dangerously. The route to-day was passing over hills and through valleys, without the rocks of yesterday. The country is as barren and fruitless as it could well be. No vegetation could grow, however well disposed.—Made but a short drive to-day, in order to travel with the train we are now with. Passed the grave this afternoon, of an unknown man, who also was supposed to have been killed by the Indians. He was shot in the back of the head with buck-shot, some three hundred yards from the road. He was found to-day, and buried decently by a train but a short distance in advance

of us. The circumstances in this case lead us to suspect foul-play; but we know nothing on which to found a belief, and as strange things often transpire on the plains, we put this down as one of them. A little beyond, camped between two high mountains, the tops of which are covered with snow—no new thing—near a rapidly running creek. Climbed a mountain for wood. Across the creek in a dry and conspicuous spot, are graves containing all that is mortal of the four men murdered by Indians. They were picked up soon after the occurrence and recognized by friends. The last sad rites were performed by the living to the dead, the last tribute of friend to friend contributed, in this distant, dismal region.—The place where they were found bore every evidence of having been a hard contested field. The infernal fiends, not to leave their bloody work half done, scalped their victims and made off with their plunder, skulking among the mountains awaiting another opportunity. Talk about Indian braves, the term is a slanderous one, a libel. Now all doubts are set aside, it is proven to a certainty. It is said that whites are at the bottom of this, and incite the Indians, and encourage them by lending their assistance. No punishment can be too severe for such men. It is thought that our company have been watched all along the way by Indians, yet what is more singular, none have been seen by us, nor any trace of them.

CAMP 62, AUG. 14:—Our cavalcade on marching out in order this morning constitutes a train of about one mile in length, and makes quite a formidable appearance. The roads were very good, some rolling, and an occasional place rocky; the rocks of a different texture than those of yesterday, being more solid with a mixture of granite and quartz. In leaving the valley we had been in some time, we passed over a low moun-

tain, keeping the course of a creek, which at times became a torrent.—Where this stream divided the range, was some of the wildest scenery we have been favored with a view of. The channel was deep, and the sides of perpendicular rock. We ascended a cliff overhanging the depth. Far below, at a giddy distance rushed the torrent. The mountains on the right are lofty, composed of rock of peculiar shapes and forms. From the top of the hill a valley or plain came in view, of great extent. We started this morning with the intention or hope of gaining Ft. Hall. In this valley that station is situated, and we moved into it with hopes running high, and spirits buoyant. Last evening it was warm and pleasant, and to-day it is hot and oppressive. The dust is deep in the road, but does not rise in such quantities as in days past. This plain is a sandy section, on which bunch grass, grows in abundance, sage brush prolifically, prickly pear also. We had not traveled long ere we found we were widening the distance between us and the water, and no indications ahead of being able to reach it before very late at night. Our teams were jaded and tired, the sand deep and heavy.

When persons are in quandary, and know not what to do, it is always best to stop and consider; this we did, and the result of the consideration was to push along. A mile farther another halt was called. This time it was thought best to turn and retrace our steps. After turning back some distance, turned aside, went to a creek and camped, with good grass. The shades of evening was far advanced, before we became settled making ourselves as comfortable as circumstances would permit. When time was taken for consideration, it was thought, in view of the many outrages that had been committed, that the lives of the company were jeopardized by camping in the

place in which we were. The camp-fires had been extinguished to attract as little notice as possible of bands of those wandering denizens of the mountains. Singular as it may appear, at 11 o'clock at night camp was aroused, and ordered to put things in marching order, to retrace our steps, to rejoin the train from which we had become separated, for safety. Whether fear or the anticipation of trouble dictated this movement, it is not our province to say. But certain it was we counter-marched five miles to the train we had left, and stopped with them the whole of the rest of the night, with a feeling of perfect security. In silence was this retrograde movement accomplished.

"The king of Spain, with twice ten thousand men,
Marched up a hill - and then marched down again."

We trust that another such an occasion nor the cause of it, will be called upon to record. We have now been one month from Ft. Laramie.

CAMP 63, AUG. 15:—Morning dawned dull and hazy. Not long after it commenced raining. When it slaked we moved out late in the morning in the rear of the long company. On again reaching this plain or desert, all stopped to consider future movements. It soon re-commenced raining and continued until late and compelled us to wait until it ceased. When that event took place, we moved on nearly to the scene of last night's episode, and camped, we hope for the night, having gained nearly the distance we did on yesterday. The roads here fork, one going to the left crossing the south branch of Snake river, and so on to Walla Walla; the other goes to the right, crossing the north branch of the same river through the Deer Lodge Prairie, and Bitter Root Valley, intersecting the Military road from Ft. Benton to Ft. Walla Walla. This latter it is decided to take in hopes of finding better feed and water. Both routes are nearly the same in length.

Here at this junction, the company we were with separated, part taking the right, the balance the left hand road. Another train, that we had left behind us, drove in this evening, making up another considerable train, and it is presumed we are safe from an attack to night. The weather as we gain a lower latitude grows warmer.

CAMP 64, AUG. 16:—The morning was quiet and pleasant. The air was very light, making breathing difficult and unsatisfactory to the lungs. Every indication of a warm day in the morning and it came. The snow on the mountain peaks away to the north of us reflects back a soft red color, making the effect pleasant shining through the blue haze in which they are enveloped. The land-marks visible from here can never be forgotten, when once seen; this vast plain before us, bordered on either side by a chain of mountains—the ones on the south we had but recently cleared—the "Three Buttes," each rising up like a Phoenix from the sand fix themselves on the memory not to be effaced. The situation, though pleasant for a while, is far from being a desirable one for any length of time, because of the barrenness. Ft. Hall, to the west, was long since deserted and is sinking into decay. The floods of the present season have very nearly succeeded in accomplishing what was left for time to do, that of obliterating all traces of what was once a station of some importance. Necessarily our traveling was shortened to-day. Crossed the desert we had before turned back from. Two miles from the river came to another encampment where we found that portion of our train who had left us and moved on several days before. The minds of most of the company here assembled was filled with doubt and uncertainty concerning the practicability of the route they were now entering upon. Many consultations were

held by little groups of three or four, and many fears expressed, of its reaching the haven they were hoping for. No amount of assurance from those who had been there, can convince them that there is another road to the same place. Some go ahead while a large portion go back to the other road. A more perfect pandemonium we never saw. Arriving at the river much time was consumed in ferrying. At this place it is about six hundred feet in width, with a deep, rapid current.—While the ferrying was in progress we spent the time fishing, there being many in the river, mostly of the speckled trout and chub species. A fine lot were taken, besides we obtained a good appetite to enjoy our first mess of fish, fresh from the water, on the journey. At this juncture it commenced raining lightly. The sun had sunk low before things were in readiness to move on. About two miles further a place was found to stay over night, and that is all the recommend we can give it. It was quite dark when it was reached, and the sage brush standing so thick that close watching was necessary to prevent the animals from getting their halters caught while feeding. Being about one mile from the river, water had to be brought from it for washing. Mosquitoes are plenty and ravenous, and the annoyance is great.

We have been, and still are in a country which abounds with Indians who have a strong itching for, and a habit of taking "stock" in emigrant trains. This we wish to avoid. As "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," so is continued watchfulness and care on our part, the price of safety. Our cattle are brought in, the guard set, and the camp settles down to quietness and slumber.

CAMP 65, SUNDAY, AUG. 17:—Remained in camp until noon, to allow

time for the train behind to cross the river and come up with us, rest their stock, then all go forward as one. At the time it was thought best to move, in order to gain a fitting place to camp, one wagon was still remaining that had been unable to come up. Four wagons waited for it, as some of the party was also behind; the others, twenty in number, went on. Late in the evening the others drove in. Up the river, over the plain our course lay. The road was very good and smooth, and the train moved rapidly on. The sage brush that covered the plain lining the road as a wall, was large and heavy. To the north the Butes loomed up like the Egyptian monuments of folly and oppression, rising like islands in the sea in this broad and barren area. We are no nearer them now than yesterday, and the roads lead directly from them.—Weather extremely sultry. Good feed; sage brush fuel.

CAMP 66, AUG. 18:—The usual work laid out for Monday's, generally requires no little time for its performance, hence it was decided not to leave our present camp before noon.

This cannot be called a *buena vista*, for there is nothing in sight but sage brush and prickly pear, and the view of those being so familiar, they have some time since ceased to be numbered among rarities. The weather being oppressively hot, and the labors of the forenoon exhausting, we traveled but a short distance, and camped early. Those who have seen sage brush, know that they are not so soft as oat straw, hence the necessity of removing them from the spots of earth chosen for bedsteads.—We were now some distance from the river and feed is very good in places.

CAMP 67, AUG. 19:—After following the river for some distance, it takes a long curve to the southward, then north-east. Over this portion of the

desert the road leads direct for ten miles. Where the brush, for which we have formed no strong attachment, had disappeared, or had never grown, grass had sprung up abundantly, and like an oasis in the desert, was all the relief that saved it from perfect barrenness. Now and then would a boulder protrude from the ground, of a dark iron color; camped near the river, this time with willow for fuel, and excellent feed. The sport of fishing was here indulged in by many; large strings of the finny tribe were caught. Towards evening a storm arose, and from its every appearance we thought we should get a portion. It passed by on the other side, however, we only getting a touch of the gale. Ahead a few miles begins a long stretch of destitute, rough country, around which an old mountaineer, taking through a quantity of freight, is endeavoring to find a road which will materially lessen the distance, as well as the required amount of travel over bad roads. Should he succeed, a notice was to be left at its turn off, as a guide for travelers, if not that, the track could be found. This matter was considered, and it was deemed advisable to take an early start on the morrow, to find the road if possible; failing in that, have time to go over it on the old path.—With this resolve ended the labor of the day.

Immense deposits of black sand are a common thing along this river, and gold has been found and known to exist in large quantities in numerous sections in its bed and banks. We are not given to speculation in such matters, but we do give it as our humble and candid opinion, that the tide of emigration ere many years, will set in for these parts, even as far back as the Black Hills, and hills and valleys that we have looked upon as worthless, will be made to contribute its full share to the wealth of the world. At present the

Indians are too numerous and troublesome, and gold seekers must be in bands sufficient for self protection.

None of the numerous streams and rivulets flowing from the mountains along the route we traveled emptied into Snake river, but either sunk into the ground, or formed small lakes in the broad valley of Snake. The ground is formed principally of sand; and where large beds of basalt are not found, the ground is of a dry, absorbing nature, through which the water sinks, at times bursting out again. For sixty miles above Ft. Hall, along the main stream of the river, there is but one tributary running in from the south, and that the Little Blackfoot before mentioned, while none came in from the north; all of them either sinking into the ground or forming lakes. This section is also noted for the great scarcity of timber, and the immense plains of sage, which is so abundant that it has been aptly termed the sage desert of the mountains, extending for many miles in width and breadth, forming a vast ocean of prairie, unbroken only by the "Three Buttes." The word sterility might express its whole character.

