

CASL

* c F
865
G54

Overland Journey to California

March 12 - September 9, 1850;
together with miscellaneous accounts,
October 15, 1850 - January 1, 1853

by

Andrew Hall Gilmore, 1829-1907

An introduction by

Raymond M. Gilmore

and

Family Background by

James H. Gilmore

See Mattes
Platte River Road Narratives
Entry 803

Mattes Collection
Californ. St. Libary

[Typescript from original in CSL]

Merrill J. Mattes Collection

If this material is under copyright status, it has been reproduced for the purpose of private study only, and must not be further reproduced or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

Source: Gilmore, Andrew Hall,

1829-1907. [Diary] Overland
Journey to California, March 12-
September 9, 1850, pgs. 6-25

CF
865
G54

March 12th, 1850. A beautiful day; this day bid farewell to parents, brothers, sisters and friends and all the comforts of home to start for California. 'Tis hard to part with dear friends with whom we have been associated with from our infancy. Traveled 7 miles and stopped at the house of James Townsend.

13th Raining, the wind blowing and the weather being very disagreeable; as the day advanced the rain ceased and towards evening the clouds were dispersed and the sun shone out beautifully. Stopped at the 4 mile house kept by Reese, where we spent the night very comfortably.

14th Cool with little frost; the sun shining brightly; the birds of spring singing their sweet songs and all nature rejoicing in the smiles of a lovely morning; passed through the town of Terrehaute, a flourishing town situated on Wabash which we crossed and after traveling 13 miles we stopped at the house of Mr. Armstrong.

15th At sunrise cloudy and appearance of rain but as the sun arose the clouds were partly dispersed and the birds were singing sweetly in the leafy trees; after travelling about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile we crossed the state line between Indiana and Illinois. There our boys gave 3 cheers for Indiana and bid her adieu for many a long day; here we bid farewell to our dear old state on whose friendly soil we have spent the greater part of our lives; farewell then dear native land, we perhaps may never see you no more; we may never tread upon your verdant hills and dales; never perhaps drink from your fine sparkling springs that flow from thy lofty hills nor ramble through thy majestic forests. But our thoughts shall wander oft to thee; round thee will our fond recollections cling and during the most severe troubles and privations our thoughts will be carried back to old Indiana and the kind friends that we left there; May her days be long and prosperous; may she be the most brilliant star that has a place on the Star-Spangled Banner. The country today is generally prairie interspersed with groves of timber; about 3 o'clock we reached Paris in Edgar Co., which is a beautiful town situated in the edge of the grand prairie. Our boys succeeded in shooting a prairie chicken which are here very numerous but hard to get to shoot. Wild ducks are also very plenty. After travelling $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles we stopped for night. The view from here is beautiful. There is something sublime in a view in a prairie; something of which one can not conceive until he has experienced it.

16th. Cloudy, wind blowing considerably, appearance of rain; but the clouds were soon dispersed and the day was very warm. The country is still that of prairie through which are many deep sloughs in which are millions of frogs which salute our ears with there everlasting croaking; in the ponds are numerous quantities of duck; with some cranes and wild geese; prairie chickens are numerous and our company shot 3 which we dressed and cooked for breakfast; a herd of 8 deer was seen today but we could not get a shot at them. We traveled 15 miles and stopped at Archers.

17th. Cloudy and thundering and strong indications of rain; but after raining a little shower it faired off, but toward evening a strong wind from the west arose which made it quite disagreeable, continuing all night. Today we travelled 7 miles in the 18 miles prairie and stopped at Hallieses.

18th. Cold, clear and very windy which makes it very uncomfortable; but about noon it became more comfortable. I.L.Harris, W. Sellers and myself being in advance of the teams, threw ourselves upon the grass to rest and in that position we could not see timber in any direction; waiting until the teams came up we fed for noon, both teams and men. After resting a short time we drove on for about 5 miles where we struck the timber which was about 3 miles wide consisting of oaks with some walnut and elm and the timber of a smaller growth which formed quite a beautiful forest; through which flowed the east Ocau, a stream about 20 yds. wide; being tolerably deep and the water not very clear over which was a good bridge after which

JOURNAL OF AN OVERLAND JOURNEY
TO CALIFORNIA
MAY 6TH, 1850.

Our company consisting of six wagons, fifty two head of oxen, six horses, and twenty three men having laid in supplies of provision and other articles necessary for so long a journey, crossed the Missouri at St. Joseph at two o'clock P.M. one of the principal points of rendezvous of the California emigration, which was very much crowded with wagons and men on their road to the gold regions.

After crossing the river we traveled two miles and camped, turned out our cattle to graze. The grass not very good; the bottom very heavily timbered with gigantic cottonwood, sycamore, with thick underbrush and tall rushes. Six of our cattle strayed away and could not be found. During the evening saw several Indians who were ornamented with beads, ribbands, and a variety of trinkets, forming a very uncouth appearance. A great many wagons and etc. camped in the lot so that the noise and bustle of camp was heard till a late hours.

7th. Quite a disagreeable morning. We were aroused from our beds early by the water running into our tent. Some snow intermingled with the rain. A portion of our company were started in search of the lost cattle which after a fatiguing were found late in the evening.

But in the meantime with our remaining moved our camp to the bluff five miles distant, at the foot of which a great many waggons were camped. The bluff rises abruptly one hundred fifty feet high from the top of which a grand view of the surrounding may be obtained. From the top of it St. Jo is seen six miles distant and the hills of Mo. rise boldly to the east round the base of which the River flows forming the great bend in the shape of a horseshoe. This bend embraces about fifty square miles and is heavily timbered with the species before mentioned, over which the eye can gaze as a map at the feet; to the west stretch as far as the eye can reach, the plain bereft of timber except the little groves along the small streams, the surface is very broken forming a romantick view.

8th. A fine morning. Moved forward 12 miles, camped on a small stream, grass very short, the surface very undulating, soil apparently good. A great many teams moving onward today; passed 3 graves of the last years emigrants who died from cholera.

9th. Traveled 4 miles. Camped on ~~Wolf~~ Wolfcreek where the grass was very good. We stoped here to recound our cattle. Stayed one day and half, several Indians in camp today with their bows and arrows wanting to shoot for money. They were good marksmen; could hit a dime 20 yds.

11th. Very cool in the morning, some frost, but the day was quite warm. Traveled 10 miles, camped on a small stream of good water one mile off the road, grass very good, passed the residence of the agent of the American government in tribes of the Sacks and Fox, the Presbyterians have among these Indians.

17th. A cool wind from the North, cool enough for overcoats. Started at eight o'clock; after traveling a few miles the face of the country became almost level except occasional swells that occurred beautiful on the surface at regular intervals, like spreading meadows; the soil very good, on some parts coarse gravel; the roads fine but quite dusty. Passed today the carcasses of six dead horses, making in all 17 horses and mules since leaving St. Jo., that have sunk under the fatigue of journey. Encamped for night in the wide prairie by a pool of muddy water which was unfit for everything else but our cattle; but tolerable good water and wood was obtained by carrying them $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. Travelled 18 miles.

18th. A pleasant day! wind from the North. Traveled 16 miles. Camped where there was some water in pools, not very good but little wood; grass very good. After traveling 8 miles from our camp, came to the Big Blue, a fine stream about 25 yards wide flowing south with a placid current over a fine sandy bottom; the water in the channel is generally from one to two feet deep and very clear. Some timber along its banks, principally oak and elm and cottonwood.

