

Original at Colorado
Historical Society

AMOS STECK DIARY

DIARY OF 1849.

Sunday, 27th May, 1849. -

Arrived this day within 3 or 5 miles above the point where the St. Joe and Independence roads meet the Old Fort Kearney road on the River Platte, 300 miles out from Independence - opposite Grand Island, without wood, and within 5 miles of the new Fort Kearney. I think there is in sight men from our Camp. Some 150 wagons in Camp - with cattle ranging on the plains in every direction. Some 75 wagons have passed us. Some pack mules. James Foster about one or 2 days train ahead. Some anxiety about us getting grass enough. Laid by the balance of the day and overhauled our loading and find some of the hard bread musty - re-packed it. I wrote to L. A. Coler and deposited the letter at the Fort next day.

Monday, 28th May. -

Travelled about 16 miles. Weather cool and pleasant. Passed a great number of teams overhauling their loads. Some repacking, and others turned out early in the afternoon. Grass at our Camp not very good. Obligated to cross the Platte on to island for fuel. Some talk of the buffalo - Men separating and dividing their provisions and outfit - perhaps they may do so tomorrow. Cause of separation - disagreements among themselves as to getting along - some wishing to go faster than we are travelling and others satisfied with our pace. Not very good feeling amongst ourselves all day. I had no hand in it, however, which is a little to be wondered at, being considerably more petulant than formerly. Walked all day, driving cattle at times, and footing it solus (?) the remainder. Road rather bad near the Fort, excellent for 12 miles beyond it. Camps in sight --- (?).

Tuesday, May 29.

Started late and drove (?) about 10 miles, I think. Lost the leader of one team - Waldron found him with a train about 4 miles in advance. Left the Buffalo portion of our Company as anticipated to divide their outfit, and they have not yet reached us as yet. I write this at twilight standing guard over cattle till 9 o'clock at night, and am obliged to shut up my book and continue my diary next day. Had to wade over a creek to herd the cattle. I have not seen any description of the country through which we have passed by travellers, and I have only to say of it, that a more God-Forsaken country I have never seen, and don't believe there is such another on the face of the earth. The bottoms on the south side of the Platte are about one mile in width, but covered with a thin grass which is scarcely sufficient for any cattle. Beyond the bottoms the Bluffs begin and the plains beyond are frequently covered with fine patches of grass, and in the ravines timber of a small growth may often be found. Today some of our men went out on the highlands and saw some 18 or 20 buffalos, but were unsuccessful in getting one, doubtless, I think, rather a hoax. There is not a weed or bush to be seen except on islands in the Platte. The whole distance from old Fort Kearney is about one description. Nothing new. Along the Platte in the bottoms water can be got anywhere by digging about 2 or 3 feet deep in the sand. Tonight it rains horribly and I fear we will not be able to travel tomorrow at all. Some of the oxen have sore necks and fears are entertained that more of them will be sick. Careful driving will, however, cure all deficiencies. During the night the rain fell in torrents until nearly morning, but our spacious tent protected us from its merciless pelting.

Wednesday, 30th May.

Laid by all day. Some of our party went out in search of game and returned with a fine young antelope, one quarter of which fell to our mess. Today I am troubled with diarrhea, but expect to recover in a short time. Two teams and 7 men of the Buffalo party left behind, came up and joined our pot (?) at our Camp. Cold, damp,

weather and not much wood.

Thursday, 31st of May -

Started at near 7 o'clock. The weather cold as yesterday, and the chill winds blowing a March gale. Occasionally a Scotch mist hangs over us, and again a sort of Irish drizzle perplexes us. Sometimes we have a peep at the sun and its cheerful rays are quite welcome. Stopped for a lunch and to bath our cattle at 12 o'clock, having travelled about 10 miles. Wagons and men always in sight, the roads look like an - - - - ? Convention. The rain fell in torrents during the hours we were bathing our cattle. Gusts of wind with rain meeting our faces during the whole afternoon. Camped about 16 miles from the starting point this morning in the Bank of the Platte - ? - - - - - - - with us.

June 1st, Friday.

The sun rose brilliantly - as bright an Austerlitz sun - and the air was balmy and mild, relieving us by a gentle breeze all day. Traveled 17 miles, passing many teams. The Rushville, Ill. Co. camping about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile behind us. Hopkins' party having one team left us and is now ahead. Cause suspected to be the juncture of the Buffalo party on 30th - - -(?). No wood when we encamp. We have now but 8 teams in our train, abundantly sufficient for all purposes.

June 2nd., Saturday.

Travelled 16 miles today. Weather cool and pleasant, sun shining, grass good at noon, and very fine in the evening. Left Capt. Day and his immediate party and our two Buffalo teams and turned out this side of their camp. Objection not to the Captain but to the fast driving - apprehension that Day who had some 5 or 6 herds will push their oxen until they give out and then pack their horses. Our whole dependence rests upon our trains, and if they give out ^{we must} ^{elsewhere} in - - - winter - - - - - than in California. Hundreds of teams continually in sight. Struck what I suppose is the South fork of the Platte about noon and found wood in great abundance on the South Bank - for fuel. The face of the country - - - - - ? as bleak and

desolate a region as the eye ever rested upon. It is my opinion that this country never will be settled in our day and generation. Walked the whole day and felt more fatigued than I --.

Sunday, 3rd June. -

Travelled 16 miles today and feel more fatigued than at any previous time since we reached the Platte. Caused I presume by the heat and want of water. Road good, but grass very thin, timber now abundant, more than we have yet seen. Great scarcity of water except that of the Platte, and the mud holes near the Bluffs about one mile from the River. About 8 miles from our last's night Camp saw the first good spring, and it was delightful water indeed. Weary and dust-choked on the open road with a hot sun. Mr. Sun sending its noon-tide glow upon our heads - without water fit to be drunk since we left St. Joseph. This spring was the oasis in the desert of our travel and refreshed us as much as any - - - - ? as over the 119th Psalm, the weary Christian on his pilgrimage to the Spiritual - - - - -. Grass at our Camp pretty good, water abundant, but poor, wood plenty. Have seen more or less oxen on the road since we reached the Platte. Game, and some dead.

Monday, 4th June. -

Travelled about 13 miles today. Sun shining, but wind high. Not very good grass, thin,; water plenty. Fuel none other than Buffalo chips which we find in the most copious abundance, and for the first time since we started we burned them in our stove. They make only tolerable good fuel. The difficulty perhaps was that the season for their use was not quite yet at hand. - The dry chips I certainly think will burn well - had some difficulty in getting our coffee water to boil with them. After we had camped, our eyes were greeted for the first time with a sight of buffalo, which had just crossed the south fork of the Platte and came careening over the Bottoms, evidently being chased. Soon our men sprang to their horses and galloping over the plains reached them in a short time. Every camp in sight were sending forth their hunters, and full of the excitement of the chase myself, I started without gun and

ran for a full view of the picture. Shot after shot was fired into them until one lusty old bull, pierced with a half-dozen of bullets, staggered up the steep of a neighboring bluff and faint at heart and sick with pain, he fell into the hands of the grand - - - - ?, who forthwith stripping his hide from him, divided his carcass amongst them. Not having permission to take any part of him, though I requested it, I seized a knife that luckily laid near by, and sliced a small piece from his rump and hurried into Camp.

Tuesday, 5th June -

Travelled about 10 miles. Crossed the South Fork of the Platte. Fording very good, but the pulling rather hard. Immediately upon landing we were met by some dozen Indians of the Sioux nation, and they gathered about us begging tobacco and bread. Soon these numbers increased so rapidly that we were obliged to curtail our charity and finally to refuse them altogether. We discovered in about 6 miles travel up the Bottoms that we were in sight of their village - not a permanent but travelling village - of about 300 tents made of canvass, and numbering I suppose about 1000 souls. Camped about 3 miles beyond the village though within sight of it from a neighboring bluff. We were greeted by the usual salutation of How and expected to give, give, until our stock of provisions would have gotten short. Men, women and children stood gaping at us as we paused. I observed they were clad more genteely than any Indians we had yet seen, and what astonished me was the vast number of horses, mules and ponies which they had pasturing around their village. Certainly numbered 800 if not more. They were very anxious to trade, but seldom could agree upon the terms of the bargains. They showed a shrewdness in a bargain equal to white men, and in the swapping of ponies certainly couldn't frequently be cheated, except in negotiating for whiskey, they get as much as their articles usually are worth. No other article than whiskey will purchase their ponies and then not a good one. Grass at our Camp most excellent, but water poor. Stood guard from 9 to 12 tonight, and again it was my misfortune to be visited with a most driving storm which but for my oil cloth would have drenched me to the skin. Shortly after being released, the rain

ceased. No Indians to be seen after nightfall except one that came in at the request of one of our party who had been over at their village, and then he particularly requested that when he returned, passing other Camps, Mr. Spenser should tell different parties that he was a good Indian, his fear being that some one would hurt him.

Wednesday, 6 June -

Laid by all day and men visited in savage neighbors in more or less numbers during the entire day. We had the honor of a visit from their Chief, a little wrinkled old man named (as his papers which he exhibited showed) Bulls Tail - he was dressed in a long green cloth overcoat, the fashion of which was somewhat antiquated. Upon his shoulders he sported a pair of rusty old Infantry epaulettes, his pants were sheep's grey, his shoes new fine calfskin, he had a good satin vest, the usual smock under it reaching the knee. He wore a wolfskin cap mounted with a long red plume, from the center of the cap swung a red belt some 18 inches long, at the end of which dangled a small bell. On his fingers he had some few gold rings, rather an expensive ornament for an Indian. Our Captain gave him a drink of whiskey, and shortly afterwards his sons rode up and the old man asked for whiskey for them, and drinking of it himself. He became quite merry and loquacious and loitering about us for an hour or more and bidding us goodby many times, he at last staggered off, singing as he went and saluting everybody with the usual, "How", professing every mark of friendship. I wrote a certificate for him of which he had previously got a great many, making known to all men that we had passed their village yesterday and that with the exception of begging for whiskey they were very little trouble to anybody, which was signed by our Captain, W. Day. I observed that these Indians all mount their horses from the right side and are quite expert horsemen. More cases of cholera occurring, as we heard frequently. In fact, almost every day we hear cures reported in the trains. At the crossing about 8 miles back some deaths expected today. Think likely (?) if we will be pestered with it the whole way to California.

