

California in 1850

- 56 The author started from St. Joseph on the seventh of April arrived at Salt Lake on the twenty-third of June, and there obtained a supply of provisions, and fresh oxen, and reached the mines at Placerville on the fifth of August having laid by in all about twenty five days. 6

From St. Joseph the road runs through the bottom, which is covered with a dense growth of cotton-wood and other timber. It is very crooked, and in some places extremely muddy.

Clear Creek, at the foot of the Bluffs, is a fine place for camping. From here, the road is somewhat hilly, to Mosquito Creek; low bottom on the east side of this Creek, some timber on both sides. From here the road is quite hilly. 6  
15 21

Wolf Creek—Low wide bottom on the east side. There are some old dilapidated Indian huts, and farms, in the bottom near the Bluffs. Banks of the Creek very steep and miry. The Indians have a temporary bridge across the stream. They charge twenty-five cents for each wagon that crosses. 5 26

- 57 Indian Agency.—At this place there are quite a number of Americans living, in the employment of Government. It is the agency of the Miami and Kickapoo Indians. There is a Missionary Station here, several fine farms, and a good school for the education of Indians. 4 30

Mill Creek, is a small stream in the prairie, some green elm trees standing on its banks, a few rods above the road. 5 35

Small Creek—Left of the road; some timber on its banks; good place to camp. 22 57

Grove; half mile north of the road, good place to camp. 6 63

Grove on a small creek, to the right of road; nice place, and good camping ground. 10 73

Small Creek, one mile north of road. Plenty of timber and water. 12 85

Nemehaw Creek—This is a beautiful stream of clear water; plenty of timber, and a delightful place to camp; banks a little rocky on the east side. 7 92

Little Nemehaw—Plenty of timber and good water. 12 104

Small Creek in the prairie; plenty of water and some timber. 12 106

Rock Creek—Some green elms on the banks of the creek; plenty of good water. 4 120

Blue River—Should this stream be up, you will have to build a raft to cross on. It is about fifty yards wide, and a very rapid current; the stream abounds with excellent fish. 18 138

Small Creek in the prairie; some timber half a mile from the road, on each side. 10 148

Small Creek—Plenty of standing water..... 10 158

Small Creek—Plenty of water and some green timber, half mile north of the road. 7 165

- 58 Wythe Creek.--Plenty of timber, and good water. After this several small streams to cross and steep hills to ascend and descend [sic]. 7 172
- Big Sandy--Good water, and some timber ..... 13 185
- Dry Sandy.--This stream is very wide, the bed of which is composed of loose sand, in which the water sinks, in dry weather. 13 198
- Little Blue River, or American Fork.--This is a deep narrow stream, of beautiful, clear, running water. Its banks are skirted with a thin growth of cottonwood. You travel up it forty-four miles;--camping places all along the river. 12 210
- Road leaves the River . . . . . 44 254
- Small Creek in the prairie; some timber, but the water is not good. 4 258
- Small Creek.--Good water, and some timber. 3 261
- Platte River.--If your stock should be very dry, it is best to go directly to the river; if not, take the left hand road along the foot of the Bluffs, as by it you will save two miles. 17 278
- Fort Kearney.--Good camping place, and good grazing for stock on the islands. You will not be allowed to graze your stock nearer than one mile of the Fort. The Fort is situated near the head of Grand Island. From Fort Kearney you will travel most of the way near the banks of the river, on a good level road, until you arrive at. 10 288
- Plumb Creek.--There is a beautiful grove of timber on this creek, about half mile to the left of the road, at the foot of the Bluffs, but no water at the grove in dry weather--but you will find plenty below the road. Drift-wood plenty, for fuel, along the banks of the creek. 36 324
- Pond in the prairie, a few rods south of the road, plenty of water for stock. You will also find good 16 340
- 59 water for cooking purposes, by digging about five feet. You will have to use buffalo chips for fuel.--The road here runs about two miles from the river.
- Deep Slough on the right of the road, supplied with water from the river, and affords plenty for stock, and camping purposes.
- Foot of Brady's Island ..... 15 369
- Road arrives at the river; good camping place opposite a small island, from which you can get fuel. A few trees along the bank of the river. The Bluffs opposite this become much higher than they are below, and approach nearer the river, with occasionally a few cedar trees growing on them. 3 372
- Cottonwood Creek.--Some timber on this creek, and good water. 3 375
- Ash Creek.--Some timber, but no water. . . . 2 377
- Small Creek.--Plenty of water, but no fuel. The road here, runs about a mile from the river. 21 398