19th. Sunday. Warm day. The wind changed to the South and gave strong indications of rain which continued to increase ~~at~~ and at sunset a dark cloud began to arise in the western horizon, illuminated by vivid flashes of lightning. At last the distant thunder was heard which was soon followed by a fine rain. We remained in our camp to rest our oxen and let them graze, the grass being very good.

20th. A lovely morning. Everything very much refreshed by the last night's rain. Started at 8 o'clock; traveled 10 miles; camped on a small stream of good water; the grass very good. The appearance of the country the same as heretofore.

21st. Cloudy and tolerably cool. Started this morning at our usual time; in about one mile from our camp came to a small stream with very steep banks over which we passed without much difficulty; on the banks of which was two graves, one was that of an old man 73 years old who died last May; the other fellow who accidentally shot himself a few days since. Alas! All his golden dreams and glorious hopes of the future were crushed in a moment; what a melancholy fate to be this in one moment; hurried from time to eternity when far away from friends and relatives. We crossed another small stream, a tributary of the "Blue" and camped on the left bank of the little Blue; which is a small stream of clear water flowing south. There is ~~xxx~~ some timber along banks of the usual kinds; the bottom is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile wide; covered with pretty good grass; today traveled 18 miles.

22nd. Raining; we did not start till late until the rain had ceased. The road tolerably muddy; the country very broken with deep gullies, the soil not so good as usual. Crossed several dry channels of coarse sand and of a reddish hue; there seems to be considerably streams at times; traveled 12 miles; camped on a sandy channel in which was some water in basins. The buffaloes were seen at some distance from the road. Some of our company started in pursuit of them; started them towards the road, there being many men along the road; others joined in the chase, some on horseback and others foot all hurrying pell-mell to see the buffalo, but there being no experienced hunter, they soon abandoned the pursuit; but some of the men got close enough to shoot and fired but did not affect anything.

Missouri, very muddy and with an average depth of from one to three feet; it has the appearance of being a deep navigable stream and the traveller is astonished at its being shallow. No wood could be had; but a few small willow bushes and very good tolerable water by digging holes in the ground about 2 ft. deep.

29th. A pleasant morning but cool; made an early start; traveled 2 miles and encamped in the valley near a small branch of clear cold water close to the River; we got some wood on a small Island in the river; the grass was very good and our cattle fared finely; the country the same appearance as yesterday. The sandy hills to the left gave place to a green plain forming a beautiful appearance.

30th. Clear and calm and very pleasant; started at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, roads very fine; the soil very sandy and fertile covered with good grass and many beautiful ~~from~~ flowers spread over the surface. Our road lay near the base of the plain which had now become high broken hills increasing in elevation; the view along our road today is interspersed with many islands, some of which are timbered with cottonwood; we traveled 20 miles and encamped near the river where the grass was very good but the water was bad.

31st. We were on our toad at an early hour; the morning was fine. The prairie bottom was higher and drier, but in some places the surface was broken by gullies putting down from the bluff. The hills which border the right bank of the river higher and more broken and picturesque in the outline forming a lofty range of conical peaks. The soil is not so good and consisted of a bed of coarse sand and gravel covered with a thin stratum of light soil. We encamped for night near the river by a slough of bad water; the grass not very good; we made today 20 miles.

June 1st. The morning was tolerably cool with a strong wind from the South east; but towards evening it became very warm and a dark cloud rose in the west that gave indications of an approaching rain; it however rained but little. We traveled today but 16 miles and camped soon in the afternoon. The valley along our road today is narrower and the surface more broken than heretofore; there being several deep ravines putting down from the bluffs; the river is here divided into several channels that form many Islands which are generally well timbered with cottonwood, willow, boxelders and some cedar. I visited the bluffs today which still continue to increase in height and beauty. I ascended a lofty peak that rises some 300 feet above the valley over which the eye can gaze; the green level ~~valley~~ valley, the river with its numerous channels embracing many beautiful islands covered with green trees and beyond the lofty bluffs bordering the left bank of the river formed a beautiful scenery. In the rear confirmed the hills as far as I could see presenting a very broken appearance rising in lofty peaks one above another between which were deep ravines ~~and~~ shut in on all sides by these bluffs that rise almost perpendicular from one to three hundred feet; these ravines are timbered with cedar, the dark foliage of which forms a striking contrast to the yellow barren sides of the hills. These bluffs are composed of a mixture of sand and clay. We camped near the river where we had plenty of good wood and water; the grass was very good.

Sunday, June 2nd. We remained in camp; the day was most beautiful, the air pleasant and a slight breeze from the west; the birds are singing sweetly in the little grove where we camped; no object of interest occurred. Some of our company visited the bluffs $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant. In the evening it began to thunder and lightning in the west giving strong indications of rain and in the after part of the night it rained considerable.

3rd. We started this morning at 6 o'clock, the wind from the south, the weather unsettled; our road lay near the foot of the bluff which soon sunk into a high rolling plain over which we traveled leaving the river to the right; the soil is very sandy and seemingly unproductive; there being no grass but a very fine grass called buffalo grass; the buffaloes in this country were once very numerous; but none were now to be seen; we traveled 18 miles and camped on a knoll overlooking the river bottom at the foot of which was a muddy slough over which we drove our cattle with considerable difficulty on account of its muddy bottom; the grass beyond was only tolerably good. We used for fuel "Bois de Vache" or buffalo chips which were here scattered very thick over the plain.

4th. The day was cloudy and uncomfortably cool; a strong wind from the North West and in the afternoon a little rain; the evening was very disagreeable. We started at daylight wishing to find better grass; we traveled 4 miles and struck the south fork a short distance above its junction with the North Fork. We crossed the Fork without much difficulty; the water here in the channel is from one to two feet deep and about 1/2 mile wide; the bottom is coarse sand into which our waggons sunk rapidly whenever we stopped; all things having reached the left bank in safety we drove about 3 miles and stopped to breakfast and graze our animals where there was plenty of water in a slough and tolerably good grass; we rested 2 hours and drove on and soon reaching the North Fork we continued up the valley of that and camped in the bottom, the grass at that place pretty good; the soil of this valley is very gravelly and was almost destitute of grass excepting where we camped; the valley is 1 1/2 miles wide bordered by high barren looking hills. We made today about 16 miles.

5th. This morning was quite disagreeable, a cold wind from the west attended with some rain. We traveled a short distance up the valley and then turned to the left up a deep ravine, struck the dividing ridge between the south and North Fork along which we traveled. The distance between the forks is about 4 miles. This ridge is very broken and sandy having but little grass. We then descended through a ravine and again struck the river, continued along it some distance, the road very sandy. Our waggons sinking in many places, six inches in the sand. We traveled 20 miles and camped on the river bank, the grass very poor, our animals fared badly. No wood but a few green sticks that we carried with us.

6th. Clear and pleasant. Started at daybreak, traveled until 8 o'clock and halted for breakfast, very poor grass. The country presenting a very barren appearance; the river bottom narrow, the grass confined almost exclusively to the wet bottom; the bottom today was bordered by high bluffs composed of lime overlaid by a stratum of stone in some places 100 ft. perpendicular presenting a grand appearance; these bluffs are timbered with cedar growing high up in the cliffs. At one point the bluffs extended to river in consequence of which we had to make a considerable circuit through the highlands; the road was quite broken; we struck the head of Ash hollow through which we descended to the river - This is a beautiful spot timbered with ash, bordered by lofty cliffs; through this flows a clear cold spring of water; we traveled 12 miles, camped near Castle Bluffs in a wet bottom; the grass was very short. Great number of oxen, horses and mules were grazing on the bottom. The Sioux have their lodges pitched near our camp. They were seen flocking in numbers in our camp begging bread, sugar, coffee and everything they could get. The Chief attended by several curious squaws and papooses, he presented a paper from the agent at Ft. Tawnee assuring the whites that they were friendly and requesting them to give them coffee,

the fatiguing walk I underwent to see them. They are about 400 ft. above the river, timbered with pine and some cedar; in many places they rise perpendicular 200 ft. high and broken with a number of broken peaks resembling towers.