Thursday, June 7. -

Travelled about 15 miles today, weather pleasant, Wind blowing as usual. Road rather bad, and somewhat hilly. Nothing important occurred the whole day. Walked about 2 miles for wood and water, and had to use dry cedar crumbs (?) and Platte water - a most miserable dirt water indeed, as yellow as the Missouri. Stood guard from 11 to 3 - having been cheated out of an hour by a member of the Buffalo Co. and a Mr. Dodge, whom for this mark of meanness I shall endeavor to treat more kindly - - -?

Friday, June 8th. -

Travelled 15 miles, weather good, wind as usual blowing pretty strong. Road rather bad and heavy - rained during the night steady until the second watch. Struck and camped at what we supposed was Ash Camp. Wood plenty, water for the cattle, grass not good. I had almost forgotten to mention here that about daylight this morning our watch saw several Buffalo coming up a raise from the Platte to our Camp. Soon every man sprang from his couch and clutched his gun, and made every effort to reach a point from which a shot would be effective. A Mr. Sherrar, belonging to our Captain's mess, having jumped upon a race mare belonging to Mr. Day, and swiftly following in the chase, passed all the rest of the hunters and quickly dismounting discharged his gun upon him, which taking effect in his hip so as to crippled his gait, he threw up his head and in a moment spurted the blood from his nostrils and hurried on after his fellows. Reloading in hot haste, the same lucky sportsman again with a well-directed aim gave him his mortal wound. Soon the chasemen were all gathered around and forthwith the process of skinning and dissecting him began. More lucky than previously in a previous occasion, I got all and more than I wished from the hump, and celebrated among - - - - - ?, and had I time here I would mention what I though peculiar and different from what others have mentioned.

Saturday, June 9 -

Travelled 16 miles, weather fine and cool. Road very heavy and sandy. Reached the celebrated Ash Hollow in the afternoon; it was nothing else than a bower very common in Penn. and in which are to be found a few ash trees and bushes scattered

along the valley. Its breadth is not greater than 20 rods at any time. This passes immediately down its center, and what I imagine gives celebrity to it is a most excellent spring about midway down, and it is really refreshing to drink of its pearly waters. It is point-marked on maps and in books pretending to give - - - - ? of this route as a very proper place to camp. This, however, is not the fact. The item of grass is wanting. There was certainly not more than half grass enough for our small train. At the mouth of the ravine as we again struck the bottoms that always skirts the Platte, thus far, we met 6 lodges of Indians and half-breeds, and the half-breeds told some of our party that we were distant from that point to Fort Laramie one - ? -7- miles, too good news I fear, to be true. Passed today a man with the cholera, and they were already preparing to bury him. We hear every day of cases behind and before us, and it does appear that it will follow us the - - - - -. Rained again from 9 to 12 tonight. It appears that heretofore with but one exception or two the rain occurs at night, right glad are we that it is so as we should not be able to travel during rains as the yokes gall the oxen's necks in rainy weather. Not on guard tonight.

Sunday, 10th June.

Travelled 15 miles. Nothing particular occurred today, worthy of notice. Have no time to record what I should be glad otherwise to notice. Indeed at no time have I opportunity sufficient to put down what I observe on the way. Tonight from 9 to 12 stood guard, and had the pleasure to be again visited with a tremendous rain storm which came from every part of the compass. At midnight it stopped. Grass good, water, none other than the Platte. Heard of cases of cholera, am not quite well myself. Disturbance in the abdominal region.

Monday, 11 June -

Travelled 15 miles today. Sand the whole way from Ash hollow. Fear entertained about the cattle becoming foot-sore. None of ours yet sore. The necks of a few of our cattle a little sore. No wood but what we hauled along, and that dry cedar. Grass good. Water from a well, not very well. Passed two fresh graves

today. One person died of cholera, as the rude board at the head showed. The other from pulmonary consumption. Mosquitoes most horribly pestiferous. The cattle becoming almost crazy and hard to guard. Rained again nearly all night.

Tuesday, 12th June -

Travelled 15 miles. Weather cool and rather unpleasantly so. Stimpson and Clines had a quarrel, the merits of which as a whole was on the side of Clines, but the manner of which was decidedly favorable to Stimpson. A more foul-mouthed man and ill-bred scullion we could hardly find than our man Clines - to be familiar with him he salutes his best friend in the choicest terms of a most perfectly finished Blackguard, and had he been wet-nursed by a fishwoman and brought up in a brothel he would be none the less offensive than he is. His mouth is full of every expression of coarse vulgarity, at meal times he struggles for every effort to insult his neighbors and messmates nostrils, being ambitious to offer it in a loud and indecent manner. "Manners make the man", said the great master of the human heart, and if this - - - - ? motto be true, ^{our} the messmate Clines having somewhat the form of a man must approximate to a less sagacious race, ye clept the babbon, and indeed the face and head of the brute does not in a very material degree differ from that interesting animal. I had a quarrel with him myself, a fortnight ago, and all familiarity between us, (Thank God) having ceased, which I always avoided when possible, I am not as formerly saluted with the loud-mouthed, loathesome expressions that would disgust the drunken bravado of a ringman of the cockpit. An ass and blackguard as I always knew he was, I was not quite prepared to find him as I now consider him, the meanest and most detestable of any man? I know, not having the smallest claim to the shadow of a virtue. We camp tonight immediately opposite what is called Church Rock, or Court House Rock, a large mass of stone, capped by a stone of the likeness of a cupula. Borrowing a glass of my friend, the Captain, I surveyed as well as possible, and it was too distant for me to see it. Tomorrow I shall look at it again. The distance to it is not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and the country open, as it is everywhere. Not a ^{bush} weed or bark or tree to be seen. This rock rises from the surface of the plain with

no other rocks near or around it, save one that stands up like a huge watchman's (?) lookout about 50 yards east of it. I think it is not more than 200 feet high, though described as 250 feet in height. Not being near enough to it I can say nothing more about it. It rains by bucket falls as I write this in our tent, which we barely got stretched and fastened in time to take shelter in it. Grass poor, no wood, and water I presume from the Platte. Night cool and cloudy, but no rain. Stood guard and was very cold.

Wednesday, 13th June. -

Travelled 16 miles, road heavy and sandy the whole way. weather very cool, wind blowing as usual. Passed today the Chimney Rock which we saw yesterday about 20 miles off. My limits here forbid a description of it. I think it is all of 250 feet high. Grass very good but no water except from a ^{slough} - - - - - ? from the Chimney Rock Bluffs.

Thursday, 14 June -

Travelled 20 miles today. Road very bad and miry for a few miles but good as we rise the Bluffs (Scotts). Grass at noon not very good and no water but the Platte. Everything is plainly perceptible in a journey of this kind. The tempers of men without any exception become petulant and I am sorry to say, my own, amongst others, has been very much so. No man who has not been used to Prairies will believe unless he actually travels over the ground -- The distances between the two prominent points on the road - - - - - distant about 18 miles from Scotts Bluffs, -This morning, and now having travelled about 8 or 10 miles and 4 or 5 hours, we certainly are not more than half way, and the unaccustomed eye of the traveller would not measure the distance as more than 4 or 5 miles, so very deceptive is the nature of an outstretched level plain to the eye. Road very fine in ascending the plains to Scotts Bluffs. No wood but what we bring with us, and no water except from a slough, which is not sufficient for ourselves and our cattle. 10 or 12 camps in sight and vast numbers of cattle grazing on the plain. Grass good, it has rained very hard this moment, and our cattle will have abundance of water. Rained not more than 20 minutes. Scotts Bluff

rise from the level of the plain about 200 feet and present to the eye a perpendicular front of solid rock resembling an immense fort and here and there will be seen what still more resembles a military fortification, rocks rising higher than the main bluffs similar in shape to the usual block houses, magazines and other buildings seen within the walls of a fort. Weather today very hot, without a breeze to freshen us. I forgot to mention at the 2 inst. that we were tormented with the noted Platte fly - a little gnat that storms us in every part of the person exposed to their torturing bills - none since that time.

Friday, 15th June.

Laid by all day and cut off the circling (?) ples of our magazine boxes.

Saturday, 16th June.

Travelled 18 miles today. Passed the Sulpher Springs near the top of the Bluffs (Scotts). Near it lives a trader who had ^{all} the implements of a blacksmith and goods and groceries to sell to the Sioux - whiskey he sold for \$8.00 a gallon, and other goods in proportion. Find our wagons now much lighter than formerly. Saw Laramie's Peak from the top of the Bluffs this morning and it showed that the Rocky Mountains can be distinctly seen in a clear day. Weather mild but not very clear today. Very warm and no air stirring, whatever; a breeze spring up about 2 o'clock and blew away the dust that enveloped us as a cloud. Crossed Horse Creek in the evening,, and encamped one mile from it. Grass and water abundant, but no fuel. Again we were pestered with the little gnat that I understand is peculiar to the Platte. No larger than a pin-head, they do as much execution upon a man's person as the mosquitoes which but for the breeze that is now blowing would almost eat us up tonight. Mosquitoes most - - - - - ?

Sunday, 17th June -

Travelled 15 miles today. Road heavy and sandy in the forenoon, and very fine in the afternoon. Weather hot without any air stirring until 3 o'clock. One yoke of our oxen foot-sore. Turned them out all day, had one shoed this evening. One wheel slightly loosened. Camped where there is a most excellent spring of water,

good wood, and grass fine.

Monday, 18 June.

Travelled 4 miles today, and laid by the balance of the day on account of the sickness of A. Benson, one of our party, who we are glad to say is much improved. We will be able to start tomorrow. Our Buffalo friends went by and we have hopes never again to see them. Grass here good, and wood and water from the Platte.

Thursday, 19th June.

Travelled 16 miles. Forded the Laramie River, a very swift stream, but not so cloudy and dirty as the Platte. Above the confluence of the Laramie River with the Platte about one mile is situated Fort Laramie, a modelly constructed Trading Post, where we observed a Military train in Camp, who were about to establish a regular military Fort. We endeavored to purchase some ox shoes and was asked \$10 (?) for two foot and nails, not for - - - at that, though there was a blacksmith there and a copious abundance of iron, such imposition we would not stand. Camped 1 mile beyond the Fort. Grass not very good, but water and wood plenty.