CAMP 68, AUG. 20:—As contemplated, an early start was made. We were fortunate enough to find the hoped for cut-off. It left the main road where that veered to the westward to avoid a low place or slough. Through this went our road. The prospect not being a very favorable one for a good road, a few teams ahead not noticing the track, went around several miles, the remaining ones the other way. Crossed several sloughs, and one flowing creek. This portion of the flats has been entirely overflowed, and recently, too, making much soft roads, in places muddy. Beyond question this has had something to do in creating the swarms of mosquitoes we have many times heard and felt, and of which this place

is not deficient in number; every bush is full of them. When we again touched the river, we came into heavy sand.—This road having so short an existence, could not be other than a rough one. Over sage brush and rocks we went all day. The rocks appear to have been subjected to, and melted by an intense heat during some past age of the world. We should take it, knowing but little of ores in the crude state, to be very strongly mixed with iron. When there was no rock, sand took its place. In the afternoon came to a lake, the outlet was the creek mentioned. It was of considerable extent, of a muddy color, and warm. The weather very hot until near camping hour, when the sky became cloudy and boded a storm, the wind bringing it directly towards us. It was not long before the lake became agitated, the white caps covering its surface. We got some of the rain, but the wind changing, it went around, on the opposite side of the lake, and the roar of its progress could be distinctly heard. To us the agitation of the waters was grand, as standing on the beach we witnessed the breaking of the surf on shore and rock. Camped at the extreme end of this lake, among the sage, as there seemed no better prospect ahead for forage, and is here poor enough. We found and brought to camp the largest sage tree—as it resembled one—we had yet seen, measuring some ten inches in diameter. It all grows to a prodigious size. When we halted a strong wind was blowing; at the time of writing it is but sufficient to keep musquitoes down.

By referring to the map, we learn that the name of this lake is Market, with an old trail marked along its eastern shore; all traces of it have now nearly disappeared. The sunset this evening was a most brilliant one, the like of which is not always seen.

CAMP 69, AUG. 21;—A singular atmospheric phenomenon took place this morning. It was quite new to us, and elicited some attention. The sun arose as clear as usual, but soon became clouded as it appears previous to a hail storm. It rained all around us, only a few drops descending where we were. The air above was all in a commotion, and a peculiar noise issued from it, at first sounding like a large bird cutting its way against a wind; then louder, as if it were a great number, soon changing, still becoming heavier, as the rattle of mill gearing. This after being repeated several times, died away, and the sky became bright. Part of the forenoon was occupied in getting over roads as of yesterday, then we left for a season sage brush and rocks. Pursued our way some time longer through what some resembled a meadow being covered with good grass. Halted at noon by a small lake of pure sweet water. We took a bathe in its waters, and felt much refreshed. Near the shore it was quite warm but in the middle cold. The road after leaving the sage was very sandy.—Camped early because of it, the teams being jaded. Previous to crossing the summit we saw many skulls and bones of buffaloes. Since then but few, and those old and much weather worn. On the western slope these animals have all disappeared. We are unable to account for this stampede. The weather to-day was very sultry, and the sand blistering where it touches the flesh. Reached a creek of good water and halted for the night, with the sun high in the Heavens. From here we have a view of the "Tetons," and the mountains in which they form a noticeable feature. They stand high up in bold relief—distant landmarks of the desert. We do not know their height but their tops pierce the clouds. Our usual storm arose this evening; the wind blew and the thunder was heavy with but little rain.

CAMP 70, AUG. 22 :—The road this morning was heavy with sand. Crossed the creek immediately after starting and followed it some distance. On leaving it the road led over a section of the desert, and again we might say

“ We cross the prairies as of old the Pilgrims crossed the sea,
To make the West as they the East the homestead of the free.”

We with others started in advance of the train, but found the walking hard and tiresome. After a few miles of sand we again touched hard roads and accepted them with pleasure. As we neared what gave every evidence of a creek, we quickened our steps to taste of its waters, but on reaching it, what was our disappointment on finding it *Panra* as dry as the sands over which we had trod. About eighty rods further on we found a good sized stream of pure limpid waters. As it run down it diminished in size, and finally sunk in its gravelly bed. Stopped here for dinner, and while the animals were grazing, some of the company went prospecting. The “color” was found but in minute particles, not sufficient to pay for washing. No doubt but that perseverance, aided by experience would lead to the development of rich mines. This morning a mirage appeared to the eastward. It resembled snow partially melted, with water around. This afternoon a decided improvement in the roads.—Sage sparse and small. This entire plain is founded on bed-rock, which comes to the surface in places, and a rough road is the result. Camp at the foot of the mountains, by a creek of good water, but is with difficulty got at lying so low down, and its banks steep and rocky. It is known as High-bank Creek, a very appropriate title. A cave is near by, formed by the falling in of the surface of the rock; it is of no great extent.

CAMP 71, AUG. 23 :—A disgraceful affair occurred this morning, while we

were at breakfast, which for a time marred the peace of the company, and came near ending tragically. Two brothers got into a wrangle about some trivial thing, when one drew a knife and threw it at the other; it struck him on the back, cutting his clothes and grazing the skin. His full purpose not being accomplished, he picked it up and chased him, saying he would kill him. Some of the party interfering all soon became quiet. Such transactions are hardly fit to mention; but we are told are of frequent occurrence on the plains, often resulting in the death of both parties, by the murderer being either shot or hung. It is part of its history to which all must become hardened. We are informed that in a company behind, a man was stabbed, it was thought fatally, and left by his party, a large one, with his wife and children to the dread fate of starvation, or the tender mercies of the savages, if they were not picked up by another train. The blood becomes chilled at the thought of human beings so far forgetting their humanity, as to leave their kind exposed to such dangers as here menace them. We can now learn nothing as to their fate.—Here is the the place, and these the circumstances, where individuals act out the instinct of their nature, and in whatever form it takes.

We imagined when we started this morning, we were near the mountains; yet the forenoon was nearly consumed in reaching them. We followed the creek until near them, when that turned off to the east, and we to the north-east, in the direction of the Canyon, leading through the range. On this slope were many of what are called sarvice berry, of which we ate until satisfied. The road without any material ascent, entered the mountains, and we left Ft. Hall valley behind. In some parts of this valley considerable grain grows in its wild state, such as rye, oats and

wheat, as well as flax. We gathered some rye with a stalk about six feet in height. A weed called wild locust also is found here, containing a strong medicinal quality, in use among the Aborigines. It is a certain cure for the bite of mosquitoes and gnats. Passed over much more of the same rock as of yesterday. It is very porous, of a basaltic or volcanic nature, and exhibits every token of having been in a foam in times past. Made comparatively a short drive this afternoon, as an excellent camping place was found on which to spend the Sabbath. We find ourselves once more among the Rocky Mountains, crossing the divide, and will soon be on the Atlantic slope. The range here taking a great bend to the west, we necessarily must cross them the third time ere we reach the country we are in quest of. We are near Salmon river, which takes its rise in the mountains to the west.

SUNDAY, AUG. 24.—The duties and amusements of camp life on the plains during Sundays consists in washing, mending, cooking, baking, card playing and reading, when anything can be found. All these were strictly adhered to to-day. Some followed them from necessity—others from choice. The weather for some time past, has been hot and sultry through the day, at night cold with an occasional frost. Some of the party went hunting, but nothing was started but a porcupine, which was shot and brought in.

CAMP 72, AUG. 25 :—Started forward once more this morning, both animals and emigrants feeling all the better for the rest of a day. The valley through which we traversed—it cannot hardly be termed a Canyon, gave such a marked difference from all of the kind we have seen among these mountains, that it is well worthy of mention. The soil is of a dark rich color, very fertile, the air salubrious. The mountains are quite

regular in their formation, and rise gradually. All kinds of grain would grow here we presume, to the utmost perfection. Grass is heavy and grows rapidly. Passed the Red Buttes this forenoon. They are situated at the west of the road. We could see no peculiar feature to distinguish them from other peaks, more than being a cluster of peaks—the highest of this particular chain of mountains. The earth here, is of a grayish red cast, from this fact no doubt came the name. At noon crossed the summit of the mountains, and found ourselves once more on the eastern slope. This side of the divide the valley is even more tempting than the other. Knowing no other name, we have denominated this Pleasant Valley, and we think it merits the name. The creek we have camped by this evening, is one of the numerous branches which at last find its way to the Missouri river; in this bend of the mountains it takes its rise to a great extent. The Yellow Stone river, heads to the east. A few more days must elapse before we the third time mount the waters shed, and turn our faces once more towards the Pacific.

CAMP 73, AUG. 26 :— A company of five men packing through from Deer Lodge to Salt Lake City, arrived very late last evening bringing very discouraging reports from the mines in that section as well as Salmon river. This makes things look a little gloomy to most of our party. The valley we were in at near mid-day, commenced ascending to a higher elevation. On this table the land is gravelly and dry. The mountains are similar in all respects to those we have passed. They are entirely innocent of timber for some distance on either side of the road, and the grass on their sides is parched and dry. By the large number of buffalo skulls and bones strewn along the wayside it is easily inferred that through

here in times past, has been a famous hunting ground for Indians. They all bear the marks of age. They, and their native hunters as well, are fast passing away. The roads were all that could be desired to-day; smooth and sometimes rolling. All the afternoon the traveling was up-hill business. Camped by a small creek from which it is difficult to get water sufficient for all purposes. Stock is watered by sinking holes and allowing them to fill up. Fuel is also a scarce article, sage being small.

CAMP 74, AUG 27:—Morning dawned cold and chilly, and all prophesied a storm either of rain or snow. No wind was stirring, and buttoning the coat up to the throat not unnecessary. The road continued along the valley until that disappeared, breaking into numerous smaller ones in the mountains. Here the road takes a winding course to ascend the ridge, which was long and heavy. Before reaching the top, a piercing wind from the north set in. On ascending one of the highest points, we obtained a view of a valley beyond the chain to the west, which we afterward entered. Along here the soil assumes many shades, and has some peculiarities. The banks mostly, are clay of a light green cast. From the top of one, after clearing a deep hollow, a magnificent landscape view was spread out before us, which, portrayed on canvass would make a beautiful picture. Soon all became enveloped in a misty haze, a rain commenced falling, and the remainder of the day was decidedly unpleasant. We have camped for the night and it is still raining. On descending into the last valley, the path led around a high rocky ledge. The top was capped on a line with its edge with a wall of rock, projecting somewhat, in appearance like a bulwark, as if reared by the hand of art; but the aid of man was not evoked in its erection, and may never aid in taking it

away. The large boulders thrown from the top into the valley, made wagoning a little difficult. From here we followed the range, and many places we passed over, might be made better for transportation by removing the larger stones. That not being our business here, we rattled over them.— We spent some time among these hills searching for mementoes, and picked up some specimens of stone of no intrinsic value, only as a record of the locality.