12th. Started this morning at sunrise in order to find water, in about 3 miles we came to some fine springs but could not get a sufficient quantity to water our animals; at these springs were some Indians lodge, we crossed Horse creek, a shallow stream of clear falling water over the right bank of the Platt and traveled a short distance from it and halted for the day after traveling about 16 miles; grass very good.

13th. Tolerably cool, our road for some distance was quite sandy and fatiguing on our animals; the day passed without anything of note occurring -- An ox team behind us became frightened at something, ran away and hurt two men quite severely; some timber along the river; grass very short, traveled 20 miles, camped, no grass scarcely, plenty of water and wood.

14th. The morning was clear, we traveled over a high rolling country, reached Laramie fork at 10 A.M. A crowd of teams at the ford which is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above its junction with the Platt. The stream was up considerable so that it was difficult to cross, it came in 6 inches of the top of the wagon bed. We halted on the bank to raise our load in the bed to prevent it from getting damaged by the water; this we done by placing pieces on the top of the bed and packing our load on top of them; having everything being stored away safely we drove in about noon and reached the left bank safely; no accident of any kind whatever occurred. The ford was 75 yds wide; the water ran very swift so that we had to start in high up the stream and incline down with the current; one wagon came uncoupled - the horses and fore wheels came to shore while the bed and remaining floated down the river; the men rushed, fastened ropes to it and drew it to shore - the loading damaged very much. We rested our oxen and eat dinner then and drove up to Ft. Laramie. The Ft. is handsomely situated on the left bank of Laramie fork one mile from its junction with the Platt; it is handsomely built, one very fine building and another in course of erection; we traveled five miles from the Ft. and camped on the bluff a short distance from the river. After passing the Ft. the country assumes a mountainous aspect, the black hills on the north of the river rise abruptly & presenting a beautiful appearance covered with pine and cedar; the bluffs on this side very broken and stony; the river is here very narrow, deeper than below and flows very swift; the valley narrow and considerable timber along it; the grass tolerably good in the hills; used water from the river; it hailed and rained some in the evening.

15th. The morning was very cold but as the day advanced it became warm and pleasant. Laramie peak that had been in sight for several days appeared beautiful in the morning sun beams. We traveled five miles over a beautiful country covered with fine grass, high hills in all directions, partially timbered with pine and cedar. We then struck a dry, sandy channel down which we continued for a short time and then turned to the left and took up another channel, but down the channel that we had left a short distance were the warm springs that boil up clear and beautiful and flowing with a considerable stream on to the river. 10 miles from here we reached a small stream flowing from the mountains; our cattle were very dry, watered them here; traveled up the valley 4 miles; camped in a beautiful place near the stream; best wooded stream I have seen on the plains, there being a fine grove of timber along its banks principally wide leaved willow species of cottonwood and box elder. It was indeed a delightful spot and we concluded to spend the sabbath here and rest ourselves and cattle. We had a little rain in the evening.

21st. We reached the ferry at 4 o'clock after a drive of 16 miles; the road in places very sandy; there were four good flats in operation, three of them were owned by a company from Missouri; the other one was out of repair by some mormons from Salt Lake; they charged five dollars for waggons and one dollar per head for stock. There were no teams waiting so we camped on the right bank intending to cross in the morning as there was a better chance for grass on that side; we drove our oxen 3 miles from here and procured but little grass.

22nd. This morning we drove in a yoke of cattle to each wagon to draw them on the boat, then intending to swim them over; our wagons were soon over and all hands then went to swim the oxen over; took them 2 miles up the river to a swift place, drove them in, tried until noon but could not get them to go over, then drove them down to the ferry and crossed them over, hitched up, drove 8 miles - camped near water, some pretty good grass, filled our kegs at the river - the distance from the river to water was 27 miles, road good, used wild sage for fuel.

23rd. A fine day, traveled 20 miles, camped in 1 mile of Willow Springs; no grass; plenty of water and wild sage for fuel; the road very good; country sandy; destitute of grass, passed through a valley, some water in it, but so strongly impregnated with alkali as to be unfit for animals to drink; hazzt great many dead oxen in the valley occasioned by drinking the water.

24th. Passed Willow Springs, fine water, ascended a long hill; from the top we had a fine view of the country in all directions; the sweet water rises beautifully and all around lofty hills and mountains are seen; the road very sandy; our cattle very much fatigued; no grass for them; expect to find grass for them on Sweet Water our next camping place; great deal of alkali in places - reached the Sweet late in the evening disappointed in finding grass was eaten off almost bare, there had been so much stock on it - drove our cattle across the stream which is 60 ft. wide, 3 ft. deep, considerably swollen at this time; found a little grass beyond near the foot of the bluff; our camp was in 1 mile of Rock Independence; composed of hard gray granite, a line 400 yds. long and 100 ft. high; great number of names engraven on it; the day was quite warm until in the afternoon it rained a little, was quite cold, snowed in the Mts; we traveled today 22 miles.

25th. Rained a little in the morning - did not start till late, allowed our oxen time to graze, crossed the creek at Rock Independence, tolerably deep, drove five miles, encamped at Devil's Gate where the Sweet Water cuts its way through the point of a granite ridge; the length of the pass is 300 yds, and width 35 yds. The walls are perpendicular 400 ft. in height and the stream in the gate is almost choked up by masses from above. We found some very good grass here and thought it best to rest the remainder of the day and rest and graze our animals; it rained some in the evening; some hail, wind, blowing cold.

26th. A fine morning, warm and pleasant; we continued up the valley of the Sweet Water; the road in places very sandy; on either side of the valley which is four or five miles wide the Mts. rise to the height of twelve and fifteen hundred or two thousand ft. in height; on the south the range is timbered and the summit covered with snow. On the North broken and granite masses rise abruptly from the greenward of the river terminating in a line of broken summits. Except in the crevices of the rocks and here and there on a bench or ledge of rock where a few pines had clustered together, the mountain was entirely destitute of vegetation; tolerably good grass in the valley; traveled 20 miles; encamped on the river, found tolerably good grass - rained some in the afternoon. We passed in the morning where a man had died a short time before; he was taken last evening - his disease was cholera. Passed another train in which was a very sick woman. The

up on the north sides of the hills along the river. It was a great rarity for us. I never eat snow in July -- traveled 8 miles from the creek and before camped drove our stock $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the road, found good grass.

3rd. Early in the morning it was quite warm; but as usual the wind soon arose and blew quite cold from the west; in three miles from our encampment we reached the summit as near as we could judge for the ascent had been so gradual that we could not tell the precise point. It has no resemblance to the idea I had formed of it and indeed it has not the appearance in any manner whatever of places to which that term is commonly applied. A sandy plain 12 miles long, conducts by a regular ascent to the top which according to the observation of Col. Fremont is 7,000 ft. above the level of the sea. The pass is 19 miles wide, three from the pass we reached the Pacific Springs, the first waters that flow towards the Pacific Ocean; these rise up in a wet muddy slough and form a considerable stream called Pacific Creek. Estill has a postoffice established here and carries letters to the states or California for 50 cts; watered here and filled our casks not any water to be had for 26 miles; traveled 19 miles over a sandy uninteresting plain and encamped for night; tolerably good grass 1 mile from the road; used wild sage for fuel; the sick getting better.

