

A JOURNAL
OF THE
BIRMINGHAM
EMIGRATING COMPANY

The record of a trip from Birmingham, Iowa,
to Sacramento, California, in 1850

By

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Together with five early itineraries
covered in part by this Company.

With supplementary data compiled from
historical sources and notes and photo-
graphs taken along the line of travel

Edited by

EDGAR M. LEDYARD

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
1928

8

May 6th This morning at 7 O'clock we took up the line of march on what we call a fair start for California, we have now crossed the Missouri

River and are launching forth in an uninhabited country, save by the wild and savage red men of the forests, we traveled to day 27 miles over a Prairie country quite rolling. 18 miles from the Missouri we crossed the Patea a handsome stream about 10 feet wide with high banks, here is a fine chance for camping, about 9 miles from the Patea we crossed the Elk Horn a fine stream about 9 rods wide and three feet deep, but difficult to foard on account of quicksand, we paid \$2,00 to the wagon to get ferried across this stream, we moved out about 1/2 mile and on the Bottom of the Platte River, where we encamped for the night, some grass for our horses, we saw 15 or 20 Indians this evening and 2 or 3 traders with 4 or 5 wagon-loads of Buffalow Skins, the Indians appeared very friendly. Miles 27

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9

May 7th Got an early Start and soon after Starting we met 150 or 200 Indians, all of whom appeared verry friendly, we moved on up the valley of the Platte about 25 miles when the road turned in to the river, at a small point of timber where we encamped for the night, soon after dinner quite an exciting incident occured, Abner Loomis horse getting loose, turned back on the road over which we had come, he followed after and meeting a Stranger who was hunting asked him to go back with him, he did so, and they found the horse in the hands of about one dozen Indians, who refused to give him up, and after attempting to strip the Boys of their clothes, but failling, they succeeding in getting possession of their horse and bidding their friends good by, and returning safe to the Train Miles 25

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10

May 8th This morning 4 of our horses straying of (off, Ed.) we got a larte start, and rolled on 10 miles, to shell Creek where we fed our teams after feeding drove to Long Lake where we encamped for the night, the bottom of the plat, (Platte, Ed.) over which we have travelled to day is 6 or 8 miles wide and verry level this day we travelled 22 miles,

We are now in the Pawnee tribe of Indians, they as yet have been very sivel but are constantly beging provisions Miles 22

May 9th Moved out, and travelled about 10 miles, when we encamped at the Ferry on Ioup fork of Flat, the Country over which we have travelled to day has been exceedingly level, roads generally good a little sandy in places, we saw to day a large grey wolf, one Prairie Wolf and three deer, none of which we got

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11

This evening we unloaded to (two, Ed.) of our wagons which were made for Boats and commenced ferrying our goods across the Ioup fork of Platte, Miles 10

May
10th Arose this morning early and rolled our
 wagons down to the banks of the river, and re-
 sumed our task of crossing the stream, we un-
loaded all our wagons and took our goods across in our
boats and run our wagons across by hand, and rove our
horses through, it being quite difficult for them to cross
on account of the quicksand, many of us were obliged to
be in the water nearly all day, but we all got across with-
out the least accident, occuring, and encamped on the
bank of the stream, this stream is a verry unpleasant one,
it being some 3 or 4 hundred yards wide, the water the
most of the way across being quite shallow, and the bot-
tom a perfect bed of quicksand,

May
11th This morning we got under way

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12 early in order to stop soon in the evening but Grass
being thin we travelled until nearly Sundown, in order to
get a good place for grazing, but finding no verry good
place we encamped on Loupe Fork of Platte, where we
expect to remain untill monday morning, the country
over which we have travelled to day has been quite level,
Roads, tolerable good, somewhat sandy, travelled about
25 miles, this evening we held al election, agreeable to our
constitution, and elected for Captin H Barnes 1st Lieut
N Calhoun 2nd Lieut A L Loomis 3rd Lieut J Gale ,
secretary J I Boon , all of which we think will do--

Our Horses stand the trip so far as well as we ex-
pected some of them are falling away a little, and some
holding their own, this spring is uncomenly backward,
grass being hardly started here yet, we still have some
feed for our horses, perhaps enough to last 2 or 3 weeks
by feeding verry light, Miles 25, made this week 109
miles, in all 394 miles.