CAMP 75, AUG. 28:—It is presumed the sun arose in the east as usual this morning, but none saw it, it being so cloudy. The rain ceased before morning, but it was evident it was not over. After a time the sun struggled through, but soon relapsed back. The air cold and chilly, and every-thing wore a gloomy expression. The clouds hanging over and around the mountain tops attracted some attention, as they lifted and floated off in rapid succession. The whole train was detained this morning ostensibly, to wait for a wagon that did not reach camp last night; but in reality to enable some of the company to go prospecting for the precious dust. Their efforts were fruitless, and in this place, and at this time a far more precious time wasted. At 10 o'clock the train in detached sections commenced moving. The road continued at the base of the mountains until towards night, when it crossed the drain of the valley, and bore more to the north.— A heavy storm arose and hung threateningly over the place we had left; a slight shower was all we received of it until late in the day, when it fell in a few moments sufficient to lay the dust, then ceased. On this side of the creek we found land enough on which to camp, at almost any place we chose; but was short of feed and water; this was the only objection. At 4 o'clock we turned from the road and located by the same creek we crossed, having made a long

half day's drive. When we halted it rained slightly, but now the sun is shining and it bids fair for a pleasant day to-morrow. Since crossing the divide we have been in Dacotah Territory, and among a tribe of Indians of the same name. So far as we are informed, they have never been known to interfere with travelers.

CAMP 76, AUG. 29:—But a short time elapsed after starting, before we crossed a large stream known as Jefferson Fork. It is one of the main branches of the Missouri river. Along its banks grow heavy cotton-wood timber. From the ford we bore off to the north-west, for 15 miles without seeing any evidence of vegetable life, or water, excepting, perhaps, grease-wood and prickly-pear. While making this long drive we met a small company of packers on their way to the upper waters of Jefferson Fork, to mines of gold that had been recently discovered. They bring glowing accounts of the success that there attends the efforts of the laborer. This intelligence, the reliability we cannot question, has but increased the fever of the company, and all are anxious to return. Now all countenances wear a cheerful expression. Halted at noon by a creek, or succession of creeks. Soon a gentleman just from the mines brings direct information removing all doubts that may have existed. It was at once resolved by most of the company to go there. Acting on the resolve, many started, hardly allowing time to recruit their stock. Others took it more quietly, preferring to wait until morning. Part of our immediate associates, whose mission to this country is identified with others, decided to separate from us and return also. Accordingly a team and wagon is to be detached from our train for their use, and provisions sufficient for a commencement. This was the end of our traveling to-day. All are busy arranging for a separation. A

storm arose in the evening, but affected us but little.

CAMP 77, AUG. 30:—We were called upon this morning at the hour of starting, to part with those of our traveling companions who had determined to go back to the mines, some thirty miles south west among the mountains. Parting with friends when going on a journey we are now taking seems hard, but parting with friends here, in this distant region so far from home, shut out as might be said from the world, and from the comforts of home, meeting none—seeing none but strange faces—no opportunity of communicating with them, seems much worse. The last parting word is spoken, the last shaking of hands given, and each little company move off in silence in opposite directions; many long wishful glances were cast behind. They went back across this valley, we entered the mountains, and were soon lost to each others sight. From here the remainder of our journey must be pursued alone. About noon we met three trains coming from Deer Lodge, bound for the mines. The roads were very good for a mountainous country. Crossed a number of creeks during the forenoon, and at noon halted by Big Hole or Wisdom river. It is a large stream with a rapid current and forms a junction with Jefferson Fork a few miles to the east. Forded and followed it in the afternoon, camping by it near where it turns to the west. It rises in the mountains at the north foot of a prairie, both bearing the same name. The weather sultry but we were spared the affliction of dust. Although snow has not been mentioned for some days it has not been lost sight of. The peaks in the distance are lofty and extensive. The evening cold but otherwise pleasant, and the sound of the violin wakes the echos in this distant place.

CAMP 78, SUNDAY, AUG. 31:—According to the calendar, to-day is the Sabbath, yet we are hardly aware of it, there being nothing around to remind us. We are now but a small party, three wagons and eleven persons, three of whom are women, yet the day passed more pleasantly than any we have experienced in a long time. The roads were generally good, some hills and rough places. Weather hot and breeze light. The mountains are lofty, and some places exceedingly rocky with very sharp peaks. The tops are covered with a heavy growth of timber, mountain pine, but it is beyond the reach of humanity, therefore useless. The gorge where the river breaks through them is narrow and deep.—While stopping at noon we were overtaken by two horsemen from the mines, going to Deer Lodge for goods and mining utensils. All accounts agree as to the yield of the mines being both rich and extensive. They were invited to dine with us, which they did, of such as we were able to provide. Soon a party of Indians, twelve in number, mounted on fleet ponies, came up from the opposite direction. They also were invited and did partake of our repast. It was supposed from their appearance, they were of the Flat Head tribe, were of medium size, large full faces, seemed kind and well disposed. Being decked off with many ornaments and variously formed clothing of buck-skin, also that of other animals, they well sustained the character of the true Indian. Nothing took place in the afternoon deserving of or attracting serious attention. Camped by a small creek, with plenty of good feed, but light willow brush for fuel.

Another month has passed, and still we are journeying on.

CAMP 79, SEPTEMBER 1:—Soon after midnight some wild-cats came near our camp and gave a series of exhibitions of the power of their lungs by squalling

and growling most hideously. An attempt was made to shoot one, but they suddenly took themselves out of harm's way, and were not then to be found. The roads to-day were a continuation of hills and bluffs, but the track was smooth and even. At 9 o'clock we passed over the dividing ridge of the Rocky Mountains for the third, and we hope last time while on this journey, and are once more in Washington Territory and the outskirts of Deer Lodge Prairie. Camped by Deer Lodge creek, one of the main branches of Hell Gate river. Here, the creek containing many trout, we stopped for the remaining part of the day and night, for the purpose of catching some, having made already a reasonably long drive. An Elk came up the road in the opposite direction, but on seeing us halted, concluding no doubt, that to go farther would be a dangerous undertaking. Chase was given him, but the valley being so open we could not approach within rifle range. He showed us his heels and how to use them in fine style. Two more came up, but it would have been equally impossible to get either. In our inability to get at them we consoled ourselves with the idea that they were the first wild animals we had seen on the route, and turned our attention to the many tribe, where we had better success. Many were taken, and a delicious supper enjoyed from them. We met to-day a number of men bound for the mines, also a wagon loaded with an assortment of mining tools. This evening a number more on horseback passed by, for the same destination.

CAMP 80, SEPT. 2:—The sun arose bright this morning, but soon became clouded and the air cold. The atmosphere, and the appearance around the mountain tops favored a storm. It did not come until near noon, and then quite lightly. A cold south wind blew all day. Crossed a number of creeks, three

of them being large, all heading in the mountains to the south, and emptying into Hell Gate river on the north side of the valley. Besides these, others came in from the north. Scarcely an hour passed without meeting companies and individuals, some on their way to the Jefferson Fork, or Beaver Head mines, others seeking a meadow to cut hay for their stock during the winter months, and a safe retreat for themselves to pass the winter, and perhaps remain permanently. Indeed we learn that several farms have been located here and cabins erected. We know of no better place for a settlement than this Deer Lodge Prairie. Soil good and deep, water of excellent quality in great abundance, climate mild at all seasons; a road that can in no way be improved, and a better than which can no where be found. A heavy growth of wild grass covers its surface.

Camp is situated on the south side of the river, opposite a settlement, the first we have seen since leaving the upper bridge on Platte river. The sight of this is a pleasing one; that we are once again getting among civilized beings; that our journey is "growing small by degrees and beautifully less," though slowly. The occupants of this town—for such it is termed—are French, scattered remnants of those who were once in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Fur Company, and half-breeds, but the practices of civilization give them employment, the principal business being raising cattle and horses. Toward sunset a thunder storm arose but like many others we have experienced, was more of wind than rain. Near one of the larger creeks we have mentioned, to the south of the road about one-fourth of a mile stands a mound of rock, or mineral, about thirty feet in height, of a dark red color. From the top of it boils a large spring of warm water. It does not flow over the top but settles away

through crevices in the rock, and issues from the bottom in several places.—What natural cause leads to the heating of this spring, while near by are cold ones, we cannot explain; but the formation of the mound carries its own explanation with it; that is the water being strongly impregnated with mineral, which on exposure to the air becomes hard; and thus gathering year by year, it has assumed its present formation. There it has stood for long ages past, and there doubtless it will remain for ages to come. The company turned aside and paid it a visit, deeming it well worthy of notice.

CAMP 81, SEPT. 3:—From settlement number one, we proceeded down the valley to settlement number two, which are separate from each other half a day's journey. Here we halted and occupied the balance of the day, in doing the work which in the States is done on Monday. Here a number of cabins and lodges are already erected, some in process of construction, and others soon are to be; a store has also been established, where the emigrant may replenish his stock of provisions, for which of course he is required to pay handsomely. A village has been laid out, and companies of explorers, prospectors, miners, etc., intend making this their winter quarters. Whether the excitement runs high in speculating in "corner lots," and Rail Roads, dame rumor is silent. In fact if she waits for that event to occur she will run a great risk of becoming a confirmed mute.

CAMP 82, SEPT. 4:—We were favored last night with another wild-cat serenade. This time "louder, clearer, deadlier than before." A more hideous, unearthly noise could not well be imagined. Its shrillness made the ears tingle long after the sound had died away. From settlement number two the river winds around among the moun-

tains, and over them we had to pass, being two ranges or properly spurs of ranges. To get into the valley we are now in we passed through a Canyon where we crossed the river three times. The road was shaded by a thick growth of underbrush. In this place several grouse were shot. The settlement known in this country as Stuart's is situated in the east end of the valley on a very eligible site. It contains twelve cabins and others are soon to be erected. Near here in a number of places mining is carried on to a considerable extent, and are said to be paying well. As an evidence that this part of the world is fast becoming "civilized," is the fact that it has been arranged into a county, and has its proper officers, not omitting a sheriff, contains a number of places where gambling is carried on, and whiskey sold at twenty-five cents per drink and *slightly* adulterated at that; some eight days since, one man was shot dead and another hung for mule stealing. Punishment of this kind for such an offence seems terribly severe. But this section like all others where gold mining is carried on, is over-run with a set of outlaws, cut-throats and thieves that must, should they begin practicing their arts, be taken care of. As they have no place of confinement, and even should such characters receive their punishment in a milder form, every means would be taken for revenge, so death is thought to be the only thing that would be an example for others of like persuasion to profit by, and a terror to all evil doers.

This part of the valley fully sustains what has already been said of it. A thing worthy of mention perhaps, is, at this place we obtained papers, containing news to August ninth. Although two months old, it was news to us, having been so long deprived of anything concerning matters of general news and the war. The weather to-day was beautiful, and the evening pleasant.