July 4th. The morning was calm and pleasant; our thoughts were carried back to the States to the many grand celebrations that would come off today - to the speeches that would be delivered and fine dinners that would be prepared in the celebration of our country's independence; but we will be denied the pleasure of participating in any of these grand doings. They have our best wishes; may the day be celebrated with true republican spirit by the citizens in all quarters of our glorious country. Three miles from our camp we reached the junction of the California and Oregon roads - took the right hand road in order to take the cut off; in 8 miles from here reach the little sandy and swift running stream taking its rise in the Wind River Mts. that rise beautifully to our right about 20 miles distant. Their snow cap summits glittering beautifully in the golden sunlight; 7 miles from here reached the big Sandy over a very sandy road. These streams are appropriately named; the country is nothing but sand; the big Sandy is 52 yds wide and 2 ft. deep, flowing south emptying to green river. We camped here to rest our animals for the desert that commences at this stream; the distance is 50 miles without water. We will stay here until tomorrow evening as the best time to cross is in the night; we drove our oxen 5 miles towards the mountains found tolerably good grass; our sick boys getting much better.

July 5th & 6th. A fine clear morning but as usual the wind soon commenced blowing driving vast clouds of sand so that it was very disagreeable. We started at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, filled our cask with water to give our cattle a little; the road is nearly level except in the vicinity of Green River where there are many steep hills to ascend and descend; the dust from 4 to 6 inches deep, traveled until dark and halted a short time to rest our oxen. Nath was taken quite sick and continued to be so all night; gave him a dose of pills, was better next day; the most of the way no vegetation but wild sage and another small thorny bush; neither rain nor dew falls in this country at that this season of the year, hence the dryness and sterility of the country; we continued traveling all night; cold and still calm; halted after sunup, gave our oxen what water we had in our kegs and eat a cold bite; drove on, reached the River at 2 o'clock P.M., watered our stock which were almost famished and yoked them to rest while we prepared something to eat which we felt greatly in need of; then yoked up and drove $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles down the river to the ferry; there were about 50 wagons waiting so that we could not cross until tomorrow; we camped on the bank, a very dusty disagreeable place; there were three flats in operation propelled by oars, the river at this point is 200 yds wide, very deep and flowing with a strong current so that it was tedious ferrying. We unyoked our oxen

July 12th. We were on our road early, continued down the beautiful valley; the road good but very dusty; halted for noon in a very wide part of the valley, turned our oxen out to graze on the luxuriant grass which was here knee high, generally wild blue grass - the common blue floss was growing in abundance - now in bloom. Our oxen are doing well, getting fatter every day. The river in advance of us makes a bend to the South and we can see the road almost west of us where it ascends the hills; but we will have to go some distance north before we turn - rested two hours and resumed our journey, turned to the left, crossed a stream that flows from the North, went down it a short distance and then entered the hills; we will strike the river again in 6 miles, expect to camp on it tonight. Our road very bad, hills steep and long; $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles crossed a small branch down the valley of this; could see Bear River; from this ascended the longest and steepest hill we have yet encountered; before we got to the top doubled teams in order to get up without straining our cattle; several dead oxen dead on the hill. For the last ten days we have passed from 20 to 30 dead oxen a day. Got up there safe and then have a steep one to go down - traveled through a deep ragged ravine and it grew so late we gave up the idea of reaching the river; concluded to camp; our oxen had been watered at the last branch and would not suffer; the grass was splendid; got some water to cook with by going $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. We were beset by millions of blood thirsty mosquitoes after supper, closed our tents up tightly and was protected from their annoyance.

July 13th. Descended a miserably steep rugged hill and again entered the valley, traveled about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, came to a slough watered our animals, nooned in a beautiful part of the valley where the grass was excellent. Miles and Springs came up with us here, we had passed them in the morning. Rested our teams $\frac{1}{2}$ hour and continued our journey; crossed this afternoon several beautiful streams that flow from the Mts. The water is the most beautiful I ever saw, clear, cold and sparkling. This is the finest watered region I ever saw, and would make a splendid stock country. Saw some Shoshone Indians today; they are a very dwarfish tribe, have good horses. We made a good days drive the road after entering the valley was splendid; camped 1 mile to the right of the road towards the base of the Mts. on a small branch of fine water; the grass good; went $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the base of mountains where we got a good wood from a aspen grove; intend to remain here until Monday.

Sunday, July 14. The day was extremely warm at noon though in the morning very cool. We are all in good health and spirits; our cattle look well and every thing bids fair for us to reach California by the first of September; though there are many difficulties yet to surmount; yet we felt that we are able to surmount them all; would like to hear from home and friends and know the events that have transpired since we left; but we will be ignorant of these things for sometime. The valley is getting narrower; we are surrounded by mountains on almost all sides; they are very high and beautiful, timbered in spots with beautiful groves of fine cedar. This evening some appearance of rain, thundering in the west for the first time that we have heard it for some time; it rains here but seldom at this season of the year. There has been a fine breeze spring up from the west that makes it very pleasant. The day closed; but no rain.

July 15th. I was unwell this morning; had the diarrhea for the first time since I have been on the road; confined to the wagon most of the day. Our road was a little rough as it lay over the spurs of the mountains; the valley quite narrow. We camped at the celebrated Soda or Bear Springs, a beautiful spot. Ivan was taken very ill in the afternoon and continued getting worse and was extremely bad when we stopped. Dr. Miles who was in company with us faithfully attended him - pronounced his disease cholera; we are much alarmed and fear he will not recover.

July 19th. The day very warm; crossed the small stream on which were encamped immediately beyond another branch; five miles further came to a fine spring; two miles another branch and spring; the road kept down the branch 2 miles; in 7 miles from there came to a large spring of fine water. We were informed that there was no more water for 20 miles. The road very good today; grass fine; wild wheat in head bunches 4 ft. high, flax in abundance in bloom together with a variety of beautiful flowers, a scene of rich floral beauty. We reached the spring at 4 o'clock, unyoked our oxen and got supper, concluded to make part of the 20 mile drive tonight; 40 wagons at the spring when we reach it; started at dark, followed over a good road 2 miles down the stream that flows from the spring; traveled until midnight. The night beautiful, the moon shone at intervals, the sky partly obscured by clouds; the road very good except the descent of one hill, the worst that we have encountered on the journey; long steep and rock.

July 20th. Left our camp, ~~wagons~~ continued rather in a southern direction over a fine road eight miles, reached a bend in the road that turns west, one mile east of here springs of good water, eat dinner, and watered our animals; that were very thirsty; rested 2 hours and grazed our oxen, the grass good; 8 miles from before we reach any more water, resumed our journey again and reached late in the evening over a good road; several beautiful springs rise at the side of the road; encamped here for night; had to drive our cattle one mile from camp before we found grass; not very good; but six teams were camped here when we came; against dark there were between fifty and hundred; they had come from the large spring that day a distance of 28 miles.