- Crossing of South Fork.--The river here is near a mile wide, but is not bad to cross. From here, the best way is to go around the point of the Bluffs, that lie in the forks of the river, and take up the valley of the north fork. 7 405
- Cedar Bluffs.--At this place the road leaves the river, and ascends a long hill, to the top of the Bluffs. Road good, long hill to descend. (See Note 1st.) 24 429
- Road returns to the river. From here it keeps near the river, to Ash Hollow. 12 441
- Cedar Grove.--This is a beautiful little grove of cedar trees standing near the banks of the river.--After travelling from here about two miles, you will ascend a very long hill, very steep in places, from the top of which you will descend to 24 465
- 60 Ash Hollow.--You reach the creek about a mile from the river. It is a very small stream with some springs along its banks, and rocky bluffs on each side, rising to the height of several hundred feet. From here the road runs near the bluffs most of the way to Lawrence Creek, leaving the river from one to two miles distant, on the right. But you can easily get water by digging from three to four feet, which is the easiest way to get it for camping purposes. The bluffs along here are high and rocky, and form a very handsome and picturesque appearance, upon the tops of which, far in the distance, are several small groves of cedar trees. About twenty miles above Ash Hollow, you will come in sight of Court House and Chimney Rocks--the former at the distance of about twenty miles, and the latter about thirty-six. Their appearance from here is sublime and beautiful. The road is very sandy in places. You will cross two small streams about ten miles before you get to Lawrence. 3 468
- Lawrence Creek.--This is a broad, shallow stream. 38 506
- Chimney Rock.--From here there are two roads to Scott's bluffs; one runs near the upper range of bluffs, and the other keeps near the river twelve miles further, and then bears off to the left; intersects the first about five miles below the bluffs. After you leave the river on the lower road, you will find no water for fifteen miles. There is no water on the other road, in dry weather, until it gets near the bluffs. 18 524
- 61 Scott's Bluffs.--This is one of the most delightful places that nature ever formed. The lofty bluffs on each side of a low valley, form a handsome and striking contrast. Roubadaux's trading post is at the upper end of this valley, sheltered on each side and at the upper end by immense rocky bluffs, with here and there a cluster of small cedar and pine trees, growing among the rocks. From the top of the bluffs you have a fine view of Laramie Peak, in the Black Hills at the distance of one hundred miles. 30 554
- Small Stream.--Some water, but no wood. From here road is descending about nine miles. 3 557
- Small Creek.--Water not good; banks very steep. 8 565
- Horse Creek.--This creek is about one hundred feet wide, but very shallow. No fuel here. The road from here to the river somewhat hilly and sandy. 1 566

Box Elder Creek--Plenty of water, but not much timber. 1 694

Forcheboise River.--This is about forty feet wide, with a very rapid current. Plenty of timber for camping. The road is quite sandy from here to the river.

Deer Creek--Here is a beautiful grove of timber, and an excellent place to camp, and by driving stock up the creek about a mile, you will find good grass. There is a coal bank about half a mile above the road, on this stream. 5 706

1st Deep Hollow, with steep banks . . . . . 2 708

Grove of small timber, on the bank of the river, at the foot of the bluffs. 7 715

2d Deep Hollow, or crooked, muddy creek . . . . . 1 716

3d Deep Hollow--Miry banks, some timber on it. . . . . 6 732

4th Deep Hollow . . . . . 3 725

5th Deep Hollow . . . . . 3 728

Small Creek . . . . . 6 734

Upper Crossing of Platte River.--Here were five good ferry boats kept almost constantly running for several weeks in the summer of 1850. They charge

64 four dollars for crossing a wagon. From here the road bears gradually off from the river seven miles, where it will ascend a long hill, on the top of which, on the left of the road, are some singular looking rocks. You will then descend a long hill, at the foot of which the earth has the appearance of having been thrown up by volcanic eruptions. (See note 3.)