Wednesday, 20 June -

Travelled 16 miles today. While on guard this morning and driving up our cattle to be yoked, and started, who should I meet on the same duty, attached to another train, but my old friend, Samuel Jemings of Greensbay, who started from St. Joe, Michigan, where he had been recently an editor of a paper. How we talked over schoolboy days and the people of our village. I hope to see him again. Began to approach the Black Hills - dreary and barren, in appearance from the distance. Passed a fine spring 13 miles out on the hills, fine timber in the hills in abundance - pitch pine. No water as yet to be seen, grass at our Camp good and wood plenty nearby. Saw two men from - - - - - ? nearby today, and with Mr. Irvin from Union Town had quite an agreeable chat. Don't look upon a journey over the Black Hills with the dread I used to, before I saw them. Passed the warm springs today, a water not at all agreeable when consumed.

Thursday, 21st June -

Travelled 16 miles today. Passed the Bitter Water Creek at noon, and followed it for 3 or 4 miles. Don't feel well today. Camped where there was good water and wood, but not grass enough. Passed some military who had arrested one young man for stealing a horse and yoke of oxen, and was bringing him back to Fort Laramie; in company they had another gentleman who when the military were arresting the thief, levelled his pistol at an officer and threatened to kill him. They made the arrest more than 100 miles west of Fort Laramie, in the neighborhood of which the ^{theft} arrest was committed. Road sandy and sometimes as hard as a pike. Weather intensely hot and no breeze whatever. Cattle lazy and I fear are failing.

Friday, 22nd June -

Travelled 9 miles today, camped at Heber Spring, and - - - there creek the spring is situated in the bank of the creek. Grass one mile down the creek very good. Wood and water plenty. Here we met the buffalo men, who divided, and 4 of them packed through in horses. Road very bad.

Saturday, 23 June -

Travelled 20 miles today. Road very hilly but the surface of the sand most admirable, being a pike. A natural pike composed of small gravel well packed. Crossed the La Bonte River - a most miserable creek to be dignified by the name of river, not more than one rod wide. Camped about 2 miles from the La Bonte - no grass, wood, or water. Our fuel-wild sage. We carried our water with us.

Sunday, 24th June -

Travelled 18 miles. Traded oxen. Camped on La Prele River. Wood, water, and grass good. This River, ~~is-as-~~ as are all named by French traders, is no larger than the La Bonte, a pitiful stream for a river.

Monday, 25th June.-

Laid by all day, and at evening we were again joined by Captain Day and his friend, Mr. Webster, ----?

Tuesday, 26th June -

Travelled 14 miles, road good though dusty. Rained just as we were descending the last declivity of the Black Hills into the immediate valley of the Platte. We have observed in crossing these Hills that in all directions around us there was every appearance of rain,-rain, thunder, and lightning, - - - -?black clouds, but not one drop fell upon us or on road while crossing. Camped on the bank of the Platte. River high, and I fear we can not get over.

Wednesday, 27, 1849.

Laid by all day and made a raft upon which we crossed nearly one-half of our baggage today. Swam the cattle in the afternoon. The Platte here is very rapid. The labor of rafting was very tiresome indeed. We were obliged to pull the raft up on the side upon which we landed to such a point that the ^{force} ~~face~~ of the current would drive the raft to the proper point on the other side.

Thursday, 28th June -

Continued the rafting and packed up and ready to start tomorrow morning. - - - - -? in the evening on all hands.

Friday, 29 -

Travelled 15 miles today. Road very sandy and hard pulling. The most wood since we left home. Weather warm and clear. Clouds of dust enveloped us as we marched along and frequently the wagons in our immediate advance were scarcely visible. Camped on the Bank of the Platte, wood plenty, grass very poor.

Saturday 30th June -

Travelled 13 miles. Clouds of dust the whole way. Saw a great many oxen lying dead by the roadside, having drunk as we supposed of the alkali water which abounds in this region. Weather today very warm with but little air stirring. Camped on the bank of the Platte about one mile above the upper Platte Ferry, on a spot evidently used for the same purpose by many trains in our advance. No wood nor grass

nor is there any to be got except on an Island opposite the camp, which the fears of our good friend, Jim Stevens, prevents us occupying for grazing, there being, as he supposed, from appearance, an alkali pond and some cattle lying near are dead. Our Captain does not as we think look out sufficiently for good camping grounds, and is controlled in his judgment of some of our men by a new recruit from Ber Town (?), who assumes to understand, if he does not, the whole economy of this journey.

Sunday, 1st July -

Travelled 6 miles, crossing a very steep long hill, pulling through sand up to the fetlocks. Cattle look as hollow as stovepipes. We being about to mount the Bluffs and cross to the - - - - ? water, we decided to lay by the balance of the day, and feed as much as we can - the -----? informing us that it is 18 miles to good water and grass. Weather cool and wind stirring. Ate this morning a steak of antelope killed by the captain's friend, Webster, yesterday. We fear that we shall have little grass at our camp today. So that after all we must put down our halting to the credit of our respect for the sabbath.

Monday, 2nd July -

Travelled 24 miles today, road excellent, with the exception of a few hills where the pulling was hard. The surface of the road was even and composed sometimes of sand hard baked and at other times of calcareous earth. The wind blew directly in our faces the whole day, completely covering us and not withstanding the use of my goggles, my eyes were completely filled with dust, and were painful. Along the way as usual the only vegetation to be seen was wild sage - scattered in tufts - about half covering the ground. Passed a saleratus lake and a mineral spring. Twenty-five oxen were seen lying by the roadside, evidently having drank of the poisonous water, whith which this country abounds. When it is considered that so many were found by the roadside - perhaps dying in the yokes, what must be the number of them which died in their pastures and camps, about which are usually off from the road. About 3 o'clock PM. our eyes were greeted with the sight of a buffalo chase. Down a gorge in the hills came lumbering a large bull, followed in close pursuit by two horseman, and coming in

a parallel range with our way. The teams were stopped and all eyes turned to the spectacle. Soon a score of hunters were on the track of the frightened brute, but the foremost horseman planted the first bullet in him which caused him to turn round-paw up the ground and wait for the battle- a second discharge was given him by another and at the third the brave old fellow trumbled over, a prey to the appetites of good-livers, who gathered around to cut away the hump. We left the Platte this morning and shall not see it again, and had no grass at our Camp which we unfortunately have not. I should rejoice that we had left the muddy waters of the shallowest, dirtiest, swiftest and meanest river in the world. Water here at camp tonight, but fears are entertained that it is impregnated with poisonous matter. Our cattle have been permitted to drink of it, however, and we are told it is healthy. No wood but wild sage tonight, and a poor supper, of course. We expect to drive about 12 miles tomorrow, and are in hopes of getting some grass from- for our cattle, for they are falling away.

Tuesday, 3rd. -

Travelled 9 miles, road good, though wind high and in our faces. Hilly and hard-pulling, - - - ? sand. Camped among the sage bush. Water plenty from the creek described in the guide book of the Mormons as 300 yds. south of the road. Grass good about 2 miles from Camp in a ravine. No other fuel but sage. Coffee and hard bread, poor fare.

Wednesday, 4th July -

Travelled 17 miles today. Road sandy and hard pulling the whole day. Passed today the Independence Rock - a very large granite elevation, 200 ft. high and rising about- abruptly from the surrounding valley of the Sweet Water River. This rock is quite a curiosity, being about 600 yards long, and of a greyish-red color. The base of this large rock is completely covered with the names of many men well-known to the American and European people, who through a spirit of adventure had in former years passed by in search of curiosities in the great American wilderness.

I looked for the cross which Col. Fremont says he made upon it in 1843, but I was unable to find it. The name of Sir. Wm. Stewart was there with his guide, Wm. Pablette, Stewart is an Englishman well-known to the country for his book of travels in South America and Asia. Camped tonight on the Bank of the Sweet Water, a stream cool and pleasant, which we will follow with here and there a diversion until we reach the Pass, which is distant about 100 miles - passed today 24 oxen dead, and yesterday 18. The grass along the Sweet Water is all eaten close by the teams in our advance. However, 2 or 3 miles from Camp where we camped grass is good, and there our cattle have been driven for that purpose. Weather warm and dust flying in great abundance. Although this is the 4th of July, one would think I should speak of the patriotism which ought to animate every citizen of our great Republic, but whoever has the delicious luxury of driving a slow ox team in a sandy road, his eyes filled and his throat choked with it, without any water and no other refreshment than hard bread for dinner, and poor bread at that, will feel little patriotic ardor stimulating him even in this great day. Tonight according to promise we supped with pleasure, having as our 4th of July entertainment, two boxes of - - - - - ? given us by our amiable friend, Chas. W. Daniels of Watertown; in compliment to him we had him in remembrance with other of our Wisconsin acquaintances. Watertown is perfect teetotalism. This morning water froze $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch thick at our camp, so with this - - - some idea of the altitude of this region may be had, being as we think about 6000 ft. above the level of the sea. Since we left Fort Laramie we have had no dew, and not one drop of rain save what is mentioned on the 26th instant., and we had also a dew that and the succeeding night, having camped on the bank of the Platte, when we ferried the river.

Wednesday, 5th -

Travelled 15 miles today, and passed the Devils Gate, a range of the Sweet Water Mountains through which the River pours and dashes amidst boulders which have fallen from the mountains on either side. The fall of the water is nearly 50 ft. in a very short distance. The mountain is granite and rises from the river

perpendicularly about 400 feet. The pass does not extend 30 feet average measure. It is quite a curiosity, not the least vestige of vegetation is found on the mountain except here and there is sage brush in the crevices of the rocks. Weather warm, road sandy, but level. Camped on the bank of the river at the point where the road leaves the river for 7 miles according to the guide book of the Mormons. No grass within 4 miles and our Captain too negligent to hunt it or camp at proper points. I think that office must be somewhat - - - - ? for as now administrated it is a humbug. Saw 17 oxen dead today. The distance through the mountain in the Devils Gate is about $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, average width of the gate about 30 ft.