Sunday July 21st. In accordance with our usual ~~and~~ customs whenever it was in our power, we remained in camp ~~spending~~ spending the day as a day of rest. A good many of the teams that were encamped at the springs drove on; but several remained to rest themselves and cattle. We had the rare pleasure today for the first since being on the plain of listening to a sermon from the Rev. Mr. Roland, a missionary Baptist minister; it reminded us of our Sabbath spent at home. He addressed a small but very attentive congregation from Ezekiel XXXIII Chap, a part of the 11th verse "As I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked". After a few prefatory remarks and affecting prayer he addressed the little congregation to a short appropriate sermon. The meeting was altogether the most novel and interesting I ever attended. Two wagons were placed eight ft. apart; some blankets placed over the top to protect the minister of the rays of the sun; his pulpit was a water keg and the congregation was seated round on ox yokes. He was a middle aged man; he was not clothed in the silks and ~~at~~ satins of the modern clergy; but wore a large coarse hunting-shirt that came down to his knees; his beard long and his hair hung in confusion over his temples giving him the appearance as I fancied of some of the ancient prophets or apostles; he spoke with much feeling and deeply engaged the attention of his hearers. What added interest to the scene was the ~~an~~ benighted Indian of the Plains gazing with astonishment ~~gazing~~ with ~~eyes~~ astonishment at the little congregation as they sat listening to the gospel where probably it never before had been proclaimed. Springer and I named the springs where we were encamped the Gospel Springs as we were not aware that they had any name; the name we thought very appropriate. In the evening a crowd of teams were in and encamped near the springs. The evening was warm and pleasant; our vicinity presented quite a bustling appearance; had more the appearance of a camp meeting than anything else.

July 27th. Moved from our encampment very early this morning - quite cool; the rain last evening had made the road in places somewhat muddy which was an agreeable contrast to the dust. Still continuing up the valley of Goose, narrow but covered with good grass most of the way; the road very good; traveled 13 miles and nooned on the creek here, small and no grass. Traveled in the afternoon 5 miles up the creek, crossed it twice, the last crossing bad; the mountains closed in made the road in places rough. Watered our cattle and filled our kegs at a fine spring near the last crossing, there being no more water between this and Warm Spring valley 13 miles distant. Traveled 7 miles, concluded to camp, the country very barren, wild sage the principal and in many places the only production. Our cattle wandered some distance from camp and found pretty good grass.

Sunday, July 28th. Contrary to our usual custom were obliged to travel today to get water. The morning cool but the day very warm; in 6 miles travel reached a fine spring at the head of the valley, watered down our oxen; not a bit of grass here; traveled 7 miles down the valley, reached some fine spring but no grass scarcely, it all having been eaten up by the stock in advance of us. Stopped here to eat dinner and water our cattle and let them rest. Rested 3 hours and drove on hoping soon to find grass. The road very dusty, traveling disagreeable; reached in 6 miles a beautiful part of the valley covered with a rank growth of wild wheat in places higher than a horse's back; but no water only what was obtained by digging two ft. deep in a dry channel.

July 29th. Day quite warm, concluded to remain in camp until noon; dug some wells, and got plenty of water for our cattle. Started from camp at 1 o'clock P.M. our cattle having rested and got a good fill of grass, traveled 10 miles encamping again in the valley at several fine springs and good grass.

July 30th. This morning quite cool; wind blew hard from the west in the forenoon, kept a fog of dust in the road all the time making driving very disagreeable. The road, good road, generally abundant; 8 miles reached the fountain, a considerable stream, the water so hot that I could scarcely bear my hand in it; halted for noon near some cold springs at the end of the valley; grass fine. A high sage plain intervening between the valley and the Mts. 6 miles distant over which the road passes; no water until near the Mts. The road then enters the hills and crosses over to the waters of Humboldt's river soon after entering a ravine through which the road passes; came to a spring, thought it best to fill our kegs, not knowing whether we would find water at camping time, proceeded 3 miles further and camped; but passed some water in that distance, the grass not very good; the country quite mountainous but the road very good.

July 31st. Continued up the Mt. and the ascent gradual from the top, had a view of a snow covered mountain before us; in 6 miles travel came to some springs forming a small branch, watered our oxen, proceeded 3 miles, halted for noon, no water but plenty of grass. Continued our journey over a plain covered principally with sage, did not reach water until camping time. Struck a fine valley; good grass and numerous deep springs.

and also 2 miles below there the left hand reaches it. Took the left hand, traveled 18 miles today; fine grass by driving our cattle over the river.

Tuesday 7th. To have regained the main road we would have had to follow the same road back some distance and then struck down, it being impracticable to follow down the river on this side to the point where the main road strikes it and where the regular ford is, but we fortunately discovered that we could cross over to the south since here there being a good ford and very good trail beyond that brought us to the main road in 2 miles or rather a fork of the main road, it having forked at the ford one branch striking over the mountains on the north side, the other crossing over and following down the south side; 12 miles travel; nooned at a bend of the river; 2 miles from there struck over the dusty rocky hills for 4 miles and in 2 miles further, making 20 miles today; reached our present camping place on a slough being unable to get to the river; the water not very good; grass fine.

Thursday 8th. Started out this morning expecting to find better water than the slough in which was encamped in a few miles travel but most woefully were we disappointed; the road here lays entirely at a distance from the river on account of the sloughs and over the most barren, dusty, cheerless, disagreeable plains imaginable. Nothing growing but sage and other like shrubs; nothing to relieve the eye from the dull cheerless monotony; no cooling fountains gushing from the adjacent mts. to quench the traveller's burning thirst or wash the dust from his clogged throat but envelopes him in a cloud of dust he makes his way beneath the parching rays of an August sun. Traveling on till noon and seeming to be no prospects of reaching water on the road, we determined to turn to right towards the river and endeavor to reach the river or at least reach a slough where we could get some water; at the place where we turned off were some holes sunk from which we must procure a little very bad water being very brackish but which however served to allay our thirst to some degree. We traveled 2 miles down as the river and reached a slough that stopped our further progress in that direction. We unyoked our cattle and watered them in buckets out of the slough; the water very warm and scarcely fit to drink but we make it out to get dinner with it; resumed the road and reached the river five miles travel; grass tolerably good; plenty of willows for fuel. Traveled about 24 miles but 20 on road.

Friday, 9th. Started early having yesterday experienced the want of water so sorely; to avoid ever being the case today we filled our kegs and canteens from the river and proceeded on our way. Traveled 25 miles over a similarly disagreeable road to what we passed over yesterday and brought us to our present encampment on the river bank; not much grass.

Saturday, 10th. From our encampment left the river and did not reach it again for 15 miles. At this point travel 3 miles across the hills and reach the river again; ~~drove 1 mile off to the right and camped on the bank;~~ drove 1 mile off to the right and camped on the bank; splendid grass; will stay here until Monday. 18 miles today.

Sunday, Aug. 11th. Resting all alone today; no one camped near; the day beautiful. Our teams are doing fine feeding in the luxuriant grass; some of them fat enough for beef; everybody is pushing ahead; all seem to be tired of the journey. No sickness of any consequence among the emigrants at present; the greatest difficulty seems to be scarcity of food; a great many are now out of provisions and many long miles before them and not only out of provisions but their teams have failed and they are forced to take it aloft with what little they can carry on their backs and there are others again who have become impatient and left their teams to their comrades and start with a few dollars in their pocket expecting to get their existence from their fellow emigrants but they are sadly disappointed. There are no provisions to spare nor will not buy them, consequently there is much suffering and I have seen some of them who have not tasted bread for several days but live on beef alone and others have been several days without anything to eat.