CAMP 83, Sept. 5:—A short time after starting, the road bore away from the river, and did not again reach it until late in the afternoon. This part of the route embraced a series of mountains and hollows, that we were obliged to cross. Some were rather more than a mere "mole hill." We are camped near the river in a narrow valley. The mountains are steep and lofty, and fringed with a forest of pine, and in places the valley also. This gives a darkening gloomy effect to the place. Our evening meal was prepared by a pine wood fire. The game taken to-day consisted of three large rattlesnakes killed near camp. As a distinguishing title, we will call this enchanted spot, "Rattlesnake Hollow." Although we have crossed and left a long distance between us and the divide of the Rocky Mountain range, we are by no means out of them, nor do we expect to be for some days. The appearance of the peaks ahead would indicate that we will be served with something rough to-morrow. Weather comfortable. This is an excellent place to camp, everything being at hand that are necessary.

CAMP 84, SEPT. 6:—What we anticipated last evening of the mountains, we received to-day with interest. The road followed the course of the river, it not being possible to construct a road any other way. What may be understood by that is that it was a very circuitous, tortuous one—over and along the sides of mountains, through hollows and Canyons, the last place it would be thought would be selected for a road. Heretofore we had natural passes, so much so that it seemed as though they were made on purpose to permit wagons to go through. Here nearly all had to be made, at an enormous outlay of money and hard labor. The work of surveying was a great one, but that of constructing a greater. It was made by grading and excavating the sides of the

mountains, which was not a slight job. Where we crossed mountains, they being lofty, of course the ascent was long, in places steep, the descent the same. The track in some places was of earth, in others of loose fine stone, making difficult footing; and again of large stone for some distance. One place was dug out of solid rock, of a red color, resembling slate, on the bank of the river. It is a place that enterprising glass peddlers would do well not to attempt to travel with a load of ware. A self-evident fact is here demonstrated, that the river grows larger on receiving every little stream. By the mile marks along the way we find we are nearing our final destination, as well as "Hell Gate." By the appearance generally of the place we have been traveling through to-day, indicated by the name of the pass, we think this must be the Devil's Causeway. We had been traveling some time on the west side of the river; on descending the first mountain, we crossed it by bridge. For a great amount of travel the structure would not last many years; but it is better than a ford. We have seen along the way comparatively but few birds, excepting perhaps, an occasional buzzard that would show itself. In this last valley we were greeted with the voices of a large flock of crows—quite a variety in its way. In the valley also wild berries grow in great abundance, but none of a domestic nature but raspberries. The sun set for us at an early hour; we are so buried up in the mountains that it sank from our sight, long before it reached the horizon. Camped in a pine thicket nearly one mile from water, but with good feed.

CAMP 85, SUNDAY, SEPT. 7:—Time being of great value, we continued our travel to-day. The pinery we entered last night, grew more dense and dark as we advanced. In this valley by the river side were two Indian huts. The

inmates came out to look at us, and seemed pleased with the sight. Clearing this valley, another mountain rose up before us, and cut short our traveling for a time, on level roads. This part of the way is like much of yesterday's, but required more labor to make it what it is. This was about three miles in extent. Here as it were, we are suspended in mid-air, half way up a mountain, with the river rolling several hundred feet below. A miss move on the part of driver or animal would precipitate the whole down this steep, beyond the power of assistance.—The road was exceedingly good considering the nature of the country, and we passed in safety. This part fully sustains the name applied yesterday, although some of the party term it the Devil's Den. The mountain sides and valleys are marked by many well-worn paths, made by Indians and packers while roaming through the country. On leaving this mountain we did not afterwards ascend any material elevation, but remained on nearly the same level we are now on, that of the water. This afternoon passed a settlement of some dozen or more half-finished deserted cabins. Why they are thus left we do not know, but suppose them to have been erected by the builders of the road. Soon after crossed the Big Black-foot river, on what was once a good substantial bridge, but now a miserable, dilapidated, half-broken down concern. Here the Hell Gate receives an additional supply of water that flows down the Black-foot. Soon we passed through what is called "Hell Gate," the entrance of Cadott's Pass of the Rocky Mountains, and entered the Bitter Root valley. We had made up our mind that here we should see something terrible, but to our astonishment we were most agreeably disappointed. Instead of a "Hell" it was a very Paradise when taken in comparison with

other places, and we need go no further back than this morning's traveling.— Road level and smooth so that a jar was hardly perceptible in going over it. It far excels anything of the kind we have yet been over, and why this name of all others should be applied to it we cannot divine.

This valley is a broad one, but appears dry and barren, so far as we have come. Where we located for the night, grass is sparse and wood scarce, as we are not in a pine "grove." The full round moon peeping through the gap of the mountains, looks beautiful in the extreme.

CAMP 86, SEPT. 8:—As we advanced farther in the valley it was found to be a fertile one, well adapted to all agricultural purposes. Soon we came to a settlement of several cabins. Back of them but a short distance the Hell Gate river empties into the Bitter Root, and from here we shall see no more of it. The settlers have located and fenced farms, and considerable land is under cultivation. Grain is raised, as well as all kinds of vegetables. The soil being very productive, they grow to a very large size. Here we halted to take a view, and breathe an atmosphere once more, of a garden, the pleasure of which has so long been denied us. We are informed that many "claims" or farms have been staked off, and it is thought but few years will elapse before this will be a thriving settlement, and the valley almost an Eden among the mountains. It is of sufficient capacity to accommodate a large population, and can be made a world of itself. Its surroundings abound with the precious metal, but in what quantities it cannot be told, and the timber will supply generations. Passed several farm-houses or "ranches," and near night another quite large village, and also a partly erected saw-mill, which is to be removed to a more convenient place, and put in

operation. The grain is being harvested, and the yield is large. The weather to-day was hot, but the evening delightful.

SEPT. 9:—Remained in camp to-day to recruit the stock, which for a few days past, have shown symptoms of lagging. The day was not passed in idleness. A steady, but not heavy wind has blown all day, and the evening is quite cool.

CAMP 87, SEPT. 10:—A severe frost last night formed ice nearly one inch in thickness, and the air this morning was disagreeably, we might add, stinging cold, and became but little better as the day advanced. Doing guard duty last night must not be understood as a pleasant summer evening's employment.— Soon after resuming our journey this morning, we passed through a strip of pines, over a smooth and even road, until we reached the foot of the mountains. Then in earnest we entered the Bitter Root range, and in a very winding, zig-zag course lay our road, rough and rocky, in places steep. The peaks seemed to be thrown up around us in the utmost confusion, and scarcely one of them could we avoid.

The mountain sides are thickly studded with stately pines and tamarack, and the whole expanse has at different times been burned over, and the trees are blackened and charred from the effect of it. Camp is perched on a high table on a spur projecting from the mountains. Water is obtained from a deep ravine near by. Around and below fires are still burning, consuming all that sustains animal life.— Among the mountains where grass is not abundant, such fires cause the emigrant much trouble, and we oft have felt the inconvenience of it. At this time the weather has moderated some, but large camp-fires make it still more comfortable. Shut up as we have been

so long in the mountain fastnesses, days have elapsed that we have not been able to witness the rising nor the setting of the sun, and have been favored with its rays but a short time each day. The river so far as we have followed it to-day, has flowed smoothly and quietly, yet rapidly on, scarcely a ripple disturbing its onward course.

CAMP 88, SEPT. 11:—To-day we were called upon to realize some of the stern realities of what is considered enjoying a tour through the mountains. The scenery was the wildest we have ever witnessed, and as grand—if the term applies—as anything of the kind in this part of the globe could be. Up, up we went, until it seemed as though we would be hidden among the clouds. Along here the river assumed a different character, containing numerous cataracts and rapids. Far down many hundred feet, rushed the mad river, now lashed into a foam. The channel of the river is wide and deep, and the sound of the rushing waters near by would be terrific, yet to us it sounds dull and indistinct, like a tree shaken by the breeze, so great is the distance that separate us from it. To us it is but a mere creek in size, and many miles of it can be traced winding its way along. But still we rise until we are on a level with many surrounding peaks, that from below look equal to the one we are on, still farther above us towers the mountain—we are but half way up, and the peaks of rock look frowningly down upon us. Here the eagle, if the bird frequents these parts, could build her nest secure from all intrusion. Objects below look like mere specks, and trees like bushes. We were thus elevated for the space of six miles.

The roads were good but the track narrow, being but sufficient space for one wagon. Should it ever occur that wagons were to meet in these places, it would be nearly overcoming impossibil-

ities for them to pass. The Hudson has its beautiful and sublime scenery, the Bitter Root its terrific, and a view of the place none would regret taking, but one journey to get it would suffice. The descent was for the most part rapid and steep. The rocks that compose these mountains lie in layers pointing to the top, clearly showing what a tremendous upheaving of nature made them what they are. This afternoon the road has been more regular—not on the level of the river, we are still far above that—but on a table parallel with it. The forest is the same, some of the trees being monsters of their kind. Camped at an early hour, but for us the sun had already set. Traveled steady all day accomplishing but twelve miles.

CAMP 89, SEPT. 12:—The atmosphere this morning was cold and hazy, and the clouds looked heavy with rain. A cold, brisk rain commenced in the afternoon, and did not cease until late in the evening. At this time the prevailing darkness is fairly black, and a light sprinkle of rain shows clearly that the storm is not yet over. Well for us was it that the steep mountains were cleared ere this come. For nearly two miles from our last camp it was one steady constant draft up a mountain; both ascent and descent was steep, rough and stony. After taking a long turn around a higher mountain, and coming in view of the river, we had traveled about four miles and were less than one mile distant from last camp. We had expected on this trip to find much bad road and many high mountains. The road might be worse; but these mountains are greater than was dreamed of. We came with the intention of making our journey on land, and not taking a voyage through the air, else we had come prepared for aerial navigation. Our curiosity for this kind of scenery has been fully gratified; the novelty of the thing having worn off, it is now dreary and

monotonous, and with earnest hope do we look forward for the end of this.—At intervals of two miles is marked the distance we have yet before us, making from where we now are to Fort Walla Walla, 295 miles. Without accident, sixteen days will, doubtless, take us there; and swiftly do we trust the wheels of time will revolve. Since leaving the mountain this morning, the road has laid along the valley or properly speaking, a table—for it is high up from the river—and was as good as could be wished for. We are camped near the river but still above it, and to-night get water from it for cooking purposes. A large pine near us has been shivered by lightning, the first evidence we have seen among the mountains of its effects.

We have no means of estimating the height of the mountains we have passed, but they are not less than 3000 feet from the water. They seem now to grow less in proportions as we progress, a circumstance in our favor not displeasing. The air is not so light and rarified as among the mountains formerly passed, doubtless owing to the altitude not being so great. There the report of a rifle has a flat sound and cannot be heard far; the course of the bullet may be distinctly traced by the whistling sound. Here it is sharp and clear, the echo is long and continuous. We found a cart which had been abandoned by a company in advance of us, leaving many useless articles scattered around. Among the debris was a can containing several pounds of damaged powder. This we picked up, and resolved to celebrate by burning, partly for amusement, as also to prevent the Indians from being possessed of it. It exploded with the noise of a canon, echoing and re-echoing over the water and among the mountains for some time, arousing the wolves from their dens, who manifested their astonishment by

howlings of immense capacity; it finally died out in a dull roar.