Friday, 6th July. -

Travelled 18 miles today. Saw 13 dead oxen by the roadside. Weather warm, but not oppressive. Road sandy and heavy pulling. Camped on the bank of the Sweet Water, in the vicinity of a lake to the left of the road. Grass poor; there being no dew in this dry climate, the grass which springs up in the early part of the season becomes dry without bleaching, and is consequently good hay. Such is our grass tonight. Good wood and water. I clambered up the steep of the mountain at the foot of which we lay encamped to get us wood for fuel. The rocks of which the mountains are compounded are destitute of vegetation except in the crevices of the rocks and in the summits. Not even a particle of moss could be found. So steep is the ascent that we were compelled to clamber on our hands and knees and it was with great difficulty that we got down again. On the summit there is a large basin with timber and good grass, and as I struck with the hatchet the limb of a dead fallen tree, a mountain rabbit sprang forth, but quickly disappeared. My friends, Mr. Spence, and Palmer, were more venturesome than I and walked with firm tread and elastic step on points of the rocks which I should not for a second have done. From the summit we saw the first spur of the main chain of the Rocky Mountains, and it appeared in the dim distance half cloud-capped, to be covered with snow. We shall see it nearer in time to ----- of it in our -----?

Saturday, 7th July-

Travelled 9 miles, and camped on the bank of the Sweet Water. Weather cool

roads sandy, but rather even. Grass indifferent. Wood from a neighboring mountain. Wind high and in our faces.

Sunday, 8th July -

Travelled 18 miles today. Road sandy till noon with the exception of a short distance when it passed down an alkali swamp about 2 miles. Wind high and as has been the case for almost a week past, directly in our faces as we ascend the mountains to the Pass. Wind continued in the afternoon, and it was scarcely possible for the drivers to see the cattle on their own wagons on account of the dust and sand. Camped on the bank of the Sweet Water. Drove the whole day without water. No grass at camp.

Monday, 9th July -

Travelled 6 miles, road tolerably good. Camped on the Sweet Water, a most delightful stream of cool and pleasant water. Grass excellent, wood plenty. Had a dish of prairie squirrels - very good fare for this journey. Spencer sick and fears entertained that he will not be able to travel tomorrow. More than 100 teams camped within 3 miles up and down the stream. The grass no doubt inducing them to lay by her

Tuesday, 10th July -

Travelled 17 miles today. Our physician thinks that Spencer may make the journey today, or at best the effort to go on. Oxen shod yesterday evening by Mr. Webster, and we hope to get along some better today. Except the immediate valley of this river which is finely covered with grass, no vegetation can be seen. All is bleak and desolate. Not a single tree can be seen and but a few scattered bushes along the bank of the stream. I am not much in love with this country. Wind high and in our faces yesterday and this morning as usual. After having faced this wind and sand blowing like hot shot all afternoon until not an ox wagon could be seen, I am not much afraid of an African Simoon. Camped in - - - - - Creek, where I bathed. Almost to the summit of the Rocky Mountains. Snow about 8 or 10 miles south of us on what we think is the Wind River chain of mountains. Mountain after mountain of snow. Fields of thousands of acres of snow. Our men picked up snow in ravines near the road where

it had blown and was 10 or more feet deep. Yet as one of them expressed, "It was up to his head and he was on his pony. Weather cool, grass good, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of camp. Fuel - plenty of willow, and the cool delightful water of the Willow Creek - - - ? as the crystal -----. Slept on guard last night 2 miles from camp where our cattle were grazing. Cattle all there in the morning. Many other trains don't guard their cattle at any time after they lie down in the evening until they rise about day-break. My frequent watchings at night satisfied me that no guard is necessary from 9 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Wednesday, 11th July -

Travelled 18 miles today and road delightful, but the high head wind blowing dust and sand in our faces makes it peculiarly and painfully distressing. My eyes, never very strong, suffer a most lacerating pain from this continuous and abominable wind. We are in the neighborhood of the Wind River Mountains, and this may account for it. This morning just as we were going to start, a very loud report in our vicinity was heard, as if a canon was discharged, and shortly afterwards we observed a man tearing off his clothes and jumping up and down, and shouting at the top of his lungs in the agony of distress. It appears he had left his Camp and party and thinking them in his advance he was pushing on, carrying in his hand wrapt in a handkerchief, a few bunches of matches, and a tin canister of powder. Dropping the handkerchief by accident, the matches ignited and in some way not accounted for, the explosion occurred. The face of the poor man, his hands, were most horribly burned, and the pitious moaning of the unfortunate fellow was distressing to us all. Every assistance which we could render him was cheerfully given. Passed today through the famous South Pass of the Rocky Mountains. The point of culmination is about 1 mile east of the point mentioned by Mr. Ware, which he represents as between two low hills. This pass is about 20 miles in breadth, destitute of timber and grass and no vegetation to be seen. Then the usual sage brush. I hate the sight of sage. It indicates desolation and despair and death to cattle. To the right of the pass, a mountain half-covered with snow about 12 miles distant is distinctly to be seen, and no vegetati

upon it whatever. To the left some 8 or 10 miles a long low hill marks the confines of the Pass. Except for a few low hills between the road and left limits of the Pass it is one unbroken level, and as usual destitute of vegetation except sage, sage, sage. Camped about one mile from the famous Pacific Spring in the valley through which it swiftly and delightfully murmurs. Drank of its waters, and the taste, (perhaps it is fancy) is delicious and almost intoxicating. This is the first water that runs to the great Pacific Ocean. May all its waters be to me as much a luxury as this. No grass at Camp, but good grass 2 miles out, and there our cattle are driven. Fuel, nothing but sage.

Thursday, 12th July -

Laid by all day. Caught today some small fish in the little stream made by the Pacific Spring. They were quite a rarity in our camp. The wind changed last night and is blowing half a gale westward. I have heard it remarked that the winds blow almost continually down either side of the Pass, and I feel very glad this is the case with us, if it be not uniformly the fact. Weather this morning as cold as November's frosty morning. Mr. Gilbert from Milwaukee joined us today, having brought with him provisions and cart and one yoke of cattle. We have now hopes of getting our wagons through, which will be of vast benefit to us if we go to mining.

Friday, 13th July -

Travelled 23 miles today. Weather warm and sun very hot. Road pretty good. Camped on the banks of the Little Sandy. Quite a respectable stream, not one bit of grass for our cattle and we are obliged to keep the poor brutes till morning, and drive them on a few miles until we can find feed. Not one drop of water since morning had our cattle, there being no other stream or spring than the Dry Sandy about 9 miles from our starting point on the little - - - - ? creek. The dry Sandy is well-named, having no other water except in times of freshets, , than can be got by digging a hole in the land and then great care must be taken that you select a point where the sand is not too strongly impregnated with alkali. We did not undertake to dig, and went on. We have frequently made a long drive without water heretofore, and I understand 24 miles

Monday, Aug 13 - 1849
travelling 16 miles to day through
dust without end, the weather being
very warm - grass at noon coarse but
in copious abundance - no water
however since morning - road to day
very fine - signs of ^{scarcely} rangers & men
before and behind us, in fact, we
travelling through ⁱⁿ a perfect jam
all day - nothing but sage to be
seen during the entire distance until
noon - it something worthy of note
that all the water since we have
seen since we entered this valley
which is 32 or 37 miles in length
it may turn out to be immediately
sinks in the dry ashy earth
of which the whole country is con-
stituted in this region - Camped to
night at a ^{justly} slough ^{at night} which affords
us good water of that kind - and
most abundant grass - no wood but
Sage

Tuesday 14th Aug 1829
Traveled 18 miles on a dusty
road through the Spring Valley from
in most excellent ^{condition} ~~road~~ with ^{roads}
from the creek which sinks in the
valley - the greatest ^{distance} ~~distance~~ of this
day was the Hot Springs, having no
thermometer with us we are compelled
to judge of the temperature of the ^{spring} ~~spring~~
by the touch - it was almost at the boiling
point - having a sulphurous smell &
depositing the sulphur in such ^{abun-}
^{abundance} ~~abundance~~ that large cakes of it ^{cover} ~~cover~~ much
of the surface of the springs - the water
bobs up in perfect a hundred ^{places} ~~places~~
nearly is a most delightfully cold
spring - the two form quite a
large ^{large} creek which ^{as} ~~as~~ usual
crosses itself - Camped in the ^{canyon} ~~canyon~~
grass poor, very poor, ^{very good} ~~very good~~
no ^{wood} ~~wood~~ but Sage

Wednesday 15 Aug -

travelling 20 miles to day over a
very dusty road leaving the Mormon road
as we suppose and crossing the plain to
the ^{left} ~~right~~. Though we travelled full ten
miles from the hill to the first spring
yet there was not grass enough through
the entire distance to feed a single
sheep one night indeed the whole face of
the Country from Fort Laramie to this point
is nothing else than a vast desert with
here & there an oasis upon which the
^{weary} ~~many~~ immigrant can feed his cattle &
though it is part of our great Country
as much as I should regret to see it in
the hands of a foreign power, still it is
^{worth} ~~worth~~ nothing whatever to the American
people but as a conduit at some future
day for the trade of the Eastern Countries
& the mere pride of Dominion - the project
of railroads or plank roads across this
Country in our day is founded in total
ignorance of the resources of it or in
wished misrepresentation of it by those
who have had opportunity to know it. neither