Saturday 17th. Regained the road this morning by following the ravine back a short distance and then taking to the right; traveled 9 miles, took a left hand fork of the road leading down a ravine to the river; reached it in $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles; watered our stock; followed down the bank $\frac{3}{4}$ miles and then ascended a sandy hill. Some Indians camped here; I visited their camp; they seem very friendly but were the most degraded and filthy set of beings I ever saw; the squaws were almost naked; the men and boys were dressed in old clothes got from emigrants and seemed to be so indolent that they could scarcely live. The squaws were engaged in pounding a kind of seed that grows very plentiful along the river; they pound or grind it in with 2 stones, one concave in which the seed is put, the other to pound with; how they prepare it for eating afterwards I know not. In 4 miles again reached the river; on reaching it it was 14 miles to grass; we stopped, watered our oxen; got supper and started on this stretch at dusk; a most splendid moonlight night; everything hushed in deep ~~tranquil~~ repose; very pleasant traveling; at midnight reached our present camp; unyoked our cattle; pitched our tents and gladly sought that repose so sweet to the weary.

Sunday August 18th. Arose this morning quite early; went out to take a survey of the country and look after our cattle; found them a short distance from camp in splendid grass; we are now at what is called the "Big Meadows", where the river widens out and forms a large marsh and lake covered with tall grass and rushes. This marsh is several miles wide and I suppose is the commencement of the sink of the river or rather is lake or marsh in which the river finally loses itself. We have nothing here for fuel but what is called grease wood, being the poorest fuel for cooking I ever saw. It is a shrub growing in bunches like the sage only not so large and burns with a quick oily flame that dies out in a moment so that it requires fuel constantly added to keep it "going". It is eight miles from here to the place of laying in grass and water for the desert. After resting until noon we thought it advisable to drive thither this evening so accordingly hitched up and continued on driving and at sunset reached our camping place found some 50 or 60 teams encamped making preparations for the desert. No fuel within camp, then a mile of here and then nothing but grease wood. We fortunately however had the good luck to have the remains of old wagon willed to us by a company that were just about starting; that abundantly supplied us as long as we staid.

Monday, August 19th. 1 o'clock P.M. The hardest and most difficult job has been completed that we have had to do on the road and one that I never want to do again and that is procuring grass and water for the desert that we will start entering after leaving here. To one that never saw the place or is ignorant of its situation it may seem but a trifling matter to cut 2 or 300 lbs of grass and dry it and fill 2 or 3 bags of water. I put them in the waggon, the one camped at the edge of the water. The whole country is very strongly & impregnated with salt; in many places I have noticed a crust of pure salt $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick over the ground as white as snow. Consequently the water near the edge is very salty so much so as not to be fit for use. We accordingly had to wade in a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile through water from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 ft. deep before drinkable water could be procured, and then it was barely drinkable but as a matter of course had to put up with it. It was a pretty laborous way of procuring water certain. We went splashing through the water with our hags to the place of filling and after getting them filled would lash a rope around one and pass a lever through it and one take hold of each end and retrace our steps to the wagon and frequently as this was very uneven and covered with water we would make a false step and having as much as we could carry, down we would come. We had to get our grass in a similar manner; that near the edge being tread down by the stock (and it grows nowhere only in the water) so that we had to go out where it had not been tread down, cut it in the water, gather it up, tie it in bunches, lashed it to our backs and waded out with it, spread out on the ground to dry. But it is all completed now and we have everything snugly fixed for crossing the long looked for and much dreaded desert. Our cattle are in good condition for it; have enough of grass to give them and feed and plenty of water to give if they need it. I am sorry to add

After resting some time we rolled on; our cattle standing the trip finely. At 10 A M reached the 12 mile stretch of sand; we found water here for sale \$1.25 per gallon. At 4 P.M. reached Carson River with our wagon and all our stock safe and sound; they stood it nobly ploughing their way through the deep sand beneath the parching rays of an August sun; the loss of stock and destruction of property then very great. The entire desert yet exceeds all belief and far beyond what I had ever imagined or anything that I had ever read of before on the last 12 miles. For that distance there is almost a perfect line of abandoned wagons, many of them left with their covers on and the principal part of their contents scattered around consisting of articles of every description, making up a California outfit, provisions excepted. The dead stock were strewn so thickly along that the stench arising from them was almost past enduring. There were a good many left that were not yet dead; it was a melancholy sight to see the poor things hovering in the shade of some wagon; barely able to stand; some had already fallen over and were now struggling in the last agonies of death; others that were yet able to walk would fall on the passing wagons; their instinct teaching them that that for which they were dying could be obtained by going ahead; but poor things their strength would not carry them for soon they would sink like so many of their fellows to rise no more.

We counted in passing over 450 dead oxen, 300 dead horses and 28 dead mules in addition to this I suppose there were at least 500 wagons left and destroyed. The cost of all this property in the state at the most reasonable estimate could not fall short of \$75,000. This in addition to other property destroyed would swell the amount to almost \$100,000. This desert is truly a hard place, both on man and beast. At the place where the road strikes Carson there are a number of traders from beyond the Sierra Nevadas with flour, pork and other necessities for sale, for which many of the emigrants are now suffering. But good Heavens, what prices! it would take \$5 to buy a meal's victuals; flour \$2 per lb. and other things in proportion; a small pie worth 5 cents in the states sell for \$1.25; most of the emigrants are out of money and have to trade their stock for some thing to eat; an ox brings from 4 to 10 lbs. of flour and horse and mules at about the same rate.

Carson is a clear beautiful stream presenting quite a contrast to the filthy alkali waters of Humboldt and rises in the Sierras and flows in an easterly direction and like the Humboldt enters into a lake of its own about 25 miles east of this place. A most gratifying sight was here presented to my eye and one that I almost despaired of seeing on the road again; it was some large waxy stick cottonwoods, being the first trees that I have saw for several hundred miles. It is indeed most gratifying to repose in their cool shade after travelling so long over a country entirely bereft of shade and presenting nothing to the eye but barren plains. We feel now that we have surmounted the worst difficulty on the road and that we will ere long reach our journey's end. It is said to be 200 miles from here to Hangtown, the 1st reached in California; we follow up this stream to the mountains. Grass is here extremely scarce; drove our cattle over the river where they did tolerably well.

Thursday, Aug. 22nd. Remained in camp until 2 P M to let our oxen rest. Then continued up the river 8 miles and encamped. The road passes over deep sandy hills and bottoms alternately. Found no grass; but plenty of willow bushes that cattle will eat when they can get nothing else. The fertile portion of the valley is very narrow here and being so near the termination of the desert is eat off perfectly bare - hope to find better grass on ahead, our cattle needing it badly.

Sept. 1st, Sunday. A most beautiful day; a cool mountain breeze stirring. All in camp today resting; this is indeed a most lovely spot; the lofty rugged mountains wall us in on all sides; in the north sides of the lofty peaks are large peaks of snow that have withstood the heat of the sun thus far; there appears to be no outlet in any direction; from all appearances we will have some steep climbing after we leave here; our cattle are doing fine today, splendid grass and water and beautiful shade.