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13 May
 12th Sunday this morning some of the boys
 who overtook us at the Missouri River being
 somewhat displeased, and thinking that the
company was rather large, concluded to hall off, they
hitched up and 13 men, 5 wagons and 23 Horses rolled
out, we expect it was all for the best.

May
13th This morning while in the act of starting
 Andrew Ioomis Killed too (two Ed.) wild
 Geese , and attempting to swim to them he
cramped and was unable to reach them, and calling for
assistance Rush Skinner came to his relief and threw him
a rope, by which he drew him to shore, we rolled out and
travelled over a barron country, roads dry but somewhat
sandy, travelled about 28 miles, and encamped on the
Prairie, by a few holes which had been dug in a slew,
which afforded us a little water for cooking, this evening
having no wood we burned the bed of an olld feed Wagon
(which we were a going to leave) to get our suppers by.
to day the boys aw several Antilopes but got none

Miles 28

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May
14th Arose early this morning and turned our
 horses out to graze, after grazing we moved

out and passed over barren and sandy ridges of Prairie, for about 18 miles when we came out to Prairie creek, and from that till night we passed over as fine Bottom Prairie as I ever saw, we found several letters which the boys which left us on Sunday had dropped and learned that they were well, but we are gaining on them, we rolled to day about 27 miles and encamped on Wood Creek a small creek, with considerable timber. this evening Andrew and Bush etc lost a fine horse Polly by name, She died with the collick., we are now on the bottom of main Platte Miles 27

May Gave our horses time to Graze while
15th Grazing five of our hunters started out for a hunt, we hitched up and moved on up the Bottom of Platte roads fine Prairie flatt, we travelled about 14 miles, and finding good grass

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15

we encamped for the night, Just before sundown our hunters came up, Killed 2 Wolves and supposed they Killed 2 Deer but got none,--this evening a company of 33 Wagons and 84 men came up with us and passed on about 20 rods above, and encamped, after supper they struck up on their Band of music, and we soon saw that they were nearing us, our Captain immediately called out his men and Band of music, and marched out to meet them, Both parties marched in regular military order, our company was commanded by Zenas Caster an old, Mexican Soldier, we met them half way when the signal of friendship was given and we found they only came out to give us a wellcum Greeting, our commander immediately ordered us to join them in the rear, which was done in order, we marched 2 or 3 times around our camp with music most delightful, when they formed a line, and we formed in their

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front and gave them three hearty cheers for the friendship shown us, after which they plaid 3 or -4 most Beautiful tunes for our Ladies, (as they had none) Gave us 3 cheers, and our Ladies a good one, and retired in perfect order, and with the good wishes of our company, to there camp, they appear to be Just the right Kind of men to go to California, quite sivel and stedy, but with there eyes wide open. Miles 14

May This morning we got an early start and
16th moved on, over a beautiful Prairie Roads most Excellant, water Scarce we made about 25 miles, to our present camp, plenty of water, wood scarce, nothing of mutch importance occured to Day Miles 25

May This morning six of our hunters started
17th out after a buffalow .-- we got an early start, travilled up the bottom of Platt, Roads level, but part of the way quite Boggy, travelled until nearly Dark in order

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17

to procure a place for camping, encamped on Platte, without wood, Some time after dark our hunters came in, they killed 2 Buffalow, one of them a very large one and one Deer, they Brought in their horses loaded down with

meat, which was really quite a treat, travelled to day
about 28 miles Miles 28

May 18th Roads Splended, travelled about 14 miles
and encamped untill monday morning. to
day we were obliged to hall wood 7 miles to
do over the sabbath, we encamped about noon in order to
recroot our horses, near 75 teams passed us after we
camped before night, we find a great many emigrants
on the road this Spring, although not as meny as we ex-
pected,-- this morning six of the boys Started out for a
hunt, and they have not yet returned, Miles 14,
made this week 136 miles, in all 500 miles.