fuel for ^(locomotives) ~~locomotives~~ ^{no.} ~~our~~ ^{to} ~~could~~ ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{to} ~~get~~ ^{to} ~~as~~ ^{to} ~~far~~ ^{to} ~~as~~ ^{to} ~~we~~ ^{to} ~~have~~ ^{to} ~~seen~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~country~~ ^{to} ~~yet~~ ^{to} ~~we~~ ^{to} ~~indeed~~ ^{to} ~~could~~ ^{to} ~~traverse~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~had~~ ^{to} ~~on~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~line~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ ^{to} ~~our~~ ^{to} ~~travel~~ ^{to} ~~in~~ ^{to} ~~more~~ ^{to} ~~than~~ ^{to} ~~economical~~ ^{to} ~~sufficiency~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~erect~~ ^{to} ~~sustain~~ ^{to} ~~in~~ ^{to} ~~repair~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~necessary~~ ^{to} ~~stations~~ ^{to} ~~required~~ ^{to} ~~in~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~time~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ ^{to} ~~so~~ ^{to} ~~extensive~~ ^{to} ~~a~~ ^{to} ~~railway~~ ^{to} ~~these~~ ^{to} ~~facts~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ ^{to} ~~themselves~~ ^{to} ~~ought~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~at~~ ^{to} ~~once~~ ^{to} ~~cause~~ ^{to} ~~our~~ ^{to} ~~scientists~~ ^{to} ~~from~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~danger~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~stultify~~ ^{to} ~~themselves~~ ^{to} ~~by~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~ignorant~~ ^{to} ~~proposition~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ ^{to} ~~a~~ ^{to} ~~plank~~ ^{to} ~~road~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~Pacific~~ ^{to} ~~camped~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~right~~ ^{to} ~~amidst~~ ^{to} ~~a~~ ^{to} ~~band~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ ^{to} ~~emigrants~~ ^{to} ~~in~~ ^{to} ~~a~~ ^{to} ~~very~~ ^{to} ~~pleasant~~ ^{to} ~~valley~~ ^{to} ~~immediately~~ ^{to} ~~at~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~mouth~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ ^{to} ~~a~~ ^{to} ~~valley~~ ^{to} ~~declivity~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ ^{to} ~~what~~ ^{to} ~~we~~ ^{to} ~~suppose~~ ^{to} ~~is~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~point~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~Dumboldt~~ ^{to} ~~River~~ ^{to} ~~Mountains~~ ^{to} ~~as~~ ^{to} ~~usual~~ ^{to} ~~this~~ ^{to} ~~valley~~ ^{to} ~~has~~ ^{to} ~~its~~ ^{to} ~~own~~ ^{to} ~~springs~~ ^{to} ~~in~~ ^{to} ~~abundance~~ ^{to} ~~at~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~bottom~~ ^{to} ~~self~~ ^{to} ~~flows~~ ^{to} ~~keep~~ ^{to} ~~them~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~itself~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~springs~~ ^{to} ~~in~~ ^{to} ~~it~~ ^{to} ~~is~~ ^{to} ~~common~~ ^{to} ~~for~~ ^{to} ~~them~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~sink~~ ^{to} ~~as~~ ^{to} ~~soon~~ ^{to} ~~as~~ ^{to} ~~they~~ ^{to} ~~appear~~ ^{to} ~~grass~~ ^{to} ~~is~~ ^{to} ~~in~~ ^{to} ~~abundance~~ ^{to} ~~fuel~~ ^{to} ~~is~~ ^{to} ~~gathered~~ ^{to} ~~in~~ ^{to} ~~any~~ ^{to} ~~quantity~~ ^{to} ~~in~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~hills~~ ^{to} ~~near~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~mouth~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~river~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~turnout~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ ^{to} ~~camping~~ ^{to} ~~in~~ ^{to} ~~abundance~~ ^{to} ~~is~~ ^{to} ~~not~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~me~~ ^{to} ~~what~~ ^{to} ~~such~~ ^{to} ~~a~~ ^{to} ~~circumstance~~ ^{to} ~~must~~ ^{to} ~~have~~ ^{to} ~~been~~ ^{to} ~~when~~ ^{to} ~~I~~ ^{to} ~~was~~ ^{to} ~~a~~ ^{to} ~~few~~ ^{to} ~~years~~ ^{to} ~~young~~ ^{to} ~~and~~ ^{to} ~~quilt~~ ^{to} ~~is~~ ^{to} ~~now~~ ^{to} ~~that~~ ^{to} ~~what~~ ^{to} ~~I~~ ^{to} ~~lower~~ ^{to}

hills etc

Thursday 16th Aug 1859

travelling 11 miles over a delightful road,
down the valley through a Kanyon & struck
about noon a small Branch of what I conjecture
is the a tributary of Martins fork of the
 Humboldt. Baited ^{our} Cattle in indifferent
grass at noon & drove 2 miles further down
& passed the remainder of the day in the
banks of a delightful little Creek as
pure as Crystal - its whole valley was ^{covered with} ~~covered~~
most excellent grass, in ^{our} neighbourhood
no fuel other than oage & rather scarce -

Friday 17th Aug 1859

travelling 17 miles to day down Martins fork
of the Humboldt as we conjecture - the most ex-
cellent grass abounds in the valley, as far as
we have moved: many fowls are also to be
seen ducks, Herons, ^{Herons} prairie chickens, and
sand Hill Cranes are luxuriating upon the
valley and the doctor & Wash were fortunate
in getting a few of them for our table
grass at Camp excellent fuel large millers
water from the ^(Creek) ^(fork) Arch or fork - Reynolds
sick having quite an attack of dysentery
& as you know the doctor in all ^{our} ^{cases}
& ^(relieve) ^(relieve) will ^{relieve} ^{relieve} him without trouble any further
relieve.

Saturday 18th Aug 1849

Traveled 17 miles down the valley over a
very dusty road amidst a crowd of ^{over} wagons
amongst the many curiosities which ^{we} saw
to saw upon this trip we observed two like
the elder certainly not more than 10 years
old, the younger not over eight, each driving
a 3 & 4 yoke or team. headed & bayonetted
the elder using the whip with (what I thought
& I am a scientific ^{or driver} driver) considerable
judgment - the little shavers paddled through the
dust galloping & huzzaying in the height of
happiness - their parents were in their wagons driving
the teams of their industrious babies - Camped
to night in the Banks of Martins Fork - passed
the west Branch of the same fork about 2 O'clock
P.M. Baited our Cattle in the valley in
most excellent feed at camp to night
water from the Creek full of large ^{dry} willows ^{dry}
grass good but somewhat eaten off - had
tooth-ache all day & last night - I had
forgotten to mention that yesterday at noon
the whole sky was covered with a perfect cloud
of dust the wind driving it in copious ^{abundance}
all around us - we ^{were} at a loss to know ^{whether}
it was rain or dust, but not one drop of water
fell during the storm

the
the
the

Sunday 19 Aug 1849.

Traveled 7 miles to day, along the
River or Creek as I should call it if
it ran in any other Country than this - every
little stream which holds its waters 10 or 12
miles from its source is dignified with the
name of River & it is well they are for
indeed there are ^(no) streams which ought to
be called River since we left the Grand River yet
all Cacks are so honored, it is said that
we are travelling now upon the Humboldt, and we
all incline to that opinion, if that be the fact
it is quite too insignificant a stream to do any
honor to the collections of the genius of
the Master of Scientific Travellers - Camped at
10 o'clock on the Bank of the River grass
Excellent wood good bring of ^{willow} water from
the stream -

Monday 20 Aug 1849

Traveled 1/4 mile down the valley ^{some} ^{best}
Sometimes amongst Sage, at others in good
grass. most excessive dust - it is somewhat
surprising that our ⁽⁹⁾ other Cacks ^(little too) have not before
this time ^{entirely} given out, the dust ^{is} ^{about} ^{them} ^{completely} covering them & they are
compelled to inhale it the entire day

about five miles from our last night ^{man's camp} ~~camp~~
we reached the Hot Springs they are situated ^{on the} ~~in the~~
left ~~and~~ side of the River as we descend ^{it} ~~its~~
on its immediate Bank - There are perhaps
a dozen of them, in the immediate vicinity
large quantities of saline effluences, ~~the~~
kinds commingled with sulphur (as I think
from the smell & appearance,) to the depth of
several feet has been thrown off from the valve
- some of the Springs as they gush from the hill-
side send up a vapor which from its heat
as I stood over the spring was ^{difficult} ~~impossible~~ to
respire, the temperature was certainly near if
not quite at the boiling point - I consider
them the greatest curiosity which I have yet
seen. we were told by some emigrants who
were at the springs that there was a large
lake immediately over the Bluffs the waters
of which were equally as hot - but as my
companions & messmates had no curiosity to see it
I felt loath to go alone & get behind my train
these springs may probably run directly from
this Lake if the report be as it is stated - found
good grass on the Banks of the River - passed
down the River & camped about 2. miles
from a tremendous hill which appears now
to be travelled only by packers grass poor.

ry poor - wood of willows - the valley of the
Cumboldt if this be it, is not more than
1/4 of a mile in breadth width -

Tuesday, 21. Aug - 1849

Travelling 14 miles to day, through a Cañon
or Canyon as it is pronounced usually,
about 5 miles in length - to the right the
Cañon, in the gorge or Canyon was quite
grand ^{rocks on either} rocks piled themselves up in
stupendous grandeur - it will be known by
the immigrant from this description - totally
destitute of timber or vegetation, except the
usual Sage Bushes that ^{grow} hang every ascent &
descent & plain - the whole way - Camped
to night on the Bank of the River about four
miles from a huge hill which we will be
compelled ^{to ascend} to climb to morrow morning, with
to-day & camped close by Ed Peoria's & Douglas
who travelled with us from old Fort Kearney
to Bear River - Douglas was unfortunate last
night in having one of his best oxen killed by
some Indians - the hide & all the hind quarters
having been carried away by them - the flint which
they use in the point of their arrows having been
found in the very heart of the ox - he was pretty
good beef & we were regaled with a piece of
the tender loin it was excellent & we did full
justice to it as may be supposed

they being their Country) - a party ^{twenty} of ^{twelve} ^{men} ^{and} ^{boys} ^{volunteering} to find the Cattle if
possible crossed the Bluffs & discovered
many fires over which the yellow rascals
^{are} but very recently smoking or eating fresh
meat. A large quantity of it being still
hanging over the fires, evidently abandoned
by ^{the} savages on being surprised by so
many ^{armed} men - not an Indian however
to be seen (Mr King of Dayton was being in
Command) the party separated into 5 equal
bodies & ^{one} of the divisions coming in
contact with a small party of Indians
consisting of five persons armed with bows
& arrows attempted their capture with a view
of getting information as to ^{to} where the
remains of the Cattle still alive were, but
negotiations being made by the savages or ^{the} ^{other}
as may have been - these Indians were killed
the party escaping (not however three of
the white men were wounded - Moore of Missouri
& the names of the others I have forgotten - Several
persons have left without any means of hunting
their way further - Camped at the
mouth of a Bayou - said by Bryant to be 10
miles long - grass poor, very poor, water fresh
the Point of view of Wellmore

in or short can be seen & then only
to some lucky point where a lively spring
akes its appearance for a moment & then
way before it has run or dried -