Mineral Springs and Lake.--These are considered poisonous. The water looks clear and beautiful until it is stirred up or trampled in by stock, when it becomes black. About seven miles further, the road descends a very steep hill, then passes between some high rocks, that form a kind of gateway. 13 794

Alkali Swamps and Springs.--This is a valley, surrounded by bluffs of considerable height, but very uneven in their appearance. You should not allow your animals to drink any water in this vicinity. 9 758

Small Creek--Very little water in this creek, and has not a good taste, but is not poisonous. You leave this on your left. 4 762

Willow Spring, is about three rods west of the road, under some willow bushes. The water is cold and good. You will find grass very scarce through here, and no fuel except sage brush, which is also scarce. You will find but little wood of any kind, after leaving the ferry on the Platte, except sage brush and willow bushes, until you arrive at Green River. From this spring you ascend a long hill, from the top of which you will have a fine view of the Sweetwater Mountains. 3 765

Slough--Very muddy and miry. About a mile further the road ascends and descends a steep hill, 4 769

Road returns to the river. From here the road is very good, and keeps near the river twenty two miles. 11 57

Fort Laramie.--This place is situated in the valley of the Laramie river, on the north side, and about a mile and a half above its junction with Platte river. The best way here is to cross the Laramie river about one mile below the fort, and go up the valley of Platte. There is a road from the fort that goes over the hills at some distance from the river, which is several miles shorter than the river road; but it is so extremely rough and hilly, that the emigrant would lose time by taking it. 27 60

Steep Hill.to ascend; somewhat rocky, but not lengthy. (See note 2d.) 7 61

Steep Hill to ascend and descend. From here the road is very hilly for several miles. It leaves the river about a mile above this hill, and will not return again under twenty miles. 4 61

62 Bitter Creek.--Here is a fine grove of timber and plenty of good water in the creek, a few rods below the road. 13 62

Dead Timber Creek--Plenty of timber and good water. There are several springs, which rise in the bed of this creek, that afford a supply of good water, and is a good place for camping. The road runs down the valley of this creek about a mile, to the river bottom, then keeps near the river most of the way for about twenty-five miles, occasionally diverging from it, and crossing some steep rocky hills. 3 63

Horse Creek.--This is a beautiful stream, fed by the melting snow on Laramie Peak and the surrounding mountains. Fine chance for camping. You will now find the grass growing scarce. The emigration of the last two seasons, having been for several weeks together grazing stock, has entirely killed the grass, so that in many places your only chance will be to seek for it some distance from the road. You will find it extremely scarce for about three hundred miles. About ten miles above here, you will find a good chance to camp, near the river banks, where there has once been a grove of timber, but has all been cut down by the Indians to get the bark and buds for their ponies. About three miles further, the road leaves the river and ascends a very long, gravelly hill, at the top of which you will intersect the ridge road, opposite Laramie Peak, where you get the last view of it. You will now descend a very long hill, and in some places steep. 10 64

La Bonta River.--This is a rapid running stream, about twenty yards wide. 28 669

63 Branch of La Bonta--Good water and plenty of timber. The earth for two or three miles on each side of this, has a dark red appearance. About six miles from here you will cross a small stream, but no water in the dry season; and six miles further, you will cross another of the same character; and about half a mile further you will come to another, down the channel of which you will travel about two hundred yards. Plenty of water, and fuel. Road tolerably hilly. Country barren and sandy. 5 674

Laprele River.--Bold; rapid current, about two rods wide. Plenty of timber. 15 689

Small Creek--Doubtful about water in the dry season. 4 693

65 near the foot of which, on the west side, is a small creek, a few rods south of the road. And about two and a half miles further, you come to another small creek. You travel about a mile on this creek. The country along here is barren, and very sandy in places.