Monday, 2nd. We were off quite early this morning; expect today to have a view of the Elephant. Traveled up this little valley passing occasionally over a spur of mountain; very rocky; reached in 10 miles travel the base of the mountain over which we have to pass; it looks pretty high. There is a small mountain like this at which we are now resting so that our teams may be fresh for the ascent. The mountain breeze wafts to our ears the repeated cries of the teamsters urging their weary animals up the toilsome ascent. 5 o'clock P.M. Again in camp. At the time of reaching this place, the thunder echoed through the mountains and was followed by a slight fall of snow and rain intermingled. We got up the mountain this evening very well; better than I expected. It is certainly an awful place to go up with a wagon and 6 yoke of oxen and one would think from a glance at it that it would be impossible to do it; but our cattle being of the true grit and our wagon substantial, we got up finally; it is 1 mile from the foot to the top, very steep and rocky. After reaching the top rested a short time and then descended one mile over very rough road and understanding from a notice on a tree here that there was good grass off to the left of the road, concluded to camp here; good teams camped here. After eating supper 4 of us started off with our oxen in search of the grass which we found in $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from camp; we have a tent with us and will stay out to watch them tonight to keep them from straying. The grass is very good. This is the most wild romantic spot I ever was in; it is a dense forest of the largest trees I ever saw, pine, cedar, and fir; the lofty mountain peak show on all sides; the sweet music of the little rivulets leaping down their rocky sides shone through the shadows of the forests and meets the ear delightfully; there are also huge banks of snow from 10 to 20 ft; there just been on one that seemed to be very deep; it was quite a novelty to me to see such banks of snow at this season of the year. Had quite an amusing time tonight setting the old trees and logs on fire, the resinous substance in them caused them to burn with a very brilliant flame; even the boughs of the green ones burn by touching a brand to them and in an instant shoot from the ground to the topmost branches.

Tuesday, 3rd. Drove our cattle in and started early; continued to descend over rough road for 4 miles; reached a small valley through which flowed a clear brook towards the west. From here we commenced the ascent of the 2nd and last steep ridge that we have to cross; it is higher than the one we crossed yesterday. It is 5 miles from the foot to the top. 2 of the 5 miles are very steep and equally as bad as that yesterday excepting there are not quite so many rocks; near the top there is a large bank of apparently many ~~hundreds~~ feet deep. The road passes over it one place. Reached the top in the afternoon and halted to rest and take some refreshment of which we stood greatly in need; I felt much fatigued, more here than at any one time on the road; we are now occupying a loftier position than at any other time on the road. This place is said to be 8,000 ft. above the level of the sea.

A very cold wind was blowing from the north; so cold that we had to put on our overcoats. The top of this mountain seems to be above the point of vegetation; nothing but ice, few dwarfish pines growing in among the desolate rocks. From here the view is grand; the eye gazes over a seemingly endless field of mountains, and seeing in the distance the snow capped peaks glitter like silver in the bright sunbeams; to one like myself raised in the great Mississippi valley where gentle undulations and level valleys pervade the beautiful surface, such a scene as this is particularly interesting. I have always desired to tread the lofty Mts., to clamber up their craggy peaks and gaze over such a field as this; it is even more

21st. We reached the ferry at 4 o'clock after a drive of 16 miles; the road in places very sandy; there were four good flats in operation, three of them were owned by a company from Missouri; the other one was out of repair by some Mormons from Salt Lake; they charged five dollars for waggon and one dollar per head for stock. There were no teams waiting so we camped on the right bank intending to cross in the morning as there was a better chance for grass on that side; we drove our oxen 3 miles from here and procured but little grass.

22nd. This morning we drove in a yoke of cattle to each waggon to draw them on the boat, then intending to swim them over; our wagons were seen over and all hands then went to swim the oxen over; took them 2 miles up the river to a swift place, drove them in, tried until noon but could not get them to go over, then drove them down to the ferry and crossed them over, hitched up, drove 8 miles - camped near water, some pretty good grass, filled our kegs at the river - the distance from the river to water was 27 miles, road good, used wild sage for fuel.

23rd. A fine day, traveled 20 miles, camped in 1 mile of Willow Springs; no grass; plenty of water and wild sage for fuel; the road very good; country sandy; destitute of grass, passed through a valley, some water in it, but so strongly impregnated with alkali as to be unfit for animals to drink; ~~many~~ great many dead oxen in the valley occasioned by drinking the water.

24th. Passed Willow Springs, fine water, ascended a long hill; from the top we had a fine view of the country in all directions; the sweet water rises beautifully and all around lofty hills and mountains are seen; the road very sandy; our cattle very much fatigued; no grass for them; expect to find grass for them on Sweet Water our next camping place; great deal of alkali in places - reached the Sweet late in the evening disappointed in finding grass was eaten off almost bare, there had been so much stock on it - drove our cattle across the stream which is 60 ft. wide, 8 ft. deep, considerably swollen at this time; found a little grass beyond near the foot of the bluff; our camp was in 1 mile of Rock Independence; composed of hard gray granite, a line 400 yds. long and 100 ft. high; great number of names engraven on it; the day was quite warm until in the afternoon it rained a little, was quite cold, snowed in the Mts; we traveled today 22 miles.

25th. Rained a little in the morning - did not start till late, allowed our oxen time to graze, crossed the creek at Rock Independence, tolerably deep, drove five miles, encamped at Devil's Gate where the Sweet Water cuts its way through the point of a granite ridge; the length of the pass is 300 yds, and width 35 yds. The walls are perpendicular 400 ft. in height and the stream in the gate is almost choked up by masses from above. We found some very good grass here and thought it best to rest the remainder of the day and rest and graze our animals; it rained some in the evening; some hail, wind, blowing cold.

26th. A fine morning, warm and pleasant; we continued up the valley of the Sweet Water; the road in places very sandy; on either side of the valley which is four or five miles wide the Mts. rise to the height of twelve and fifteen hundred or two thousand ft. in height; on the south the range is timbered and the summit covered with snow. On the North broken and granite masses rise abruptly from the greenward of the river terminating in a line of broken summits. Except in the crevices of the rocks and here and there on a bench or ledge of rock where a few pines had clustered together, the mountain was entirely destitute of vegetation; tolerably good grass in the valley; traveled 20 miles; encamped on the river, found tolerably good grass - rained some in the afternoon. We passed in the morning where a man had died a short time before; he was taken last evening - his disease was cholera. Passed another train in which was a very sick woman. She

was taken in the morning, her disease similar to cholera. Passed a train that was capped; the one of their company had died an hour before and they were making preparation to commit him to his last resting place; he died of fever and diarrhea.

27th. Traveled today 20 miles; the road in places very sandy; grass tolerably good; crossed the sweet water three times; one ford so deep that we had to raise our wagon beds and put large stones under them to keep our loading dry. We camped at the foot of a large granite mountain, where we found good grass and plenty of wood; but no water but filled our kegs at the river before leaving it; We had today a view of the Wind river chain of the Rocky Mts. The lofty peaks were covered with snow. As we were walking along before the teams, a young man's horse that was riding before took flight and threw him off and kicked him as he fell; we ran to him and found that his leg was broken very badly just below the knee; his company were short distance ahead; we called them back; they had a doctor who went to work and set the broken limb.

28th. Clear and pleasant in the morning but quite windy and disagreeable in the afternoon. In about 2 miles travel we again crossed the Sweet water at a good ford and then left it for 15 miles, travelling over a high sandy plain on which there was no grass - then crossed the river, watered our animals, filled our kegs and drove 2 miles and camped; found a little grass; used for fuel wild sage.

29th. A very disagreeable day; the wind blowing very hard, very dusty; from our encampment we passed over a high ridge and again struck the river, continued up it for some distance, then turned to the right, the valley being too narrow for the road to pass along in places; not wider than the channel walled in by precipitous bluffs. The road ascended to a high ridge which seemed to be the general level of the country; in places quite rocky and hard on the feet of our animals. Traveled 18 miles, encamped near the road, plenty of water and some grass. I. Sanders was quite ill this evening with diarrhea attended with a chill and fever.