May 19th Sunday, this morning one of the hunters
came in, and we took horses and went after
the others, they laid on the open prairie, with
but one blanket
between them, they Killed three Buffalow three Antilope
& one Deer,-- Weather warm and pleasant, we have
preaching in camp to Day, allso Mr. Lowery preached to
the Iowa City Company, had a good congriation for
the states, we had a pleasant shour of rain this evening
which revived the grass very mutch,

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May 20th This morning we changed our feed-wagon
in order to get a loose horse we put in a horse
with the boys and they throwed away one set
of harness, we got an early start and moved on over a
fine prairie Bottom, Roads fine with the exception of
about 2 miles of Deep sand, water plenty, wood scarce.
Rolled to day about 25 miles, camped on Platte, some
timber, Miles 25

May 21st This morning had a little rain whic re-
vived the grass very mutch to day we passed
as fine a spring as I ever saw, boiling out near
the foot of a sand bluff, water enough
to carry 2 or 3 Run of Burs ,-- this afternoon we saw a
great number of Buffalow travelled to day about 27
miles, near half of the way, roads quite sandy, which
fateged our teams very mutch Miles 27

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May 22nd Last night our camp was in the neighbor-
hood of about 75 teams, the most of whom we
got ahead of in the morning by getting an
early start Zenas Caster and my-self, this morning left
Camp with one horse, for a Buffalow Chase, and sallied
forth among the sand hills on the right which we found
literally Covered with Buffalow, we killed 2 or 3 which
we found were hardly fit to eat we found to day innume-
rable cauntites of Buffalow, I Believe we saw 10 or 15
thousand, Just as we started home we saw avery (a very,
Ed.) large Drove on Platte bottom, I being on the horses
at the time, road out to one side in order to have a fair
view, I came up within

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about 150 years before they broke and being so close I
though I would give them a little chase, and giving my
horse the rane he soon carried me into their midst, they
Clearing the way and I passed through them, and sprang

from my horse and as they passed I shot one about 2 years old, when I got on my horse and turned 3 or 4 more (which were coming up behind,) towards some of our boys which were near by, and they shot one of them, but it was tulle old, not fit to eat, we followed the Drove awhile, and got in camp Just before sundown, after I left caster he having to walk in to camp gave out before he got wuite in and was taken up by another train, who treated him kindly and brought him to our camp We travelled to day about 24 miles Roads the most of the way very Bad some Bad sand hills, crossed several beautiful streams, this evening we began
to burn Buffalow chips for fuel, which we find to a Postoffice business . Miles 24

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21

May 23rd Got a tolerable early start, passed several Beautiful streams, roads quite Bad, very hard on our teams, Pessed a range of bluffs on the South side of the North fork of Platte, which was covered with cedar trees, the scenery was highly grand and novel, moved to Day about 23 miles and encamped on the north fork of Platte. Miles 23

May 24th Got an early start, travelled up the North fork of Platt, Bottom narrow, roads about half the way good, the balance verry Sandy, hard on our teams, passed several fine streams, which were supported by springs travelled to Day about 26 miles, no grass for our horses to night, passed to Day what is called the lone tree , so called because we see no other timber for 200 miles this is a cedar tree, standing some 3 hundred yards on the left of the road Miles 26

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22

May 25th There being no grass for our horses we started at five Oclock, and rolled on about 6 miles, when we found tolerable grass and turned our horses out to Graze,-- after Grazing about 2 hours, we rolled on, roads fine to Day, passed many fine streams, made about 20 miles, and encamped for the sab-bath finding tolerable grass for our horses, this week our teams have failed some owing to the want of Grain, and, our having a good deal of sandy roads to pass, which was very hard on teams, which have but little grain and very poor grass,

This evening, according to our constitution we held an election, and elected the following named Gentleman to their respective offices For Captain Barnett Barnes , 1st Lieutenant Zenas Caster, 2nd Bengamin Sandford 3rd Abner W Loomis, Sect E D Skinner , To Day we saw several indians of the Sian tribe the first we have seen since we crossed Loupe fork of Platte, this tribe is mutch more manly, and have more of the appearance of the whiteman than, the Onahaw's or Pawnee's they are a large and noble looking Indian, quite active and inteligant, not mutch addicted to beging, there is on the opposite side of the river, from our camp, quite a large town of this tribe of Indians. Miles 20, made this week

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23

145 miles, in all 645 miles.