Saturday 25 Aug 1849
travelling 17 miles to day leaving the River
for a half days drive crossing a Saleratio
Maire for a short distance - fell in Company
with Lieut Anken from Pillsbury who was the Capt
& the Pillsbury train numbering some 275 men - they are
separated into messes of 3, 4 & 5 men each to
struggle through as best they could he &
3 young men were packing 4 mules & a Donkey
the balance of the journey having thrown away
their wagon 50 miles this side of the Mormon
etc they had been unfortunate in losing some
of their mules by drowning in Green River
& being alarmed for the remainder discharged
their loading saving about they judged it
inconvenient & proper to carry in pack. I
found Lieut now Capt Anken a most sociable
fellow with a large share of the amiable &
his companions as agreeable and would have
known - he informs me that he thinks he is the
last of the Pillsbury on the trail this far on
the road - Camped on the Bank of the River
ground tolerably good - On our train last night
lost six head of cattle two being found dead this

Morning. having been ^{killed} killed by Indians
as is supposed & one other of the same
body horribly mangled but still able to be
taken along. ^{Yuccas} Yuccas were against
the whole ^{of} the ^{of} Yellow Scoundrels -

Sunday 26 Aug 1849 -

Traveled 6 miles to day from the River
and camped upon its bank. nothing
occurred worthy of chronicling today except
that no more than a half score of teams
passed in a much less number than usual
grass ^{near} ^{by} very excellent

Monday 27 Aug 1849

Traveled 17 miles to day crossing
in the afternoon a long long ^{and}
hill to avoid following the ^{obvious} ^{convenient}
route of the River & camped on the
River bank - weather to day intensely
warmer until 2 o'clock then a ^{bit} ^{of} breeze
of air to blow away the dust as it
rose in clouds & settled upon the shore
and ^{river}. no grass at Camin
- we have been so ^{much} disappointed
in the great valley of the Humboldt that
we call it with one voice the Great
"Humboldt Valley" -

Tuesday 28 Aug. 1849

Traveled 13 miles to day nooning at
the most northern horn of the Humboldt
passing down the River some 5 miles
a point where the R. was divided
the one follows the stream & the other
crossing a hill & meeting the road at the
point where the river takes a direct
S. W. course - at noon to day George
Dyerly came up with us packing two
knapsack on his back - he left his wagon
yesterday morning being dissatisfied with
his delay in "laying over" he stops with
Perin to night who camps close by us
on the River Bank about a mile from
a Canon - grass good in a Sough near
by - quite horrible all day

Three of our ^{horses} ~~ponies~~ ran away this morning
taking the road back about 6 miles
before they were caught by Waldron
and our pompous messmate Glines
whose character every day as he discloses
himself only proves the more loathsome
& disgusting to us all we shall be
glad on a/c of our association that we
shall end this tedious journey

Wednesday 29th Aug - Camp
 travelled 15 miles from the Canon ^{at}
 about ^{one} mile beyond the point where
 Bluff road strikes our trail - 13^{3/4} miles
 our ^{own} ^{great} ^{persuasion} ^{gives} ^{with} ^{us}
 day & ^{to} ^{share} ^{our} ^{thoughts}
 he will start & expects to reach ^{tomorrow}
 A ^{close} ^{vicinity} ^{to} ^{some} ^{mountain}
 returning from California & though ^{the}
^{gave} ^{us} ^{very} ^{flat} ^{land} ^{of} ^{the} ^{gold}
 region & the moderate price of all
 the necessaries of life yet they ^{strictly}
 affirm that not more than ^{one} ^{half}
 of the ^{emigrants} ⁱⁿ ^{our} ^{advance} ^{can}
^{cross} ^{the} ^{mountain} ^{range} ^{season}
 alledged is the difficulty ^{of} ^{the} ^{pass}
 of the teams and the desert ^{on} ^{this} ^{side}
 of the mountains - ^{grass} ^{at} ^{our} ^{camp} ^{pretty}
 good -

Thursday 30 Aug
 travelled 4 miles over a low sage hill
 passing the Pioneer train in Camp having
 over - we turned in our teams about two
 miles below where amongst a crowd of
 wagons which stand ^{around} ^{our} ^{camp}

like a little clustering village - the whole
valley which spreads itself out more
than a mile in width is covered
with a most dense & nutritious grass
which extends without any interruption
above & below us for three or four miles
as we suppose - the object of stopping
at this point, is more particularly that
the servants shall ^{still} cut & cure the grass
with a view of feeding their cattle during
the long drive over the desert which
will begin ^{about} 30 or 40 miles ahead of
us. ^{from the point} ^{at this} ^{point} ^{information}, ^{rather valuable}
to ^{us} ^{not} we can not learn having reached as
yet a new ^{point} ^{mentioned} ^{above} ^{as} ^{is}
the main track with water was between
31 & 40 miles from having but a gradual
ascent over the mountains and striking
the head waters of the Feather River or one
of its immediate tributaries - in the train
nearest our camp, perhaps two rods distant
and several ^{of} ^{them} ^{are} ^{German}
men ^{and} ^{some} ^{of} ^{them} ^{are} ^{professional}
musicians, who discoursed for a long time ⁱⁿ
concert on Flutes & Violin ^{and} ^{we} ^{were} ^{happy}
in listening to it as it brought back to us
recollections the many ^{sweet} ^{hours} ^{we} ^{have}
spent in cultivating our dull ear & sluggish
sense.

this

done in the musical ^{circle} ~~land~~ ^{circle} ~~land~~ ^{circle} ~~land~~
 we saw many ladies in our neighborhood ^{among}
 them two young daughters of Dr. White ^{of the} ^{state}
 known & quite a celebrated Physician ^{in the}
 State of Missouri - I thought of home ^{and}
 all the associations of my days of ^{youth}
 which clustered thick & fast around my heart
 in delightful recollections - to ^{recall} ^{after} ^{many}
 we shall wake up to the dull reality of
 this miserable and tedious journey - ^{and}
 scarce - willows bring small water from the creek
 and grass as magnificent as there is in the
 world - on this grass are feeding to night
 at least two thousand head of Cattle ^{and} ^{mules}
 & Ponies - and there is certainly feed enough
 for all the cattle that ever ^{will} ^{cross} ^{the}
 Plains - a million of Oxen ^{will} ^{be} ^{fed}
 in this valley at this point - we ^{would} ^{be}
 pardoned for going into ecstasy ^{over} ^{good} ^{grass}
 for ^{our} ^{whole} ^{anxiety} ^{is} ^{absorpt} ^{up} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{safety}
 and ^{care} ^{of} ^{our} ^{travels} ^{our} ^{dependance} ^{being}
 wholly upon them - we ^{spend} ^{our} ^{evening} ^{to} ^{dry}
 this afternoon I gathered into ^{bundles} ^{some} ^{hay}
 which another ^{man} ^{had} ^{cut} [&] ^{did} ^{not} ^{bring}
 we ^{carried} ^{it} ^{over} ^{the} ^{river} ^{to} ^{our} ^{camp}
 & to ^{morning} ^{we} ^{were} ^{gather} ^{the} ^{remains}
 back & start ^{again}

Friday 31st Aug -

traveled 9 miles to day crossing the
divide of the low sand hills a part of
which we crossed yesterday before turning
now to make our way - followed the
river ^{7 or 8 miles} after reaching the immediate valley
about 6 miles and camped in good
grass - willows for fuel large & dry -

This morning we saw men gathering over
bay a Lieutenant Foster who had been attached
to Mr. ^{Mr. Walden's} train & had gone on to Lutes
for the purpose of procuring cattle to
assist in getting through Walden's wagons
Much of Mr. ^{Mr. Walden's} ^{Mr. Walden's} loading consists of
merchandise - this man by his favorable
account of the old road upset all our
notions of taking the new ^{road} ^{road} spoken
of by me in yesterday's journal. over
caring the ^{the} grass here was sufficient
as we will have but little or no fuel
in many places this side of the divide
Lieut Foster said that he saw 30 teams ^{trains} ^{trains}
on the ^{western} ^{side} of the divide and
their condition he described as very
good. our expectations of getting
to the Sacramento sea are ^{strong} ^{strong} ^{strong}
the price of provisions & the fertility of the soil
upon the side of the mountain ^{the mountains} ^{the mountains}

Saturday 1st Sept. 1869.

Travelling 15 miles down the River ^{above} ~~at~~
Seven miles from the Camp this morning
we were compelled to cross the Bluff for
a few hundred yards to avoid crossing
the River. The ascent up the Bluff was
not difficult but the sand was so heavy &
deep that we put 9 yoke of Cattle on each
each wagon & 13 yoke dragged Reynolds' ^{big} ~~big~~
wagon to the Summit. When the wagon began the
ascent the long line of Cattle stretched
more than two thirds of the way. I did
not think it necessary that so many ^{were}
yoke should draw it but without ^{stuck} ~~stuck~~ any
of the mess but one 9 yoke were all hitched
together & they were brought down to haul
them up - we have travelled in ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{vicinity}
vicinity to the Pioneer Lane (which was
advised to cut out from Independence down
& go ^{through} ~~through~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{day} ~~day~~ ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{Monday} ~~Monday~~
Morning - they passed us today again at noon
we expect for the last time. Conflicting
reports as to the practicability of the ^{new} ~~new~~
road and the old reaching ^{the} ~~the ^{various} ~~various
sources still ^{produce} ~~produce~~ ^{some} ~~some ^{discussion} ~~discussion~~
of opinion as to which we shall follow
the road, this afternoon was very dark.~~~~~~

not dusty as usual - the soil of this valley
is ashy and dry & rain seldom or never
falling here, the dust necessarily must be
abundant & insupportable in the main
traveled road - at our Camp ^{to night}
we have little or no grass - full of
willows & water from the Creek -