CAMP 90, SEPT. 13:—The rain ceased during the night, and on the clouds being dispelled we saw that while at the base of the mountains it had rained, at their tops it had snowed. The tree tops are festooned in silver—hung over with a snowy panoply. The effect of this change of scene is to the view grand, the change in the weather benumbing.

The road to-day was very good most of the way, crossing but one mountain, which was of easy, gradual ascent, but the going down came nearly all at once. In the valley it was quite smooth and level, until arriving at what was designed to be a cut-off; and as it was the latest traveled we took it. It was made by a company of soldiers in the early part of the season, and may be a shorter way, but it was also hilly and rough, and it cannot be said that we bettered ourselves. The woods were dense and dark, as well as cold and damp from the storm of yesterday.—Finding no suitable place to halt for “lunch,” drove twelve miles to the river, which we ferried, at the cost of \$5,00 the wagon, and camped on the north side for the night, as we learned to our dismay that for eighteen miles beyond there was no feed; we also gained the not very gratifying information that for seventy-five miles we would be troubled to find it. This kind of intelligence is not agreeable at any time, especially so now when the teams are worn down by constant travel, and we so near our journey’s end. A band of Indians camp with us to-night, and many of them watch our arrangements with the Indian’s curiosity. At this place we leave the river, and all are thankful that it is so.

CAMP 91, SUNDAY, SEPT. 14:—The feed, what there was, being in the woods nearly a mile from camp, the animals

were taken to it at 4 o'clock A. M.—The road lay through a dense wilderness; where the trees were removed the stumps remained impeding progress. The land was low and wet, cutting deep ruts as the wagon passed over.—Of course we crossed a mountain, that was impossible to avoid; but we are used to it. On once more getting on the level of the earth we continued on roads of the same character as those first mentioned, having, in addition, mud-holes, sloughs and creeks; the most difficult ones were bridged—but such bridges.

We are following the course of a creek through a narrow and deep gorge or Canyon,* as shown by a view we sometimes get of the surrounding peaks. An occasional ray of sun-light works its way through the tree tops, but so thick is the foliage overhead, that they seldom reach the ground. The forest is mainly composed of tamarack and cedar which grew to a height beyond anything we had ever seen, they seeming to vie with the mountains in attaining the greatest elevation. Standing as they do, so near together, there is no way to develop but to shoot upwards, and bearing so close a relation each to the other, that a corpulent person would find it difficult to urge a passage through. A cold damp wind blowing up the valley, we instinctively drew our coats closer around us, to shield our persons from its chilling effects. In a clearing made for the purpose, stood the charred remains of the cabins where the engineers and workmen wintered while building the road. A fire had swept over the place destroying them, and

* This word is spelled "Canon," accented on the first syllable, and pronounced "Kanyon." It is a Spanish word signifying a piece of artillery, the barrel of a gun, or any kind of tube; and which, in this country has been adopted to describe the passage of a river between perpendicular rocks of great height, or any kind of gorge; it is also used to describe valleys; for this purpose we have used it.

stripping the foliage from an immense area of timber.

Finding good grass on the mountain top, halted to feed the teams, and prepare a meal for ourselves also. On reaching the eighteen mile point, camped in the forest, by a creek, rivaling a crystal in purity. Grass being found among underbrush and fallen timber, it was a laborous matter to obtain it.

CAMP 92, SEPT. 15:—The roads to-day being so nearly similar to those of yesterday, that but little can be added to the record. The creek spoken of last evening runs due east, and in a space of fourteen miles we made twenty-eight crossings, nineteen times by bridges, the remainder by fording.—When the road was first built it was all bridged, but one was destroyed by fire which is still burning, and others washed away by high water. What is now but a mere creek, is at times, receiving its supplies from the mountains, a raging torrent; the immense quantities of timber that lie piled up by every bridge corroborate the statement. The timber is now tamarack and fir, with a few cedars, the pine having nearly disappeared.

We occupy the road to-night as a camping ground, and our tent is pitched over the wagon track, carpeted with fir boughs. At best the place is gloomy and dismal, but it is our only alternative. Not an item of forage can be obtained for the animals but mulberry leaves; that being a poor substitute for grass, is eaten of sparingly, and is hardly a preventative from starvation. Such is life among the mountains. Being delayed in such places is a luxury not to be indulged in often, unless at the expense of the teams, on which depends our safe transit, and all our hopes. A bright camp-fire preserves it from being entirely cheerless, and by the light of it, at midnight, to-day's record is made up for not the first time.

CAMP 93, SEPT. 16:—Started on our way early this morning, in hopes of finding feed better than brush and leaves, and by considerable exertion obtained it at noon. It grew along the mountain side among dead and fallen timber. Clambering over and around these obstructions, and up the abrupt mountain was a laborious search, but we thought ourselves fortunate, and abundantly paid for our toil, by the animals satisfying their hunger, as they had been fasting twenty-four hours. Since leaving the river we have been among the Cœur d'Aléne—pronounced in English Cor de Lain—mountains, and to reach the summit the ascent was gradual for four miles, which we reached at twenty minutes past eight o'clock this morning. The descent was steep, and the curve in the road changing from west to north was sideling, down which it is dangerous for a wagon to go with all the wheels locked. The divide is distant 246 miles from Walla Walla. The creek we had been following we crossed eight times before reaching the divide, making thirty-eight crossings, with the former ones. On this side followed another which, in a space of six miles crossed twenty-seven times, twice by bridge; besides crossed many sloughs, over which long bridges had been built, and traveled over long log-ways on hill-sides.

The roads perhaps might be improved some, they being rough and stony, with numerous steep pitches. Great fires have spread over the mountains and valleys making everything look desolate indeed. Much of the burned timber has fallen in the stream, choking it up for miles, and at one place, the snow on becoming loosened had swept down like an avalanche, bearing the timber before it, piling it up in immense quantities. Cedar grows here to an enormous extent, and like those of Lebanon they are giants in size, one near camp measuring ten feet in diameter, and there are

many of the same kind. Camped in the road again to-night with our ever-green carpet that a prince might envy. It is somewhat singular with what apparent recklessness humanity can be exposed on the plains and among the mountains, anticipating no injury from the exposure, and with what perfect indifference the ground is accepted as a bed and the starry firmament as a canopy. The hospitality of the ground has often been extended to us, and we as often have as gladly accepted it.

CAMP 94, SEPT. 17:—The experiences already spoken of were repeated to-day in full. Over corduroy roads, stumps, stones and bridges innumerable we pounded along, until it seemed as though everything would be broken into atoms. How it is possible to pronounce this a good road we cannot conceive, as a much worse one can hardly be imagined. As this portion of the road has the benefit of many stumps, the travelers had a good opportunity of realizing for eighty miles, what their ancestors would have considered very uncomfortable staging. Yet such is the degeneracy of the age and the unfitness of mankind to judge of such matters, that some grumbled and swore that without exception it was the roughest road they had ever passed over. As a rarity we crossed no mountains.

Our discomfiture would have been complete, did troublesome insects inhabit it; fortunately they are wanting to add to its gloominess. Crossed the main creek nineteen times, also ten branches. What name this stream is known by we are not advised, as none is given on our chart; it certainly deserves one.

We are pleased to know that we have "got out of the wilderness," at last, and are camped in an open space, with another train we have overtaken, where feed exists in endless quantities. Our recollections of this forest—of which a

comparison to a South American jungle would be a favorable one—will not be of the most pleasing character, but the most interesting feature is that we have cleared it in safety, and hope that our memory will not be refreshed by another visit to its darksome abodes. To say that we were disappointed and misinformed regarding this route, would be adding only what we have learned to our cost and serious disadvantage. We accepted it as our shortest and best way, having been assured that it was such.

SEPT. 18 :—Without hesitation it was resolved to remain to-day in this place for the benefit of the animals. They were turned loose and allowed the full range of the prairie, a privilege they improved willingly. For many days we have met and been passed by families and companies of Indians, all having a large number of ponies, called "Cayuse." Their wealth consists in this beautiful and noble animal. They are a discontented and restless race, continually changing their places of abode, which in many cases they are obliged to do to gain subsistence. To-day another band of these wanderers of the mountains passed by, and a halt was called before our tent and a few alterations made in their arrangements. The manner they carry their young—in the Indian papoose—was novel to us, and we watched with curiosity the process of fixing them for carrying on horseback. It seemed to understand what was required of it, as it submitted without a murmur of complaint, and when ready for a ride it was a comic little object.

CAMP 95, SEPT. 19 :—We accomplished but half a day's travel to-day as before us there is fifty miles of rough country, with camping places separated by one day's journey. At noon we halted in not extra pasturage, to tarry

until the morrow's sun shall guide us still nearer our destination. The roads were a decided improvement over those of former days, the country more open, the timber lighter, no creeks to cross and the river but once. The river taking a long sweep to the northward from our starting point this morning, it was not again reached until about noon. Here we saw an Indian bark canoe gliding rapidly down the stream, giving it an air of romance we oft have seen on canvass, but a view of the original we little then expected to realize. Its dusky occupants used the paddle with skill, demonstrating that they were well practiced in the art. Onward from this place we see no more of the river; at all events we have seen quite enough of it and are satisfied.

During the forenoon we passed what is known as the Cœur d'Aéline mission, a Catholic institution founded by the Church, for the purpose of civilizing the Indians and converting them to their peculiar faith, it being one of many of a similar kind in this region of country. How long it has been established, and what progress has been made in furthering the original design, we are not informed. The labor of building the church—although a rude structure—was performed almost entirely by Indians, and from that fact it becomes a work of merit. Around it are a number of Indian huts, wretched abodes, many sadly needing repairs. This does not speak well for the thrift and energy of those who have the direction of affairs. The Indians here congregated in large numbers—we believe the mission bears the name of the tribe—came out to greet us as we passed. They were partly encased in various parts of uniforms, much resembling a band of painted fusileers.

The garb in which fiction clothes the red man, is far different from the dress in which we find him—existing princi-

pally in the brain of novelists—and the Indian of fact and of fancy, romance and reality, are two widely different characters. Their women as is the case with all savage tribes, are inferior to the men, and none of them are very prepossessing in appearance. Scarcely had we been allowed time to stop ere camp was thronged with them, mounted on ponies, eager to trade off provisions, their stock in trade consisting in potatoes and peas, for which powder, shot, salt and soap in small quantities would purchase, no money being necessary, they not knowing its value. Although doubtless on many of them soap would have a beneficial effect, yet their appearance would indicate that it was seldom applied. In the evening they returned in force, and upon one of the company's taking the violin and playing a lively air, they exhibited the utmost delight, one of them offering his best pony which he valued at one hundred dollars in exchange for it.

CAMP 96, SEPT. 20:—Soon after daylight it commenced raining. On exhibiting signs of ceasing we struck our tent and started on our way about 7 o'clock. But the storm increased to such an extent that four miles out it was found necessary to stop and look up a place on which to camp. We being in the deep forest, such a thing was not an easy matter. The road, not to speak lightly, was—very bad—even worse than previous ones, made so by rain. We pitched our tent while yet raining in as convenient a situation as possible, clearing away logs and brush to make room, kindled a large fire, and tried to make ourselves as comfortable as the situation of things would allow, although to a certain extent that commodity, now much needed, had banished. Feed up the mountain is obtained by climbing.