May This morning, there were many teams in
26th sight on the Prairie but after Breckforst they
were all soon cleared away, with the exception
of one small train, who like us kept the sabbath, at
Eleven O'clock A Dr Phio Addressed our company, with
a portion of his and at 2 Mr. Lowery addressed their
company with a Portion of ours,--

24 This afternoon quite a number of Indians crossed
the river, and, built their huts on this side near our camp,
many of them visiting us, we were also visited by one
white lady, and several Gentleman, who came to Preach-
ing, all appeared very friendly and sociable, the lady
and two Gentlemen staid and took dinner with us, the
lady appeared like a real fine Genteel lady, our ladies
(Rosetty and Amelia) scraped up quite an
acquaintance with her, and were highly pleased with her
appearance, hope we may travel to gether This evening
there fell a little rain which revived the grass in a meas-
ure,

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25 May This morning there being a small Indian
27th town in sight, we moved on, and some of us
went ahead to pay the natives a visit, and
found them snugly fixed to live their huts were composed
of long poles covered with Skins, with a small hole in
one side for a door, they appeared to be perfectly at
home, and, to live happy, we moved on roads tolerable
good, a little wet and some sand, about noon passing some
high bluffs, some of the Boys, climbed to their top and
from there saw what is called Chimney Rock , said by
our Guide to be 40 miles distant, in the after noon we
passed Castle bluffs , on the right, and several of us
went to examine them, they have the appearance of the
ruins of old castles, heaps of rocks were thrown out in
confusion as if fallen from some high wall, some small
Pines were growing on the high cliffs, which made the
scenery around, present a view of modist
lovliness, as if some youthful rovers there had met and
wandered to and fro, and twined their youthful hearts
in loves bewitching snair,

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The country for weeks back has been, has been a
barran waste, unfit for naught save for the Dwelling of
the savage wild, and to satisfy the curiosity of the curi-
ous whiteman, whoes imagination can fly from object
to object, and absorb its wild romantic, beauties, without
comingling with the Dross, Travelled to day about 20
miles, and encamped near a small lake, this evening after
supper the most of the Boys went out and after choosing
sodes tppl a whooping game of ball, untill time to take in
our horses. Wee are now continually passing good
clothing logchains stoves tinware and remains of old
waggon thrown away by the emigrants as they run out
of fee, (feed Ed.) and therefore are obliged to lighten
there loads, as grass is yet poor and their horses begin
to fail,

Miles 20

May 28th This morning got an early start, roads part of the way quite sandy, Country on either side of the river, covered with barron hills, with rocky peaks, rising far above there tops, they are a baron waste, unfit for cultivation, yet with a man fond of curiosities, they are highly interesting, and will add mutch to the pleasures, and take mutch from the burdens of a long and toilson Journey to California,

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this afternoon L. Morse Broke the exeltree to his wagon, it being about time to camp we called a halt for the night, having an old feed-wagon in Company which we intended soon to throw away, we took the exeltree out of it and before sundown had it riged in the other wagon and ready to rool on in the morning,

27 May 29th This morning got an early start, and rolled on to Chimney Rock, when some of us took the Spyglass, and had a good view of it, it lay across the River and some distance from us , it appears to be situated on a high mound, about the shape of a potatoe-hole, we were so far distant from, that we could not determine whether this mound, was composed of hard clay or rock, but upon its top there stood a rock which I should think was about 100 feet high, the mound being about the same hight, and appeared to be nearly Square, with a slight projection near its base, on the north side,

Roads to day very good, made about 27 miles, and encamped nearly opposite what is called Scotts Bluffs, a high range of mountains, which, appear to be a solid mass of rock, covered with small pine or cedar trees, the view from here from here is highly beautiful, almost approaching the sublime, passed this evening Nobles company they were laying by looking for 4 Horses which had strayed from them, Miles 27