Greasewood Creek.--Below the crossing, the bottom is covered with a dense and very large growth of sage brush. The road from here to Sweetwater river, is mostly sandy, and in some places rough, occasioned by little knobs of earth in the prairie.

6 775

Alkali Springs and Lakes.--At this place are several acres of low, swampy ground, covered with a crust of saleratus, in places several inches thick, which at a distance has the appearance of snow. The ground under this is very miry. The saleratus is frequently gathered by emigrants and used in making bread. About four miles further you arrive at Sweetwater. Grass short on this stream, and no timber.

6 781

Independence Rock.--This rock stands on the north side of the river, and is so close to the bank that there is but room enough for wagons to pass. It is composed of hard granite, and is a singular curiosity. It stands isolated and alone, near a mile from any other rocks or chain of mountains. It was first discovered by a party of explorers, on the Fourth of July, who, in honor of that great day, gave it the name it now bears. It is six hundred yards long, about one hundred and twenty wide, and about a hundred and fifty feet high, gradually sloping from the ground up, so that the top is accessible from almost every point. It bears the names of thousands of emigrants, put on with paint.

5 786

66 [Picture of Independence Rock]

67 Ford of Sweetwater.--The river here is about eight rods wide, with a rapid current. You will find some sandy road as you go up this river, with some long and steep hills to ascend and descend as you approach the summit of the pass; but the greater part of the road is good. There is a great deal of water standing in pools and ponds along this river, which is impregnated with alkali. You should therefore not let your stock drink any water that is not in a running stream.

7 787

Devil's Gate.--This is a place where the river passes between perpendicular rocks, four hundred feet high. Half a mile beyond this are two small creeks, and about seven miles further you will cross a small creek, with very steep banks, and about three-fourths of a mile further, another of the same description.

4 791

Road leaves the river. You will now find a very sandy road.

12 803

Road returns to the river. About two miles further it crosses a small creek.

7 810

Bitter Cottonwood Creek.--Here is plenty of water and some green trees. The road now leaves the river.

5 815

Road returns to the river. Here, if the river is not too high, you had better cross it, by which you will shorten the distance and save some heavy traveling in the sand, though you will have to ford the river three times after this, before you get back to the main road; but the crossings are not difficult. This route, the road passes between high and rocky bluffs.

6 821

	<u>Junction with the old road.</u> --The road here leaves the river, and you will find no good water for	8	829
68	seventeen miles. About six miles from the junction are several acres of low, flat land, about eighteen inches below the surface of which is a bed of ice, about two inches thick. It is somewhat impregnated with alkali; but a little won't hurt you.		
	Road returns to the river, which it again crosses. You will now cross the points of some high bluffs, and return to the river again in about five miles.	17	846
	Road leaves the river. In the next five miles, you will travel over a succession of hills and hollows, and some of them, very rocky and steep (See note 4.)	10	856
	<u>Soft Swamp and very small Creek.</u> --About two miles further, you will cross a couple of small creeks.	8	862
	<u>Strawberry Creek.</u> --Good water and some willows.	4	866
	<u>Quakenasp Grove.</u> --This is a little grove of small trees south of the road.	1	867
	<u>North Fork of Sweetwater</u> --About three rods wide.	3	870
	<u>Willow Creek</u> --About one rod wide. Plenty of willow bushes.	2	872
	<u>Sweetwater</u> --Last crossing; good place to camp.	5	877
	<u>Summit of the South Pass</u> . . . . .	9	886
	<u>Pacific Springs</u> , to the right of road. These springs form a small stream, which you will cross about a mile and a half below the springs. The country westward from here has the appearance of a vast plain, which you will find very barren, being void of almost every kind of vegetation, except sage brush.	3	880
	<u>Dry Sandy.</u> --Some water in this creek, but has not a good taste.	11	900
	<u>Fork of the Salt Lake and Sublette Routes.</u> --We will here follow the road by the Salt Lake.	6	906