But now is no time, this no place to indulge in pining at our lot not being

cast in "pleasant places," we must exercise our endurance for a time, for, with slight paraphrasing,

"We'll stand the storm it won't be long,"

We'll leave here by and by.

This evening the rain has subsided, but still the clouds hang threatening.

CAMP 97, SEPT. 21:—The rain as expected, descended in liberal quantities all night, and this morning while it was still falling, we moved out, finding that our forcibly selected stopping-place was no longer tenable. It continued to rain at times during the day, and the feelings of the company were regulated somewhat by the condition of the weather. The roads anything but good, were rendered worse by being soft and slippery, and we jogged along at a slow pace. Crossed seven creeks, one ten times—and—three mountains. From the top of one we had an extended view of—forest. In ascending the mountains we do not speak of to-day alone, it became necessary to stop often to let the teams rest. At such times the wagon wheels must be blocked. To do this a rock had often to be carried from the base to the top. It seemed like carrying a large rock up a hill to prevent one from rolling down. Camped in an open section at an early hour driving but half a day.

CAMP 98, SEPT. 22:—Crossed a very long bridge, over a very narrow creek as the first movement. Said bridge is a very slender, loose jointed thing. The next, several hills came in the way. To gain the top of the first, the road was long and winding, going a long distance around to gain what is a short distance across, and was infinitely worse than anything yet experienced. At noon left the mountains and descended to the shore of Cœur d'Aléne lake and halted for lunch. Geographically the lake lies north and south, the road passing at its northern extremity. This afternoon the roads were all that could be desired,

following the course of the Spokane river, the outlet of the lake. Passed an Indian burial ground, in a pleasant and retired spot; over the graves a number of small log cabins had been erected, surmounted by a cross, typical of their faith. We cannot say whether they changed their superstitious ideas of spirit land, for a full belief of the catholic religion or not. Camped in an open prairie, and was favored with a sun-set view. We are far from wood and water, and feed is poor and parched. The sun had long sunk from sight ere we settled down to snatch that little repose allowed us here.

CAMP 99, SEPT. 23:—The prairie we were last night camped in, is divided by a narrow belt of woods, then extends along the river banks on both sides, as far as the eye can reach. The roads were incomparable, and we pushed along until noon, at that time arriving at what we supposed to be the regular ford of the river. But it did not prove to be, as its bed is full of huge boulders, making a terrible place for both teams and wagons. We managed to get two wagons over safely; the remainder of the party concluded not to venture, but went farther down to either find a better ford or to the ferry. Two miles below they found an excellent crossing. Our fording the Spokane will long be remembered, and will not soon be repeated in the place where it was effected to-day. Camped by the river side where it rushes past like a torrent; our tent is pitched beneath the branches of a dwarf pine.

CAMP 100, SEPT. 24:—The day was again pleasant and bright. Immediately after starting on our way this morning we were obliged to go out of the road some distance to avoid an extensive stone meadow; in so doing found a few stones in the road. Since entering Deer Lodge Prairie our course has been

bearing to the north-west, until we have nearly reached the 48th degree of north latitude, placing us a little more than one degree from the north boundary of the United States. On reaching the ferry at 10 o'clock A. M. it changed to south-west for but few miles, than due south, the direction we shall keep until reaching Walla Walla. This section is a series of pine openings, about equally divided between prairie and timber.—The season being so far advanced, grass is withered and almost worthless. To the south-east the Blue Mountain range skirt the horizon as a relief to the blank appearance of the landscape. Descended a long hill and camped at its base close by a stream upon either side of which were thick timber and brush but forage exceedingly scarce.

CAMP 101, SEPT. 25:—The country we passed through to-day was open and rolling, but bleak and barren. It is a great waste of country, destitute alike of water and feed, in fact anything that could make it congenial. As far as we have passed over it, it is one vast rocky region, and what naturally follows, the roads are the same. We found sage brush to-day; it is so long since we parted company with the plant, that we had quite forgotten it. It is small and stunted, but what puzzles us is to know how even sage can grow here.

Sage is a native of, and thrives on dry, parched, sandy soil that will not produce any other shrub. In fact it might be said that it grows only in sand, and more prolific where that is deepest; and wherever water touches it in more than slight showers, it is sure to be killed. It is confined to no particular locality, but is scattered over the country from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast, and we are told is not limited either north or south by boundary lines.

We looked long and anxiously for a suitable place, or any place to camp,

but for given reasons, our search was fruitless, until finding a notice by the side of the road, directing all travelers to turn off from the road to the right some distance, where we found a spring of good water among a clump of bushes, and feed of a superior quality than much we have had. Whoever it was that put up these directions where water was to be had, is deserving of our most heartfelt thanks for their humanity. We were overtaken to-day by some of the party we had left in the mines at Beaver Head. They bring discouraging reports of the mining there, also of more Indian troubles; they have made a descent into Deer Lodge, running off all of the stock from there. We do not wish to doubt the statement, but by most of the company the report needs confirmation, as it is given as hearsay. On arriving in camp late as it was, one of the company was missing, and had evidently become bewildered among the numerous trails that traverse the country. The weather was cold all day, and the sky cloudy. This evening it is raining.

SEPT. 22:—Remained in camp to-day to rest the stock, as well as to look up our lost companion. Three men started out in the search, but had been gone but a short time, when the absent one appeared. He had taken a pack trail which he thought intercepted the wagon road at a point where he could meet us. The road being so much longer than the trail that at camping time he was ten miles in advance. He remained out over night; sleeping by the roadside and getting thoroughly drenched by a cold rain he did not consider very agreeable. It was late before the scouts returned from their man-hunt.

A chilling wind blew all day and in the afternoon we were visited by slight showers of rain and a little snow. Preparations for supper might be amusing to some of our eastern friends. A desira-

ble camping place selected, animals cared for, then commenced the getting of our evening's repast; some carrying water from the spring or brook, others busily employed around the gipsy fireplace, baking, boiling, frying and chatting, all going on with a sort of geometrical precision, and keeping time to the decrees of keen appetites.

CAMP 102, SEPT. 27:—The country over which we passed to-day is of very singular formation. Mounds regularly formed of small stones are scattered over the entire surface, without a particle of soil over them. The stones are perforated much as a sponge, and yet they are hard as granite, and some of them bore the appearance of having been subjected to intense heat. The whole country around is now black, for fire has lately passed over it. Crossed a small creek this forenoon, deep down among ledges of irregular and fantastic shaped rocks. The weather was cold, and heavy winds blew all day increasing at sun-set. The road was a long and circuitous one and exceedingly rough. Towards night passed Sil-kat-kwa, lake a very pretty sheet of water, but inaccessible on account of its perpendicular banks. Camped in a valley by a spring of excellent water; grass is poor and difficult to get.

CAMP 103, SUNDAY, SEPT. 28:—Traveled down the valley in which we had camped until noon, when we crossed a creek, the outlet of the lake, passing over a country similar in most respects to that over which we traveled yesterday. This afternoon, by way of variety, we passed through valleys, over ledges of rocks and huge piles of boulders of various shapes and sizes. Passed by a number of places where were good feed and sloughs of water, but did not stop until we crossed Peluse river, then camped upon its banks. An accident worth mentioning happened at

noon. One of the party emptied the coals from the stove into the tall dry grass—a brisk breeze blowing at the time—it was soon fanned into a flame; and in much less time than it requires to make this record a vast amphitheatre of flames encircled our whole train. How the women extricated themselves from their perilous position without being encompassed in blazing crinoline, is more than we can comprehend; but so it was; and fortunately for us nothing was injured but one sett of harness and a few dishes.

CAMP 104, SEPT. 29:—Followed the river to-day fording it in five places. The roads to make the best them are a miserable failure, and we were unable to make our usual average distance. The sky was overcast all day, and the thick murky clouds hovering around betokened a coming storm. The prevailing wind made dull music to our ears, as in fitful gusts it swept over the ground, raking up and filling the air with blinding, choking clouds of dust. The ground being so strongly impregnated with alkali that it is like lime to the organs of sight, and its effects are plainly visible in the inflamed, blood-shot eyes of a number of the company.

The hills have lost something of their ragged rocky appearance, and begin to decline leaving the country more open and rolling, but barren of timber. As night approached we searched for some distance along the river for an inviting spot on which to camp.

Where we did halt the river was bordered by banks of perpendicular rock, and up them it was difficult to convey water. Our fuel is what dry flood-wood we can gather that has been washed down from the mountains. Since crossing the Spokane, we have traveled over some sections of good agricultural land, but they are all limited and widely separated. But as the Columbia river on the west, the Spokane, Clearwater and

Clark's Fork on the north, the Salmon river and its adjacent country on the east, are all gold bearing regions where mining is being extensively carried on, and this valley being one of the main avenues leading to them, perhaps it would not be mere speculation to add that the day is drawing near when the most if not all of these unoccupied lands will be under cultivation, teeming with the labor of the husbandman. Legends of the country say that the seasons are propitious for agriculture. This evening the wind has lulled, and it is raining lightly. The complication of recorded circumstances did not prevent us from preparing and enjoying a hearty supper.

CAMP 105, SEPT. 30:—Continued on the same course of the river for a short time this morning, crossing it three times. At the last crossing we leave Peluse river, and we found it fifteen miles from that to the Snake river, over a road that we can say nothing in its favor. Stopped at noon at the foot of a hill to allow the animals to graze. It was rather dry picking, but they managed to do reasonable justice to themselves on such as there was. This delectable region is the sum total of barrenness, wanting in everything to make it beautiful. Trees to ornament are not here, water to fertilize is elsewhere to be found. Reached the river before night, and crossed it at the confluence of the Peluse. The Peluse joins the Snake through a deep Canyon commencing at a point where we last crossed it, and is surrounded by isolated volcanic buttes to its mouth.

The ferry-boat was a miserably gotten up affair and required much manual exercise before we were transported to the other shore, employing us until after dark. We have yet to hear an individual speak well of Snake river. A cold wind nearly suffocated us again to-day with dust. Camped in deep sand; but there is an advantage in that; the

bed is soft if it is dirty. Feed poor and far-off. If this is not "roughing it" we have yet to find it out. Our stock of flour having become nearly exhausted we obtained some here at \$12.00 per hundred pounds.

The Ides of September are numbered among the past.

CAMP 106, OCTOBER 1:—It being late when we started this morning as a matter of course it required diligence to reach our next watering place, a spring, which was twenty two miles distant. The sky was cloudy, and a few slight showers of rain sprinkled us; but soon a brisk breeze cleared away the clouds and scattered the sand furiously around in an exceedingly unpleasant style.—All of those disadvantages however, did not deter us from pursuing our course ascending and descending hills, crossing ridges, hollows and plains. Anon we would find a short space of country where sand did not abound, and we could afford time to wipe the dust from our eyes and take a long breath with sighs of calm enjoyment. Late at night we reached the above mentioned spring; and imagine our chagrin on finding the water only in small quantities and of bad quality, and no wood in its vicinity; but here we are, and here we must stay for the remainder of the night.