Sunday 2nd Sept 1849

Traveled 12 miles crossing the River twice
several times about three miles from
last night's Camp we came to the forks of
the road & took the left without any
feed or water for 14 miles over a very sandy
road - hearing that the valley road was full
of holes but some 6 miles longer and that
feed and water could be had at noon &
night we chose it & followed it & camped

on the Bank of the River as usual - some
feed to night but rather thin - this evening
what our friend Washburn was hunting
for he went to a Camp above
found our friend Villa's place
the place & Mr. Helman on horse
arrived his trunk from Washington &
arrived to our camp at 12 o'clock

as from old associations and
 general rejoicing amongst us all
 we will ^{travel} travel together here
 & presume the appearance of the
 gentleman was quite correct - a long
 might be ^{caract} ^{with} ^{quy} a heavy
 After ^{name} ^{color} ^{red} ^{hot} ^{cracked} ^{bit}
 Reddown on a ^{Bedon} ^{collar} ^{sp} ^{with} ^{high}
 boots & ^{vizag} ^{and} ^a ^{ragged}
 his ^{was} ^{hair} ^{like} ^a ^{hermit}
 for the company of Jack Saltsidge he is
 quite an intelligent man & ^{able} [&] ^{write}
 we think quite an addition to our good
 fellows -

had
mistake

black

left
dragging

now as

Monday 3rd Sept 1849

Moved 15 miles to day ^{strong} ^{the}
 immediately after leaving our camp & ^{drag}
 through heavy sand almost the ^{why} ^{day}
 where we left the ash valley of the
 Humboldt to near the hills the sand
 as deep as the ^{new} ^{claws} ^{no} ^{of} ^{our} ^{cattle}
 Tonight we have no fire at camp - ^{ing}
 Our camp is situated about 1/2 mile from

the point where we left the Bluffs found
 out soon & about 1/2 mile from the point
 where the new road takes off to the right to
 the head water of the Sacramento was a beach
 of mud. We have ^{concluded} to go the
 road & to morrow morning, if the cattle
 are not well filled we will feed them some
 hay as we can again cut grass
 1/2 mile from this point before we strike
 the desert - full of willows -

Tuesday 4th Sept^r 1849

Traveled 17 miles down the valley around
 a ^{large} Bend which the river makes
 between the Bluffs - when we arrived at the forks
 of the road mentioned as near our Camp last
 night we saw notices for immemorable to read
 sent up by those in advance for the information
 of those found in the ^{vicinity} near ^{the} forks, which
 they had taken, ^{not being able to read them}
 I did not deem it to ^{be} ^{of} ^{any} ^{use} ^{to} ^{read} ^{them}
 as I was to see where I might ^{be} ^{concerned}
 I passed the forks in this day and found
 the old trail struck the Bluffs about 3
 miles and over ^{with} ^{it} ^{without} ^{any} ^{trouble}
 to the Big Horn & I passed

the last
 of
 all and
 we will
 do well

sent up by those
 of the forks
 were a
 that we
 on the
 of

descending to camp & river on the river

- Camped on the Bluffs ^{not being} with ^{all} the ^{river} ^{at} ^{night}
to the valley, in sand ^{drift} ^{bed} deep - ^{just} ^{from} ^{the} ^{bluffs}
progress of ^{Wednesday 5th Sept 189-}

Travelling 20 ^{1/2} miles on the Bluffs descending
to the River ^{to} ^{river} ^{and} ^{at} ^{night} ^{to}
camp. ground very poor at camp & some ^{at}
all at river - our hay was exhausted ^{at}
and as we are obliged to take our look on
the valley for feed until we reach the river
distance perhaps from our Camp to night about
12 miles, as we hear we had the ^{distance}

Camp in the literal acceptance of the term last
night 4th Sept. we have had at any time on the
trip. Having lost ^{lost} myself in conjunction with the
Electric Steamers & Reynolds on the plain & not
being able to see our horses we wandered on ⁱⁿ ^{the}
direction we thought they would go & being
satisfied at length that they had camped ⁱⁿ ^{the}
in our view (West & Stearns going on) Reynolds ^{at} ^{4.9}
returned by the valley stream ⁱⁿ ^{the}
obstruction amongst the willows & ^{at} ^{near}
until we reached the camp ^{at} ^{night}

down off clocks - supperless & dusty
went to bed and knew nothing of the
importance of getting lost until waked for
breakfast at sunrise next morning - no grass
at camp Wednesday 6th Sept

travelling 19 miles starting in the morning
at the usual hour and turning off to
camp in a short time of 3 miles or so
of the heat of midday was past - this
day is certainly the most ^{intense} intense heat
of any we have had on the route - at
^{sun down} ~~sun down~~ we again started and reached
the southern point of the Big Marsh where
abundance of feed is had for our poor
cattle & horses - at this marsh it is
our intention to cut grass to supply us over
the desert -

Thursday 7th Sept

travelling 6 miles down the marsh and
then our cattle out upon ^{upon} some most ^{excellent} fine
grass at a point which we saw + other
had previously selected to camp + to cut
grass to feed over the desert they had already

to no other feed for Cattle than a crop
 which grows in very luxuriant abundance
 and is not well relished by stock of any kind
 the ^{resting} party a few hours he again set out
 to water the Cattle at several wells
 the sick - two Pines near Comstock where visited
 he was sent off to search for them - he
 succeeded in getting one of them having found
 him in the hands of some Indians who had
 taken both of them up whilst straying off from
 into the Bailewicks of the Yellow rascals -
 the other horse (belonging to Mr Walden) they said
 had been caught by a drifter & was now
 carrying his Green Throat horse to a
 lake just over the Bluffs - the Horse found
 they arrived up without even an inquiry
 for him - they had already put on a Saddle &
 were prepared to use him - the story of the other
 horse being ridden away no one credited but
 getting the Animal to take him he left
 with the deer-hunters & came up to Camp
 for this misfortune I would have driven
 the balance of the journey in dependence
 Mr Walden & the filly was in pursuit of the horse to see
 to get some when they came
 the paper had taught

reads
 attend
 not
 gone
 they
 not seen
 4
 4
 the horse to see
 it is past

In food to a

that they were driving away for food
 great distance - about 4 or 5 miles
 again stable the traces to drive this
~~It was~~ ^{average} this way of which we need
 about dusk - at the forks of the road
 50 or more teams took to the right & explained
 course was led us to which of the
 should take - the ^{decision was soon} made and
 we struck in on the left hand road followed
 closely by the Pioneer train which we had
 found long ago we would never again see - day
 next morning found us on the way ^{near}
 salt well day to reach the thirsty ^{yellow}
 in hopes of reaching the Red River which we
 found very close at hand until satisfied our
 of the grade bank was enormous - we stopped
 bated one Cattle for an hour when we again
 on reaching several salt wells near middle there
 we halted and dipped water from the
 one Cattle - the more they drank the more thirsty
 home - hundreds of Cattle were struck on the
 wegens & proper of any sort being left there with
 much water with us we were compelled to drink
 the salt water and our thirst increased
 brought - at night we again started on
 cliffs and at midnight we struck the Red

to drive the desert
 perhaps
 a general course
 as usual
 daylight
 as usual

Saturday 15 Sept 1849 - the bluff

Travell'd 13 miles to day over the ^{country} ~~the~~ ^{land} ~~the~~ ^{entire} ~~the~~ day, pulling our ^{team} ~~our~~ ^{very} ~~very~~ ^{hard} - the weather however was pleasant though clear and bright - this morning as we were about to start our men Gilbert ~~declared~~ ^{declared} his intention of taking off his cattle & baggage and travelling alone - no one attempted to persuade him to stay and we hurried away leaving him to get along as he was ^{or} ^{was} before left by his Company with whom ^{as with} ^{us} ^{he} had quarrell'd. ^{perish} ^{ful} ^{complaining} ^{indignation} ^{through} ^{cordially} ^{as} ^{have} ^{been} he had no peace within himself and made great trouble around him - I am cordially joyful he has gone ^{we} ^{shall} take care to in another instance to ^{prevent} ^{the} ^{intrusion} ^{amongst} ^{us} ^{of} ^{any} ^{one} ^{disorderly} ^{or} ^{other} ^{for} ^{bad} ^{qualities} - got a guide by the ^{most} ^{reliable} ^{side} (which we all think is reliable) for 38 or 40 miles the distance mentioned in it made by a Mr P.W. Thurston of ^{originally} ^{Compton} ^{Ry} - who had returned for the purpose of giving information to Emigrants in his rear - ^{most} ^{generous} ^{and} ^{generous} ^{act} ^{some} ^{for} which all behind him will bless & thank him.

Sunday 16 Sept - 1849 -

traveled 9 miles on a descent completely
and with wind and exhausting our Cattle & the
camped on the Bank of Carson River
of excellent, mixed plain & water from the
side

Monday 17 Sept 1849

traveled 15 miles up the Creek - the road
at sea level, grass - very abundance the whole
day the valley of the Carson River (or the
Salt River as it was called before Summit)

is about 15000 ft in
narrowing to the limits of the Creek itself and
at other spreading out more than a mile in
extent - weather comfortably pleasant during
the day but cold at night. The eastern spurs
of the Sierra Nevada has been in sight for
several days and now we are amongst
them - hearts eagerly long for the descent
of the Mountains though no apprehension exists
amongst us as to our certain passage over
them - plenty of grass at Summit

Tuesday 18 Sept

Traveled 12 miles down the valley occa-
sionally crossing the low bluffs
that confine the immediate bed of

The route to avoid a heavy
^{and long} lengthened the road somewhat
 which is impracticable for teams
 and passable for packers as I have
 understood after leaving the Bluffs
 the road follows the valley ^{through}
 the most delightful grass that our
^{eyes} eyes have ever beheld, surpassing
^{in density} in density & height all the grasses
^{domesticated} domesticated in the States - several
 small, ^{and} but delightful little
 Mountain Brooks crossed our road
 to day - the Mountains ^{on} on our right
^{scarce} scarce a mile from our trail is
^{covered} covered with the Nut Pine, which
 our Indians also went up the hill
 described as measuring a hundred
 feet in height & many of them 3
 feet in diameter - We camp to
 night in one of these Brooks, the
 grass delightful, full of willows -
 the Mountains are all up with
 snow & the waters above are as
 white as their parent's. ^{There}

which
 and
 scarce
 there

1849 - Friday 21st Sept
 Traveled 22 miles down the
 amidst most excellent grass - found
 a number of warm ^{old} springs which
 from the base of the mountain and come
 away over the valley. The ^{uncommon} luxuriance of the grass caused by this
 natural irrigation is greater by the ^{amount} than
 with great grass - cut grass for our cattle
 in anticipation of being ^{detained} in
 a Canyon to morrow without feed, then
 a mouth ^{which} of ^{is} ^{to} ^{be} ^{our} ^{camping}
 ground to night - we reached camp at
 8 1/2 o'clock P.M. - no grass whatever
 & we were fortunate in having it on
 board - herd of Ponies -