California in 1850Notes

86

Note 1.—In consequence of a rugged range of rocky bluffs, that approach closely to the river, for about eight miles, some of the points of which stand abruptly upon the water's edge, it became necessary for the road to leave the valley, and ascend to the top of the bluffs. With but very little expense, these rocky points could be removed, and the road continue along the bank of the river. Similar obstructions are found at Ash-hollow, Scott's Bluffs, and a little below Fort Laramie, all of which could be easily removed, and would open a continuous line of level road, from the mouth of Platte River to Fort Laramie, a distance of over six hundred miles, on which no grading would be required, and but few bridges—none of any magnitude, except across the south Fork of Platte. Some suppose a bridge could be safely constructed across it, on piles driven securely in the bed of the river. The scarcity of timber along this route, is considered by many a very serious obstacle to the construction of a railroad; and some suppose it will always be an insuperable barrier to the work. But such opinions are, I think, very improperly founded. Although the route lays almost the whole distance through a vast plain, to the east foot of the Sierra Nevada, yet there are occasional bodies of timber on some of the water courses, and on the mountains, in the vicinity of the road, from which foundation timbers, sufficient for the track, as far as Salt Lake, could be obtained, and also for culverts across the small streams. Then from Salt Lake westward, the timber would have to come from the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada, where there is a great abundance of pine and fir, and immense water power for converting them into lumber. The lumber for all the heavy bridges, would have to be carried out as the road progresses. There is timber sufficient on Grand Island, for the foundation of a railroad, from the mouth of Platte River to the crossing of the South Fork, and probably to Fort Laramie. Above Fort Laramie, in the Black Hills, and on the water courses, between there and the crossing of the North Fork, sufficient foundation timbers could be obtained for the road, as far as the summit of the South Pass. Then from there to Salt Lake, enough could be found on Green, Bear, and Weber rivers, and on other water courses, to supply the road to the Mormon settlement, in Salt Lake valley.

87

From Fort Laramie, we have near fifteen hundred miles of extremely mountainous country to travel through. Yet the road has been so judiciously selected along the valleys and water courses which intervene between the mountains, that we have a greater extent of level road, than is to be found in the same distance, in one direction, in any part of the United States. Although there are many long and tedious hills to ascend and descend, yet in what direction can we travel fifteen hundred or two thousand miles in the States, without finding equally as many such.

Note 2.—Here the road will have to leave the valley, as the river above this is canoned for several miles, between high and perpendicular ledges of rocks, that will always be insuperable obstacles to a road, and force it for about twenty miles, over a very hilly country, that will require much heavy grading. But after it joins the river bottom again, it will find but few serious obstacles in the way, below the crossing of the North Fork. The points of some rocky bluffs will have to be cut down, which will be all that is necessary to continue the road along the valley.

Note 3.—The road here will have to leave the river, and cross several long hills, as the river is again canoned between high rocky bluffs.

Note 4.—The hills along here can nearly all be avoided by cutting away points of the bluff that approach the river, and continuing the road along the valley. After



Notes

leaving the hills on Sweetwater, we find none of any magnitude that a road is compelled to cross, until we arrive at Fort Bridger. The hills between there and Salt Lake, that the road now crosses, cannot be avoided; as the streams, where they pass through the mountains, are generally closely canoned by rocky bluffs, that would require more labor to remove than to grade the hills.

California in 1850

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Road from Council Bluffs, up the North side of Platte River, to Fort Laramie, where it intersects the St. Joseph Road.