May 30th This morning there arose a heavy clowd between us and Scotts Bluffs, which hid it entirely from view, and as it rooled away showing first its lofty peak, which ascended

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28 Some 300 feet in the air, and which was covered with Small Pine or cedar trees, the scene was highly Novel, and no less beautiful we could see as it were, standing upon a clowd, a huge rock, covered with small trees, and as the clowd would rise and fall, it presented mutch the appearance of a Theater, the trees presented the appearance of the actors, the Rock, of the Stage,-- the clowd of the curtain, and nature itself was the tragedy they were Acting, each one playing there parts to perfection.--

we got an early start, roads good with the exception of a little sand, water scarce. this evening Just Before stopping we were overtaken by a thunder-shour, accompanied with a little hail, it lasted however but a short time, this I believe is the first shour we have had, fall on us while travelling ,since we left home Rosety one of our ladies, being on horseback was caught in the rain, which only appeared to brighten her spirits

We have passed several fine streams to day the most of which have some scrubby timber on them. made to day about 27 miles and encamped on boxelder crick, plenty of wood water and grass Miles 27

38 June This morning got a verry early start and
7th travelled over a country similar to yesterday
passed several streams, roads good

John Saunders started Just before noon to take what he thought was a near cut, but insted of that it bore off from our road, and he walked untill night, before overtakeing us, he came up Just after we had encamped, had quite a serious walk of it

Crossed a stream called Mud creek , the Bottom of which was literally covered with Grasshoppers, Made to day full 30 miles and encamped on the Bottom of Platte, the handsomest place we have had to camp since leaving home,

Plenty of snow is lying on the top of the Bluffs to our left, quite a curiosity for us, to see snow at this time of the year,-- Miles 30

June This morning Started at 4 0 clock and
8th rolled on to the Ferry, on Platte here they
had 4 Boats running which
39 took the emigrants across nearly as fast as they came up, ferage here was \$4.00 per Waggon and 25 cts pr head for horses, we crossed here in about 3/4 of an hour, and rolled out in search of grass for our horses,-- from the ferry we could see Snow on the nigh Bluffs to our left which appeared to be about one or two miles distant, But we were informed by the ferrymen that it was Seven or Eight miles off,-- it is Strange that we Should be so deceived in looking at objects at a distance, we may see an object, apparantly not more than 200 yds distant but when going to it, we are as apt to find it a mile off, nearer,-- how to account for this we know not, unless the atmosphere is more pure, or so mutch cleared than where we used to live that it makes the difference, this we suppose to be the case.

It is quite deverting to look around, and see the different contriveances which have been
40 got up for the purpose of emigrateing to the new Eldorado, where grows the root of all evil,--Some you will see well riged with good horse teams,--Others with good ox teams, which travel right up with the best of horses, Many have cut their waggons into, and riged small carts, beds about 5 feet long, throw in a little provision, and roll on in this way Others have thrown a pack on their backs and are rushing ahead in this way, one man passed us to day with his pack and cane, rolling on at a brisk pace, Spunging from the emigrants this I believe to bee a quick way of getting through,

One man, of whom we have heard, loaded a wheelbarrow with provision and a change of clothes, and

cracked down on it, when he got to Fort Iaramie Govern-
ment supplied him with a fresh stock of provisions, and
he again set sail he is now far ahead of us,--we made to
day about 28 miles and encamped without wood water or
grass,-- Miles 28, made this week 157 miles, in all 928
miles.

- 41 June Sunday,--This morning we hitched up
9th as the day broke and rolled out in search of
grass and water for our horses, owing to the
Barronness of the country we were obliged to travel
about 16 miles before finding it, when we encamped on a
beautiful green, but little grass, plenty of water,-- to day
we passed a natural curiosity, a long string of rocks re-
sembling a wall from 15 to 75 feet high running off in
almost a perfectly strait direction for several miles.--

Forgetting to mention some things yesterday I will
mention them now.--Yesterday evening we held an elec-
tion and elected the following men to their respective
offices

For Capt A I Loomis first Lieut C D Skinner second
I I Coldwell third S Clubertson Secretary E D Skinner.