CAMP 107, OCT. 2:—Struck camp and started on our way, as by previous arrangement, before sun-rise. The road was good and we rolled rapidly down to the Touchet—*Tu-sha*—river, and stopped to take breakfast; the animals were taken to the hills, some distance off to get their usual allowance of dry grass. This river is narrow and shallow, but flows through a very fertile valley. Its attractions has induced the hardy pioneer to select a homestead here, and farm houses are dotted here and there along its banks. The agricultural capacity of the valley is limited,

being confined to a narrow strip on either side of the river; but what there is, is productive, and grain grows to the utmost perfection, vegetables to almost a fabulous size. Cotton-wood grows along the banks of the river, but only in quantities to supply the wants of the farmer.

In the afternoon drove on twelve miles to Dry Creek and camped. All day the weather was very cold, and in the evening a heavy snow storm passed over and lodged in the Blue Mountains to the east. We have two large pack trains for company to-night.

CAMP 108, OCT. 3:—From last camp which was but six miles from Walla Walla, we moved on to a small creek—Mud creek we believe it is called, and certainly it sustains that character—and halted, it being as near the place as we can go and have feed for the animals. The weather this forenoon could be no better; the snow storm of yesterday had cleared the air, and the sun shone warm and pleasant. In the afternoon a south wind blew up a cold rain. Wood being scarce, we could have no fire, and the day dragged out in the most disagreeable manner conceivable.

After months of journeying and toil, exhausting alike to the energies of traveler and animal, we have at length reached a point that has been looked forward to with impatient anxiety. The town is the headquarters of the mining in this Territory, and is decidedly a fast one. The principal business is gambling and charging exorbitant prices for everything. It is situated near a river of the same name, thirty miles from the Columbia, on a small stream called Mill creek; contains about one thousand inhabitants, and has but one principal street. The church going population find ample room in one small church. But as Sunday is the best business day, it is not expected that the residents will spend much time in that

kind of diversion. About two miles from Walla Walla, is a U. S. Military station, established for the protection of emigrants and citizens. It is on a slight place and contains in addition to the barracks, neat residences for officers.

Our appearance on our arrival here was somewhat ludicrous, almost baffling description, and we will not attempt it. With our dilapidated and seedy hats, soiled and threadbare garments, open jointed, well worn boots and bronzed features, we would readily be taken for that class of persons who solicit alms at street corners. Having been exposed to great varieties of weather, and privations as well, on a protracted journey, yet with slight exceptions we are physically sound. Our animals are weakened and travel worn—but the experience that all animals on similar trips are subject to.

We learned here that the "Emigrant Escort," from whose "overshadowing protection" we were glad to escape, has not arrived, but is expected in about two weeks. The story of all emigrants agree that an escort on the principal they are carried on, are but the merest sham, a costly play-thing, benefitting only those who conduct them. Although the intention is good, the result is not what was anticipated. If the large sums thus annually and uselessly expended by the government were applied towards repairing the roads, establishing military posts and sinking wells along the way, whereby the hardships of the journey could be lessened, it would be of lasting and incalculable benefit to the emigrant.

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CAMP 109, OCT. 8:—The intervening time from the third to the eighth inst., was passed at camp where located as recorded. To-day we started for the river. For a short distance from the settlement the land is taken up and cul-

tivated. We soon passed from this into a barren, sandy, desert region where only sage and grease wood can find subsistence. Our course lay through what is known as the Walla Walla valley, along a stream of moderate dimensions of the same name. Seventeen miles out was the first place found on which to camp. Crossed the Touchet river on a high bridge, near the junction of that and the one mentioned, and halted for the night on the banks of the former.—The weather delightful.

Where patches of sage and grease wood had grown near together they were a protection to each other; from around them the wind had blown the sand, leaving the shrubs to grace the tops of mounds, in many places several feet high. The wind had also blown the sand from the road to the depth of several feet, forming a canal, with a deep sandy bottom, taxing to the utmost the strength of our teams in dragging our wagons through.

CAMP 110, OCT. 9:—The roads to-day were similar to those of yesterday, aside from being more hilly. Forded the river twice, and camped by it at an early hour within two miles of our destination. The thought goes straight home to our hearts, when we think that but two miles lie between us and the end of our journey in this part of the country. This being the only place where feed can be obtained, our stopping here came from necessity.

We have heard much about the fertility and productiveness of this valley, and we must say that the portion of it we passed through did not impress us very favorably as to its resources. We do not wish to detract from its merits or reputation, and can only add, that the part to sustain what has been said of it must lie farther up towards the mountains.

OCT. 10;—Before sun-rise we were

on our way to the steamboat landing over a road still deeper with sand. On reaching the place to our disappointment we found the boat on which we expected to take passage down the river, through some freak of her master, had changed her hour of departure, and left at day-break. We were detained in this place one day to await the departure of another boat, and compelled to pass the time away, and seek enjoyment as best we might. Here our company again separated with some who had thus far been traveling companions. As it is concluded to take the teams to the Dalles by road, thence by boat to Portland Oregon, the ones that go in charge soon started towards that place, and we are left to pursue our way without the aid of animal locomotion.

Previous to this territory being ceded to the United States, this place was occupied as a station of the Hudson's Bay Fur Company, under the name of Fort Walla Walla, and some of their old buildings are still standing as relics of the past. Since changing hands it has changed names, and now rejoices under the romantic title of Wallula. A commendable spirit of enterprise is evident, and in anticipation of its being an important "city," building lots are held at high figures, but are rather an uncertain investment at that. The soil for the most part being sand, the wind which is here remarkable for its strength and longevity moves it around at will, and the purchaser, unless he can find means to "anchor" his "town lot" may find it some day transferred to that of his neighbor.

OCT. 11:—Day break found us on board of a boat steaming down the Columbia, the Amazon of the West. It is a noble stream, water clear and of a bright green color. The bluffs on either side are high, sometimes rising abruptly from the water's edge, completely hemming us in, confining the

view to the river itself. Rapidly we coursed down the stream for the first twenty miles, when the immense pressure of steam in the boiler sprung two rivets, causing it to leak badly, and the remainder of the day rapid speed was not attempted. The boat was new, small and unfinished, thus offering but few conveniences to passengers. This being the only boat at hand, it was accepted as the best means of transportation. We passed over two or three rapids which are dangerous in the extreme; and none but skillful pilots should ever attempt to steer a boat freighted with human beings over them.

Arrived in safety at Deschuttes.—Here all passengers and freight are landed, and a portage of fifteen miles made, and at the Dalles another steamer is ready for the downward trip. Between Deschuttes and Dalles are a succession of rapids; the most important one however, is all that we will mention. When viewed from a point on the bank of the river about half a mile above, it presents the appearance of a large whirlpool through which flows all of the water of the Columbia, but when seen from the rocks closer by, it is a regular horse-shoe fall of about twenty feet in height, and for a long distance below, the river is a foaming cataract. With a ride in, or on, an over-loaded stage from Deschuttes to the Dalles ends the record of to-day.

SUNDAY, OCT. 12:—We were detained at this place one day, as although all other kinds of business is carried on as if there were no Sabbath, the river business for that day is closed. The Dalles is situated, perhaps, in as poor and as inhospitable a place as could have been selected; the commercial position however, is commanding, and we think the destiny of the place is manifest. Immediately below the city is an interesting feature in the formation of the river course, known as the Dalles

of the Columbia, from whence comes the name of the city. The whole volume of the the river here passes through a narrow chasm between its banks, which has the appearance of having been rent by volcanic action. During the periodical rise in the river this season, it was not of sufficient capacity to pass off the surplus water, which backing up flooded the part of the city next the river doing considerable damage, raising forty-five feet above high water mark.

Oct. 13:—The first evidence of day-dawn found us again on board steamer, resuming our journey still westward.—In less than one hour we entered the lower mountains of the Cascade range, which now begin to assume a general character. As we progress we are walled in by high rocky bluffs on either side, rising abruptly in places to the height of 1500 feet above the water, and acquiring a more mountainous appearance as we near the range itself.—At 9 o'clock we reached one of the marked features of the lower Columbia, where it is broken up into a series of wild looking rapids in passing through the mountains. Around this succession of cascades a portage becomes necessary. The appearance of the river here, as also that of many others that take their rise in these mountains give them their name. To this range belong the lofty peaks of Mts. Hood and St. Helens, which rise as great pillars of eternal snow on either side of the passage.—Below these rapids which are the last on the river, the water is smooth and tranquil—a broad magnificent stream.

From here the river is by no means devoid of scenery; a few miles below the cascades stands a singular pillar of rock near the middle of the river; then five beautiful falls from the heights on the Oregon side add their charms to please; still farther below is a remarkable point of rocks, distinguished as

Cape Horn, because of high winds and the delays it frequently occasions in navigation. It is a bold, high wall of rock, extending out into deep water, against which the wind dashes the water with such violence, at times it becomes a serious obstacle.

Twenty-five years ago these waters were navigated only by the red man and those in the employ of that great Fur company now forever extinct. The canoe or the flat-boat with but isolated exceptions were the only craft in use, and the Columbia was but partially explored and comparatively unknown.—One fourth of a century has been numbered with the past and what a change we behold. The age we live in and the progressive nature of mankind has led to the exploration of immense and unknown regions; the vast mineral wealth of the earth has been discovered and brought forth; changes followed each other in rapid succession; a miniature world has sprang into existence as if by magic; the aborigines have nearly passed away; floating palaces have taken the place of the canoe, propelled by monster engines, usurping the place of oar and paddle; onward to new fields and richer developments press the throng in this now redeemed and transformed region.

Towards sun-set we passed the city of Vancouver; soon after entered the mouth of the Willamette river, and were within the confines of the State of Oregon. Late in the evening landed at the wharf at Portland, the chief commercial mart of the north Pacific coast, where ends the history of the company's journey.

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Oct. 22:—The morning after our arrival at Portland the family composing the remainder of the company, with one exception, took steamer and moved on down the river, this time leaving the writer behind for the purpose of meet-

ing the teams and taking them through to their final destination. The time from the 13th to the 22d, to us, a stranger in a strange land, passed wearily; but the change from the dull monotony of life on the plains, into the busy whirl of city life and business, had something of an enlivening effect. Portland is growing rapidly, and as we have before said of it, is at present the principal business place where centers the trade of the new mining regions. It is about one hundred miles from the ocean, but large vessels and steamers gain access to it for most of the year, although at times navigation is impeded by sand-bars while the river is at its low stages. After remaining in this place several days we took an overland trip to Vancouver, in Washington Territory, to intercept at that place the passengers expected down the river. The two places are but six miles apart, but to get from one to the other, two rivers and what is known as Columbia slough are to be crossed.