This was partly copied from a guide, published by the first Mormon explorers who visited Salt Lake. It was published for the benefit of their brethren, and was very accurate in every particular:

<u>Pappia Creek</u> --High banks, some timber. After this the road is crooked and uneven to	18
<u>Elk Horn</u> .--Plenty of timber on its banks . . . . .	9
<u>Small Creek</u> , ten feet wide; not much timber here . . . . .	1 3/4
<u>Platte</u> --Plenty of timber . . . . .	1 3/4
<u>Small Lake</u> , beside the road; no timber . . . . .	3
<u>Circular Lake or Pond</u> --There are a number of small lakes along here for two miles; no timber.	
Road returns to the river . . . . .	9
<u>Small Creek</u> , twelve feet wide. Plenty of timber. No water after this, without leaving the road.	
<u>Long Lake</u> , side of the road. Good place to camp . . . . .	12 3/4
<u>Lake</u> , south of road. Plenty of timber close to road . . . . .	6
<u>Loup Fork</u> .--Good place to camp . . . . .	5
<u>Lake and timber</u> , south of road . . . . .	8 3/4
<u>Looking Glass Creek</u> --Plenty of timber . . . . .	1
<u>Long Lake</u> , south of road. Some timber on the south bank. . . . .	2
<u>Beaver River</u> , twenty-five feet wide. Plenty of timber . . . . .	6 1/4
81 <u>Plumb Creek</u> --Not a good place to camp . . . . .	6 3/4
<u>Ash Creek</u> .--Some timber, but no good camping place . . . . .	2 1/2
<u>Ford of Loup Fork</u> .--About three hundred yards wide. . . . .	1 1/4
<u>Cedar Creek</u> , eight rods wide; some timber . . . . .	2
Road leaves the river, and turns up a ravine . . . . .	4 3/4
Road descends from the bluffs. After descending, you cross a creek about twelve feet wide; bank soft.	6 1/4
<u>Upper Ford of Loup Fork</u> . . . . .	6

## [Road north of Platte River]

Road ascends the bluffs; road heavy and sandy . . . . .	5 3/4
<u>Prairie Creek</u> , twelve feet wide; banks soft. Some timber.	18
<u>Platte River</u> . . . . .	8 1/4
<u>Wood River</u> --Plenty of timber, and good place to camp	3 1/4
The road now runs from one to two miles from the river.	
Road descends to low land. Good chance for camping	1
Road ascends to high land . . . . .	2
<u>Deep Ravine</u> , steep descent. Two and a half miles beyond this you will find a good place to camp.	22 3/4
<u>Creek or Slough</u> , south side of road . . . . .	5 1/4
<u>Deep, dry Creek</u> , opposite the head of Grand Island . . . . .	4 1/4
<u>Elm Creek</u> .--Plenty of timber, but doubtful about water.	
Road leaves the river. Good crossing here . . . . .	7 3/4
<u>Crossing of Buffalo Creek</u> . . . . .	3 1/2
<u>Willow Lake</u> , south of the road. No wood here . . . . .	19 1/4
<u>Flat Lake</u> , south of road. It is long and very crooked . . . . .	8
<u>Deep dry Creek</u> . . . . .	2 1/2
<u>Low Sandy Bluff</u> , extending to the river . . . . .	14
<u>Skunk Creek</u> , six feet wide; no timber; bank soft . . . . .	5
<u>Crossing of Skunk Creek</u> . . . . .	5
<u>Lake or Marsh</u> , south of road . . . . .	1
<u>Spring</u> , of cold water, at the foot of bluffs, north of the road. . . . .	5 1/4
<u>Low Sandy Bluffs</u> , opposite junction of North and South Forks. . . . .	1 1/4
<u>Carrion Creek</u> , ten feet wide. No timber near . . . . .	3 1/4
<u>Last Timber on North side of Platte</u> .--You will find no more timber on the north side of the river, for two hundred miles, except one lone tree. Your only dependence for fuel will be buffalo chips and drift wood.	8 1/2
82 <u>Wide deep Creek</u> .--High banks, but not bad to cross . . . . .	2 1/2
<u>Black Mud Creek</u> -- No feed here . . . . .	3 1/4