Our Company are now all in good health, and Spirits,
teams look well, we think we have a fair prospect of get-
ting through to California yet, Miles 16

- 42 June Last evening 4 of our horses, belonging
10th to Pain Page and Smith, were missing, and
after a search of 2 or 3 hours, they were
found, some 2 or 3 miles from camp, we rolled on through
a mountaineous country, and over a verry sandy and
heavy road, for about 16 miles, when we reached Inde-
pendence Rock , a grand and magnificent sight, this
Rock is situated on the Bank of Sweet-water , a beauti-
ful Stream about, 8 rods wide, the side of this Rock face-
ing the roade, is completely covered with the names of
emigrants Some as far Back as 1843, many of us, clumb
to the top of this tremendous mass of stone, and from
here could see apparantly all over creation, here let us
pause, let the imagineation expand, and grasp all the
curiosities which abound in the serrounding country, the
high clefts of rocks which ly all around us, the Mountain
peaks which extend far above us, covered with snow and
ice, the
43 singlarly windings and short turnings of the bed of
sweet-water, which lies far below us, the wild and roman-
tic face of the country generally, all contribute to expand
the mind, of the curious and romantic man After pass-
ing this grand piece of natures workmanship, the road
bore up the river for about 1 miles , when we came to a
very good foard, here we saw a man shoot a fine looking
horse really an appalling sight; but when we learned the
cause we thought it right, the horse had broken his lage
in gettin up,-- we made to day about 22 miles, and en-c
camped near what is called the Devil's Gate Miles 22

June We arose verry early this morning in
11th order to get an oportunity to examine the
Devil's gate after breakworst our Ladies
Rosetty and Amelia with 6 men of us, Sallied forth upon
this wild and hazerdous adventure, the Devils gate as it
is called, is a narrow opening, through a mountain of
rock, some 500 feet high, the
44 wall on each side being nearly perpendicular and in some
places more than perpendicular, we reached the foot of
this tremedeous mass of rock, and commenced its assent,
which was steep and tiresom, climbing from rock to rock,
we at last reached its Summit, the atmosphere here we
found mutch colder than below, the scene from this point
was as Grand Terriffic and Sublime as any I ever met
with, to look around and see the Gigantic mass of rock
upon which we stood,-- to look below and see with what
insignificance it appeared to view the objects there, to
look out as it were among the heavens, and see its tower-
ing head streaching out, Determined if possible to excell
even these, all had a tendency to present its ancient
Greatness, in the most grand & dignified manner.--

By approaching the edge of the rock which hung out
over Sweet water we could see the river dashing along
some 4 or 5 hundred feet below us, as we looked
45 down from here, and called to mind to the fact, that men
had fallen from this point and in their decent dashing
with lightning velocity against the rough and rugged rock
below, tareing them limb from limb, and dashing them
to attoms, the thoughts were really terrifying in the first
degree, from this point we commenced our decent, which
was attended with no little danger, and difficulty, we
wound our way, down through a crevis in the rock, hang-
ing on by the projecting points, after we had decended
about 300 feet, to look back, it appeared almost impracti-
cable to pass, looking to be almost perpendicular, here we
arrived on a small bench upon which we found a man
scull Bone, he probily had fallen from the peak above
upon which we stood but a few minutes before, we
Berried it among the rocks, and again resumed our task,
of examining this wonder of nature; we reached sweet-
water about the middle of its pasage through the rocks,
the scene from here was really sublime, a narrow opening
46 passing for near a haly (half Ed.) mile through a ledge
of rocks 4 or 5 hundred feet high, with perpendicular
walls, looking out at either end we could see small open-
ings which resembles doors or windows leading out
through this devils gate, by passing along up the stream
we found our way out of this curiosity of curiosites, here
we found our women who we had left, in the shade of
some small pines , thinking the task of climbing the rock
to hard for them to attempt, but while we were gone, they
determined to see the highest point, and accordingly tuck
up their march, and did not faint untill they had reached,
its summit, and from here had a fair view of all creation,
made a safe return and were again seated, in their shady
grove--

we now finding our curiosities fully satisfied and con-
concluding that nature itself was farely beaten by this