Saturday 22nd Sept

Traveled 9 miles - one of which was
 in the Canyon over stones & snake holes
 the way - concerning the entire day
 to camp - a mountain torrent rushes in
 center of the forest & a dead mountain
 timber of very large ^{is a} ^{consequence} of the
 Pine, Cedar, Fir, Cotton wood, Spruce, and other

in addition

Jimmy Pine - on either ^{side} side the
^{scenery} scenery was magnificent - an almost
 imperious Mountain covered with
^{evergreen} evergreen
 & yet more in afflu grandeur, over ^{our trail} our trail
 all, whilst here & there a dizzy Peak per-
 ceived itself as if to show the majestic match-
 less of ^{nature} nature. At times to day some
 loads of ^{logs} logs were compelled to drag to be
^{dragged} dragged over ^{immense} immense boulders the ^{circum-}circum-
^{stances} stances making it impossible
 at times to move more than a single yoke of
 oxen to draw ~~immediately~~ ^{at the} at the
 most ^{difficult} difficult points in the road ^{where} where
 detained by ^{several} several teams one of which either
 on a ^{load} load of heavy ^{loads} loading or poor cattle, kept
 us ^{more} more than 2 hours in anxious impatience.
 We came up with our teams in 1/2 an hour
 & back at the crossing of the Creek - the
 most difficult we have ^{ever} ever had, again we
^{were} were detained particularly in this instance by
 a single ^{one} one team which had great difficulty
 in reaching the opposite Bank after getting
 on the other side & rising the bluff it had
 to ^{pull} pull ^{up} up amidst the stones and was with much
 difficulty got up, immediately afterwards a mule

of the cattle to strike them and the
short windings in the old pasture
times, the cattle more than one ^{two} ~~one~~
year of cattle from feeding on such
the terrain at first but got up much
better afterwards with the ^{year} on each
May - we reached the ^{summit} ~~summit~~ about
midday and descended the western base
slope camping about one mile from the
foot of the only remaining mountain on
our trail; here we have another lake
much larger and we think its ^{water} ~~water~~ ^{flows} ~~flows~~
themselves into the American Fork of the
Paria Plateau River, if so, it has ^{not been} ~~not been~~
correctly mapped and is most certainly
Lake Bonpland - grass at Camp ^{is} ~~is~~
but abundant - wind of Pine & water from
the Cedar sticks to the source of ^{only} ~~only~~
the Lake - it is in the ^{side} ~~side~~ the ^{formation} ~~formation~~
having the ^{appearance} ~~appearance~~ ^{caused} ~~caused~~ by the ^{presence} ~~presence~~
last provisions on the trip, a ^{small} ~~small
of personal cleanliness - my friend ^{and} ~~and
& myself have bathed frequently, my frequently
as often sometimes at least a day in the old
Mountain Spring - our health is admirable
I have not having bathed his body but once~~~~

each

at present
to be done

4

Wednesday 26th

Traveled 9 miles ascending ^{to the} Black
 hills as I think - ascending ^{to the} summit
 abrupt hills - still on the Ridge - camped on
 the Red side - a small spring on our left bank
^{supp} gives us water but not sufficient for our
 stock - grass in plenty about 200 yds below -
 guided our Cattle above the spring until 12
 o'clock P.M. when finding too troublesome to
 keep together we drove to the camp & placed
^{up} them up hitching them to the wagon - in
 the morning we started bright & early arriving
 at grass about 3 miles -

Thursday 27th Sep 1859.

Traveled 7 miles - started early before breakfast
 about 3 miles to a spring on our left - grass
 very good below it & water in sufficient place
 a brook made by the spring - camped about 3
 o'clock at the Lead Spring as I think - this
 afternoon for the first time since leaving the Black
 hills we had a great smart storm - the falling
^{the} white we think was snow on the top of the
^{top of} the mountains - the sun here on the side of the
 hills however faded but we here - got in tent
 up before the storm - Mallem, Stone, Clark
 & the sick, Mallem very sick - the whole
 cabn of guard, making driving dead to them

- the
 top of

Old
from the also has recovered James & myself

Friday 28th Sept 1899 -
and on to day - weather very nice last night
at little to day at noon - at night the Indians
stamped amongst Miller's Train
camped immediately below us - amongst 80 head
of Cattle 34 were gone in the morning
all hands started in the morning to find the
train with guns, ammunition & provisions -

Saturday 29th Sept

Traveled 15 miles, road very dusty & hilly, still
still following on the Ridge - Camped in a hollow
in a hollow on the Ridge - no grass but
a little water - had on Cattle up in the
to the Yoke to the Niggers - got into
camp at 8 1/2 o'clock PM

Sunday 30 Sept 1899

Traveled 9 miles - lost on Cattle
about 1 mile after starting in a Ravine
to
Ravine on a Ravine - Camped at the head
the head of a Ravine - no food but black oak
black oak browse - water scarce Waldron much more
Waldron much water

Monday 1 Oct 1869

Traveled 12 miles & Camped at the head of Pleasant Valley ^{meadows} as we ^{could} find no feed but ^{some} browse of oak - ^{black} - ^{willow} recovering -

At 10:00

Very little water ^{enough} for our ^{stock} Made up a ^{stew} with ^{as a} ^{stew} & ^{feed} ^{our}

Tuesday 2 Oct 1869

Traveled 8 miles down the valley ^{which} ^{is} ^{very} ^{horrible}. road not very good - met several miners to day carrying their blankets & ^{some} ^{buffaloes} & ^{some} ^{skins} & ^{some} ^{skins} in the Ravines of the Mountain - Camped on ^{weaver} ^{creek} about one mile from a village of that name - the village is nothing more than a cluster of tents - some ^{are} ⁱⁿ ^{progress} of ^{erection} some ^{black} ^{houses} in progress of ^{erection} ^{weaver} ^{creek} ^{is} ^{very} ^{productive} ⁱⁿ ^{minerals} ^{of} ^{various} ^{kinds} ^{the} ^{miners} ^{are} ^{making} ^{money} ^{fast} ^{nothing} ^{with} ^{the} ^{searching} ^{for} ^{gold} ^{or} ^{silver} ^{or} ^{other} ^{minerals} ^{at} ^{present} ^{we} ^{will} ^{start} ^{for} ^{sacramento} ^{city} ^{to} ^{morrow} ^{morning} ^{no} ^{grass} ^{at} ^{camp} - ^{some} ^{of} ^{the} ^{water} ^{is} ^{from} ^{the} ^{dry} ^{weaver} ^{creek} - ^{weather} ^{pleasant} ^{as} ^{usual} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{fall} ^{of} ^{the} ^{year} ^{no} ^{rain} ^{as} ^{yet} ^{but} ^{the} ^{miners} ^{are} ^{making} ^{money} ^{fast} ^{at} ^{last} ^{it} ^{is} ^{settling}

Log 2 to 3

How will

it finally

Wednesday 30 Oct 1891 -

Traveled 16 miles down the valley the soil & country improving but poorly watered timber nearly all of oak - grass all dry - the Springs run ^{here} as in the Basin sink away into the earth almost as soon as they ^{open} from it. ^{Some} ^{deposits} seen in creek - saw ^{deposits} at the edge of ^{resembles} ^{closer} ^{regularity of} ^{disposition}

Camp meeting without the regularity of ^{disposition} of the tents - Baited our cattle on dry grass in the evening & spoke up to come in to water - found it near the ^{road in small} ^{alternating} ^{of sinkings}

Thursday 31 Oct 1891 -

Traveled 7 miles & camped ^{on} a little ^{Justuck} ^{road} ^{at} ^{usual} ^{sinks} ^{away} ^{at} ^{short} ^{distance} ^{below} ^{us} ^{road} ^{most} ^{excellent} - Well some getting much better grass dry but plenty ^{wood} - wind of dry ^{dry} ^{down} ^{from} ^{the} ^{neighborhood} ^{but} ^{any} ^{other} ^{down} ^{yesterday} ^{today} ^{was} ^a ^{picture} ^{of} ^{Wisconsin} ^{oak} ^{openings} ^{though} ^{more} ^{full} ^{of} ^{Wisconsin} ^{oak} ^{openings} ^{though} ^{more} ^{full}

Friday 5th Oct 1894

Travelling 15 miles over a most ^{dry} dusty
 & ^{dry} road down the Plain - not even
 a drop of water the whole distance - saw
 saw this evening for the first time the
 Cow pens ^{or Pans} which are so usually found
 in the Region of Mexican Ranchos
 - this was at Darby's Rancho which
 is situated ^{on} the McLaughlin Plain
 quite a respectable Creek but no ^{more} than
 as I understand the term - the
 Country at this Rancho looks delightful
 & I suppose no soil other than ^{the}
 California soil would produce the
 Vegetation which we see here - the
 grass I was told was the second year
 and that without any rain since
 last spring -

Saturday 6th Oct 1894

Travelling 13 miles - camping about ^{one}
 mile south of Ricci's Rancho ^{situated}
 on the American Fork - ^{our} Camp
 is on the Bank of this stream -
 Grass abundant on the flat but
 flat

rose sold our cows to the ranchers here

rose sold an Cow to the
ranchers here for \$20 -
on was ^{due} up good ^{act} debt last
night and that may ^{act} be for the
vegetating at Daily Ranch

There was
some

Sunday OCT 1899

traveled 40 miles today - it being but
30 miles to Sacramento City situated
but 1 mile below ^(between 2 rivers) Sutter Mt. near or

7

at the Confluence of the American
River with the Sacramento River
I turned off ^{above} above the City a short
distance, crossed the River and passed
down the other side to
about 2 miles - ^{Sold} sold the

^{10 head} 10 head Cattle today for \$1000 - \$29 more than
I ever than we paid for them in
the summer - a good sale we all think

Monday 8 OCT 1899