## [Road north of Platte River]

<u>Small Creek</u> .--Steep bank, but very little water. . . . .	5 1/2
<u>North Bluff Fork</u> , six rods wide; muddy water and swift current, quicksand bottom, but not bad to cross. Not much grass here.	
<u>Bluff Creek</u> , four feet wide . . . . .	11 1/2
<u>Small Creek</u> , running between the bluffs . . . . .	6 1/2
<u>Small Creek and Spring</u> .--In this neighborhood the ground is swampy.	2 1/4
<u>Petite Creek</u> , four feet wide . . . . .	3 1/4
<u>Goose Creek</u> , thirty feet wide. After crossing this you pass over a low range of bluffs, very sandy, but only a quarter of a mile wide. Then you descend to the bottom land again, which you will find soft and springy.	2 3/4
<u>Small Spring Creek</u> .--Many springs of cold water at the foot of the bluff.	1 1/4
<u>Small Creek</u> , four feet wide. Plenty of good water . . . . .	1 1/4
<u>Duckweed Creek</u> , ten feet wide. Good cold spring water here. . . . .	1 1/4
<u>Shoal Creek</u> .--Not much water . . . . .	2
<u>Rattlesnake Creek</u> , twenty feet wide; swift current, and sandy bottom, but not bad to cross.	3 3/4
<u>Cedar Bluffs</u> , on south side of river. . . . .	1 1/2
<u>Small Creek</u> , six feet wide. Land sandy in this neighborhood . . . . .	5
<u>Camp Creek</u> , eight feet wide. There are two creeks here, about the same size, but a few rods apart. You will also cross two other small creeks three quarters of a mile after you cross the last of these.	4 3/4
<u>Small Creek</u> , three feet wide . . . . .	4
<u>Wolf Creek</u> , twenty feet wide . . . . .	13 1/4
<u>Watch Creek</u> , eight feet wide. After this the road runs along the river bank, to avoid some swamps near the bluffs.	4 1/4
<u>Lone Tree</u> , north side of the river, three hundred yards south of the road	4 1/4
<u>Ash Hollow</u> , south side river. . . . .	2 3/4
<u>Castle Creek</u> , six rods wide; muddy water; swift current. Quicksand bottoms, low banks, but not bad to cross.	3
<u>Castle Bluffs</u> , south side of river. You will cross no more creeks with water in them, unless it is a wet time, until you arrive at Crab Creek, twenty-five miles. Road pretty good.	4 1/4
<u>Crab Creek</u> , twenty-five feet wide; very shoal. Two miles further you will see some high bluffs on the right. By ascending one of the highest of them, you will see Chimney Rock to the west.	25 1/2

## [Road north of Platte River]

<u>Small Lake</u> , south side of road. Good chance to camp. . . . .	1 1/4
<u>Cobble Hills</u> , east foot. You cross three dry creeks before you arrive here, and then you travel on another range of sandy hills. Ascent pretty steep, but not very sandy.	5
<u>Cobble Hills</u> , west foot. . . . .	2 1/4
<u>Ancient Bluff</u> , ruins north side of the road, resembling the ruins of ancient castles, fortifications, [etc]. Many rattle snakes concealed in the clefts of rocks.	1
<u>Low Sandy Bluffs</u> , east foot . . . . .	18
<u>Low Sandy Bluffs</u> , west foot. After this the road is soft, in wet weather, for several miles.	1
<u>Opposite Chimney Rock</u> . The higher land now begins to be barren and sandy.	14 1/2
<u>Scott's Bluffs</u> .--The road runs here near the river . . . . .	19 1/2
<u>Spring Creek</u> , south of road; water good . . . . .	4
<u>Low sandy Bluffs</u> , north side road . . . . .	15 1/4
<u>Small Creek</u> , two hundred yards south of the road. By ascending one of the highest bluffs, you have a view of Laramie Peak, in the Black Hills.	2
<u>Timber</u> , north side of river. Balance of the way to the North Fork very sandy.	
<u>Rawhide Creek</u> , one rod wide . . . . .	5 1/2
<u>Fort Laramie</u> . . . . .	12
	<hr/> 527 1/4

Route by Sublette's and Greenwood Cut-off.

For this I am indebted to the politeness of Mr. D. M. Kelsey, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, for extracts from his journal of this portion of the route. This branch of the route leaves the Salt Lake road nineteen miles west of the summit of the Rocky Mountains, and intersects it again 182 miles beyond Salt Lake City.