47 wonderful structer, took up our march for our teams, they being 4 or 5 miles ahead,--travelled to day over a heavy sandy road, being verry hard on our horses, made 23 miles. and encamped on the bottom of platt, forded the river with our horses in order to get grass for them. We herd to day, that an Indian was shot yesterday by a Whiteman, the first sircumstance of this kind we have heard of yet,-- from the best information we could get we thought the Whiteman blameless,-- the sircumstances as near as we could learn were as follows, the Whiteman had gone out in search of game, was 4 or 5 miles from the road, while slipping up to an Antilope an arrow passed between his arm and body, he however having a peculiar presance of mind continued his course the same as before,-- but as soon as an opertunity offered he passed down into a hollow, and sliped himself to one side in order to see what this ment, he soon discovered an Indian skulking along through the weads with arrow in his bow, and bow half

48 bent, watching with an Eagles eye for an opertunity when he might light upon his prey, the white-man being now satisfied that his intention was to kill him, leveled his rifle and fired, the Indian made a spring in the air, gave a tremenmeous yell and fell senless to the ground,

Miles 23

June This morning to an early start and roll-
12th over heavy sandy roads, about 10 O clock came in sight of great masses of snow on the rocky mountains, suppose it to be 50 or 60 miles away, travelled to day 35 miles in order to reach water and Grass, encamped about 11 O clock at night on sweet-water, at foard no 5--

This afternoon a Stranger over-took us who had left his train and gone back 5 or 6 miles, in order to relieve if possible a sick man,-- he found him some distance from the road all alone, he was a packer. had but one horse, and that nearly done out, he was quite sick, the

49 Stranger succeeded however in getting him on his own horse, and tied him with ropes, so that he should not fall off, took the sick mans, horse and pack and crossed the river with them,-- by this time, his train had got 12 or 15 miles ahead. he being unable to overtake them with the sickman, succeeded in getting him a place in a train from Indiana, who appeared willing to do all they could, to relieve the afflicted,-- thus provided for the sick felt much relieved, and grateful to his benefactor for his kindness and attention, and our stranger persued his Journey with a glad heart. feeling thankful that he had been able to lend a hand, to a man in idstress, and, to relieve suffering humanity,-- this man was a Gentleman, Just the kind of a man to go to California, and we believe that there is many such going this spring may they be successful Reason Barns is quite unwell to day

Miles 35

50 June This morning we found our horses had
13th been in poor picking through the night, were very mutch fateeged, moved on about 5 miles,

and finding tolerable grass, turned our horse out to graze
and rest, Miles 5

June 14th This morning got an early start, travelled
over hilly and rocky roads, being very hard on
our waggons, were on snowbanks from 8 to 10
feet deep,-- rained and snowed quite hard this afternoon,
made 25 miles and encamped on willow creek a beauti-
ful stream, this evening Mr Wood was taken quite sick,
we are afraid he will be too sick to travel Reason Barns
is getting better.--

To day one of the Boys horses, Stood upon snow 8
or 10 feet deep; and reached off and eat grass the grass
being quite good this would have been rather singular in
our country but here it is nothing Strange Miles 25

51 June 15th This morning several of our men were
quite unwell, they getting wet the night before,
and the weather exceedingly cold. We how-
ever hitched up, and moved on to the summit of the rocky-
mountains, roads very good,-- the ascent to day has been
very gradual so much so that we could hardly determine
when we reached the highest point, the point of Culmina-
tion however is said to be between two low hills about 60
feet high, and situated near the road., this is the dividing
ridge between the atlantic and Pacific,-- its altitude is
7,085 feet, this is getting up in the world.

We now commenced going down hill, we have been
travelling up hill ever since we left the Missouri River--
we have now reached the top of the rocky-mountains of
which we have heard so much said,-- and the very
thoughts of which we have ever been taught to dread, but
we think that if this is all the trouble that emigrants to
California or Oregon meet with, they should