The natural advantages Vancouver possesses as a harbor are superior to Portland, as without difficulty vessels of the largest tonnage can land here.—The place is admirably situated on the river, and aside from being advantageous in that respect is a point of military importance, and a fort has been established here by the military authorities. The circumstances which controll the founding and building of cities sustain us in saying that when, as this country becomes more settled and inhabited, and a point is sought containing all that is requisite and required for such an enterprise, Vancouver will not be underestimated, overlooked nor forgotten. The weather was delightful, and we enjoyed a week's sojourn at this place until on Saturday evening the boat arrived, bearing its usual load of human freight and stock; among them were those we had impatiently waited

for, and we took passage once more for Portland.

SUNDAY, OCT. 26:—As a boat was to be to-day despatched to take its place on the line running to the mouth of the Columbia, we were fortunate enough to engage passage to Monticello; so our second visit to this place was a short, not to say a satisfactory one.—We bid adieu to Portland and started down the Willamette river. The day was beautiful and the river as smooth as a mirror reflected back every object floating on its surface. Unlike a quarter of a century ago this river now hears other sounds than those of its own dashings and the dip of the native's paddle. Ten miles from Portland it joins its waters with the Columbia, which is here nearly two miles wide, and except when agitated by the wind is as placid as the bosom of a lake, with scarcely a perceptible current, but rising and falling regularly with the tides of the Pacific.

To the east the Cascades rear their snow capped summits, and Mt. Hood, as if to prop the skies towers its craggy peak upward to the height of two and one half miles. To the north Mt. St. Helens, as regular in form as though it had been chiseled out of a bank of snow pierces the clouds, and from its singular but beautiful proportions we turn our gaze still farther north to Mt. Ranier and other peaks, as they stand in their snowy canopy as silent monuments of earths convulsions. The day, the clear blue sky above, the scenery around makes the view beautiful—magnificent—almost enchanting. The farms that are taken up along the river and the settlements that occasionally appear add to its attractions, and no doubt to the eye of the older Indians contrast strangely with the scenes of their infancy. As evening approached we reached the mouth of the Cowlitz

river, up which we ascended two miles to Monticello. What the future of this place is to be we know not; now there is but little more of it than a name, and is a poor remembrancer of the home and final resting place of the sage whose it memory was thought to perpetuate.

OCT. 29:—At the above mentioned place we found it necessary from the reduced condition of the teams, to delay two days for them to recruit. From here we forsake the mode of traveling on the watery element that we have learned to revere, and again resort to the slow coach of animal transportation. We pushed along over the river bottoms and alluvial deposits of centuries, in a style that would seem to indicate that speed was no object, until on reaching the "Twelve miles house," the day being so far advanced we halted for the night. Thus far has our journey been towards sun-set, without materially lessening its distance. Now are our faces turned toward the polar regions, with the north star, the unalterable mark in the Heavens our guide.

OCT. 30:—This morning the sky was dark and gloomy, and it rained lightly. As we had what is understood as "Cowlitz mountain" to go over to-day, we started on our way quite early to endeavor to clear it before it rained sufficient to soften the road, as in no event does water assist in scaling a mountain. But a few hours elapsed before the sky became clear and the remainder of the day was pleasant. The road was very hilly and as rough as primitive chaos.—There is no scarcity of timber here, being fir and cedar, with a few vine and soft maple; the two first grow to an enormous size. All passed off well until afternoon, when we found ourselves in a situation not at all enviable nor comfortable. For seven miles the road was remarkably well

stumps, and in some places logs lying entirely across it. "Night drew her sable curtain down" while we were yet in the midst of it. The moon struggled to be an aid to us, but the forest was so dense and the trees so tall, that it could not penetrate and was of no service, leaving everything fairly black; we grouped our way along in darkness knowing we were keeping the road only by the mud-holes which could not be avoided.

If attempting to describe things as they are is a crime, we will certainly be considered a very great criminal by saying that this road seems to have been located and built in the worst possible part of the country, with the especial design of benefiting no one, but putting them to the utmost inconvenience.—The little remaining strength of the teams was sadly taxed in this place. The soil is no doubt good here, at least it is deep, and so one of the animals found it, as it became mired in the mud from which it had to be assisted. Saving this we were spared accident, and drove up at 9 o'clock to the station known as Drew's.

OCT. 31:—A heavy frost last night makes a keen air this morning, and leaves its impress visible on all the vegetable kingdom. Left the main road this morning and took the old one, said to be the best. First passed through a belt of woods which could not boast of good roads either. From this we entered Cowlitz prairie, a beautiful and fertile expanse. It has heretofore been occupied by the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, an off-shoot of the Hudson's Bay Company, who leave a record that appears as though they had a settled purpose to oppose progress in every form. Their farms are hedged in by superannuated rail fences—badly afflicted with old age. Their houses are rude old-time specimens of log architecture, the barns of the same material, and all roof-

ed with cedar bark and moss, which stand in striking contrast with places on the same prairie where enlightenment is permitted to penetrate, and energy has taken the place of inactivity.

Wherever the Hudson's Bay Company have extended the field of their operations it is accompanied by missions of the religious character we have before mentioned. Near the centre of this prairie stands the remains of what in former days was a flourishing institution of this kind, but which is now vacant and tenantless—the work appears to have been finished. In its advancing age and declining years no notice seems to be taken of this religious citadel, and from neglect and disuse it is fast crumbling to the earth. As the whites advance clear up and settle the country, the Indians recede or diminish in numbers, hence the hermit priests who conduct these aboriginal abodes of Catholic faith find their occupation gone, and they too seek other spheres of action.

Beyond this prairie the country is a series of openings through which the road led. Night overtook us again before we could reach a place of repose, as places where creature comforts are to be obtained are far apart.—In crossing the Newakum river, and getting through the deep woods that border it our experience of last night was repeated with an increase of obstacles. Arriving at the river the absence of a bridge made fording necessary. Darkness “reigned supreme”—not a lunar ray could come to our assistance, and “prospecting” for a practicable crossing was attended with a chilling effect reminding us that we had become dampened in the search, a fact we became satisfied of much to our discomfort. The winding way over was at last discovered, and the crossing accomplished with but little difficulty.—For two miles from the river other vexatious delays occurred in getting

through the narrow, crooked and muddy road to the prairie beyond. The soil through here, also, must be fertile, it certainly is deep, as it was repeatedly sounded to a great depth by mules and wagons and no bottom found. The romance of the country and the journey, in our humble estimation is not heightened by presenting such uninteresting features.

NOVEMBER 1:—To-day the road was good, leading over a gently undulating section, and although not entirely free from timber it was not so dense as in places we have left behind. Where the road went through low, swampy lands, log-ways, a little rough on the upper side is the usual and popular style of crossings provided. Several of these we crossed to-day; they being infinitely better than the mud we otherwise would have pronounced them very good. Towards evening crossed the Skookum Chuck—in the Indian tongue this signifies rapid or strong water—a bridged stream of some consequence, and entered a smooth level prairie, and soon after closed the day's drive. The evening was clear and moon-lit, and the appearance of the prairie calls to mind views had in other lands.

Nov. 2:—Passing over the prairie we last night came into—the chief products of which seem to be fern, sorrel and full grown gravel stones—we entered a timbered space several miles in extent. This also skirted another opening called Mound prairie, deriving its name from a large mound standing isolated and separate from all its surroundings. During the late Indian outbreak, while this Territory was in its infancy, the settlers at whom the blow was aimed, being few, for better protection collected together and erected forts or block-bouses from which in safety they could repel their savage foes. On this

prairie and on those we have passed, several of them are still remaining, reminders of the sanguinary struggle, at points exposed but convenient to barricade. Their efforts to expel the white man was ill-advised and fruitless; they reclaimed not their hereditary domain; the lands of their fathers is to them lost forever.

The prairie country and much of the timbered land along the road—we penetrate no farther than the road takes us—is taken up and cultivated, producing excellent crops. As yet but little wood land has been cleared, as the timber is so heavy that the value of the land when cleared does not equal the expense of clearing. But the changes time works will yet be beneficial to this Territory.

From this prairie three roads diverge, coming together again at a point about twenty miles ahead. The middle one is the shorter, but the Black river is said to be a better, and in this part of the country where the roads are poor enough, if there is a choice we will gladly accept it. While endeavoring to get through the forest while it was still daylight, a shower that had all day hung threateningly around came upon us, retarding progress so that despite all our urgencies darkness came too. This time the road had a bottom, and trusting more to the acute sagacity of our mules than our own vision we were carried through safely and put up within six miles of the city of Olympia.—Scarcely can we realize that we are so near our destination, verging on the western extremity of our vast continent.

Nov. 3:—We tarried sometime this morning hoping that the rain which had fallen all night, and still continued, would cease altogether. But as no promise of cessation appeared, we started on, scarcely heeding it—we were

too near home to be mindful of that.—A short time after starting the rain ceased; all traces of it overhead cleared away and the day was as bright as mid-summer. Crossing a prairie we reached the little village of Tum Water, another name of Indian origin, meaning falls. A singular appropriateness of terms is applied by the Indians to such places.

It is very pleasantly situated in the valley of the DeChutes river, a rapid, turbulent stream, having numerous falls in its course, offering excellent privileges and facilities for manufacturing purposes, a fact well understood and appreciated by its enterprising citizens, as evinced by several flouring and saw mills that have been erected upon it, and still there is room for others. Crossing the river the road led around on the top of a ridge. As the place came in sight, we scarce could restrain the feelings of exultation and satisfaction, associated as they were with deprivations and hardships, barrenness and desolation, and our safely overcoming them all.

Olympia, the Capital of the Territory, is situated at the head of Puget Sound, which is of sufficient capacity to accommodate the shipping of the world, and it is not unlikely that at some future period it will be the resort of all nations. Before the site on which the place is built became a town, it was a forest of fir and cedar, and the traces of what it once was have not all disappeared.

Over the waters of the bay to the north loom up the Olympic or Coast Range of mountains, so called by laying parallel to the Pacific coast. In by-gone days we have read of them, but only with the interest of a casual reader, and not with the thought that they should ever pass from mere indistinct recollection to a reality of outline.—The snow never melts entirely from their tops, and the sun-beams glisten

as they are reflected back through the blue haze that enshroud them.

The natives that live in this section, subsisting mostly on government gratuities, do not ornament the reservations provided for them, nor flatter this place. They are a squalid, miserable set of beings not far advanced in the arts of civilization—poor representatives of a once “noble” race. To a sad extent they show their emulation of the whites, as at every opportunity whiskey drinking is made the chief amusement. Here, as elsewhere, the squaws perform the drudgery, principally that of gathering oysters at the ebbing of the tide. With a sure certainty their sun is declining; they are gradually passing away; a few decades more and the Indian will only be known in story.

Our weary pilgrimage is over; we have reached Olympia, the Meca towards which we journied, and our task is ended. In the foregoing pages we have sought only to keep our record connected, to give only incidental references, and a passing description and summary of emigrants experiences.— We have not held the darkest side out, but if some passages seem visionary let those who so regard them “go see what we have seen,” and judge accordingly. Should the task be not too great and the patient reader follow us through a journey of six months in continuance, and our crude sketch of the trip over three thousand miles long, we can only remind them that they, too, have reached

THE END.