Sunday June 30th. Calm and pleasant; some frost this morning and ice froze in the night in our water bucket $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick; the snow capped peaks of the mountains glittering like silver in the morning sunbeams; now about 20 miles distant. We are now in a short distance of the South Pass. I. is some better this morning but quite weak and unable to travel. T.L. Harris was taken very sick during the night. He was taken with a slight chill followed with a high fever and pains in all parts of his body resulting from I think cold and change of climate; he continued very sick all day; gave him some medicine but no better; in the evening Martin went for the Dr. miles $1\frac{1}{2}$ distant; he came and gave him a dose of medicine and toward morning he was better. Teams constantly passing; the day calm and beautiful; drove our oxen 2 miles to the south of the road; found good grass and water.

July 1st. Clear, some frost and ice froze, the wind blew very hard from the south west driving clouds of dust, making it quite disagreeable. The sick some better but not well enough to travel. I. diarrhea still going on, gave him some pills, think it will help him. Several trains near us lying up on account of sickness. The prevailing diseases fever and diarrhea.

2nd. The boys a great deal better this morning - we think able to travel. Fixed up a bed in each wagon and put one in each; did not get started until late; crossed two considerable streams running south and emptying in the Sweet water; here a swift stream about 2 ft. deep; we crossed the stream, watered our animals and filled our kegs for there was no more water to be had until we would reach the Pacific Springs 12 miles distant; here the road leaves the Sweet water - distance to the south pass 9 miles - we got some snow; there were large banks of it piled

up on the north sides of the hills along the river. It was a great rarity for us. I never eat snow in July - - traveled 8 miles from the creek and before camped drove our stock $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the road, found good grass.

3rd. Early in the morning it was quite warm; but as usual the wind soon arose and blew quite cold from the west; in three miles from our encampment we reached the summit as near as we could judge for the ascent had been so gradual that we could not tell the precise point. It has no resemblance to the idea I had formed of it and indeed it has not the appearance in any manner whatever of places to which that term is commonly applied. A sandy plain 12 miles long, conducts by a regular ascent to the top which according to the observation of Col. Fremont is 7,000 ft. above the level of the sea. The pass is 19 miles wide, three from the pass we reached the Pacific Springs, the first waters that flow towards the Pacific Ocean; these rise up in a wet muddy slough and form a considerable stream called Pacific Creek. Estill has a postoffice established here and carries letters to the states or California for 50 cts; watered here and filled our casks not any water to be had for 26 miles; traveled 19 miles over a sandy uninteresting plain and encamped for night; tolerably good grass 1 mile from the road; used wild sage for fuel; the sick getting better.

July 4th. The morning was calm and pleasant; our thoughts were carried back to the States to the many grand celebrations that would come off today - to the speeches that would be delivered and fine dinners that would be prepared in the celebration of our country's independence; but we will be denied the pleasure of participating in any of these grand doings. They have our best wishes; may the day be celebrated with true republican spirit by the citizens in all quarters of our glorious country. Three miles from our camp we reached the junction of the California and Oregon roads - took the right hand road in order to take the cut off; in 8 miles from here reach the little sandy and swift running stream taking its rise in the Wind River Mts. that rise beautifully to our right about 20 miles distant. Their snow capped summits glittering beautifully in the golden sunlight; 7 miles from here reached the big Sandy over a very sandy road. These streams are appropriately named; the country is nothing but sand; the big Sandy is 52 yds wide and 2 ft. deep, flowing south emptying to green river. We camped here to rest our animals for the desert that commences at this stream; the distance is 50 miles without water. We will stay here until tomorrow evening as the best time to cross is in the night; we drove our oxen 5 miles towards the mountains found tolerably good grass; our sick boys getting much better.

July 5th & 6th. A fine clear morning but as usual the wind soon commenced blowing driving vast clouds of sand so that it was very disagreeable. We started at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, filled our cask with water to give our cattle a little; the road is nearly level except in the vicinity of Green River where there are many steep hills to ascend and descend; the dust from $\$4$ to 6 inches deep, traveled until dark and halted a short time to rest our oxen. Nath was taken quite sick and continued to be so all night; gave him a dose of pills, was better next day; the most of the way no vegetation but wild sage and another small thorny bush; neither rain nor dew falls in this country at that this season of the year, hence the dryness and sterility of the country; we continued traveling all night; cold and still calm; halted after sunup, gave our oxen what water we had in our kegs and eat a cold bite; drove on, reached the River at 2 o'clock P.M., watered our stock which were almost famished and yoked them to rest while we prepared something to eat which we felt greatly in need of; then yoked up and drove $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles down the river to the ferry; there were about 50 wagons waiting so that we could not cross until tomorrow; we camped on the bank, a very dusty disagreeable place; there were three flats in operation propelled by oars, the river at this point is 200 yds wide, very deep and flowing with a strong current so that it was tedious ferrying. We unyoked our oxen

and tried to swim them over the river, there being a good place above the ferry; we drove them in several times, but could not get them to swim; it grew so late that we had to defer further effort until morning. There was not a spear of grass here; we staked them down to keep them from wandering off.

July 7th At 2 o'clock we were again moving forward; had a hard day's work swimming our oxen and ferrying our wagons. We breakfasted early and drove our cattle to the river to swim them; after repeated efforts we got them all over safe. Traveled 2 miles and made a late encampment in the valley of a small stream but little grass.

8th. The morning was quite cool, drove 5 miles up the valley of this stream, struck camp for the day on the bank in a beautiful spot; low bushy willows growing along the banks being the only timber; the grass in the valley was not very good; but drove our animals 1 mile from the creek where we found excellent grass where they fared sumptuously and in some measure repayed them for their past privations. We washed some clothes and repacked the things in our wagons. The day passed very pleasantly; the night was quite cool.

July 9th. We were on the road pretty early; our cattle were ~~xxxxx~~ rested and had a good fill; we left the creek and ascended to the highlands; the country very hilly - the view grand, to south a range of snow covered Mts. rose beautifully 100 miles distant - the Wind River to NorthEast fading away in the distance while to the West lofty hills covered with patches of snow. We halted for 2 noon near the beautiful aspen grove and a fine spring of water - there were some beautiful pine trees here, the largest that I had yet seen. Our road in the afternoon very hilly; some of the steepest hills that we had yet come to; great many fine springs along flowing from the hills that we had yet come to; great many fine springs along flowing from the hills surrounded by a beautiful grove of aspen that had a splendid appearance - plenty of snow in the ravines several ft. deep - encamped for the night on a small branch; grass very good; wild sage for fuel which sometimes very plenty - the day was quite calm.

July 10th. The morning quite cool; our road was quite hilly; descended at noon to the valley of Kam's fork of Green River. From the valley we ascended a very steep long hill; after getting on the top of it the road was quite good, gradually ascending over a beautiful country; that afforded a pleasant contrast to the sage covered hills over which we had been traveling. The soil seemed to be very good, producing a rich vegetation; many beautiful groves of pine and aspen were scattered along the slopes giving beauty to the landscape; fine springs of pure, cold water in these groves. We traveled about sixteen miles and camped in an aspen grove; grass very good.

July 11th. The day very beautiful, calm and pleasant; one of our oxen died last night; he has been sick for two days, poor old fellow, he served us long and faithfully; our team was now reduced to three yoke and one odd steer - threw one yoke and chain away. We passed over a very mountainous country our progress very slow on account of the steepness of the hills, reached in the afternoon the beautiful valley of Bear River; the largest river that empties in the Salt Lake; the valley is from one to five miles wide; the soil very fertile covered with an abundance of rich grass and flax intermingled with beautiful flowers making the most beautiful spot I have seen on the road; no timber along the river but some low bushy willows. The valley is walled in by lofty mountains. The river here runs North; we traveled along the beautiful valley and crossed in the evening four streams that unite and form Thomas fork of Bear River and camped immediately beyond; grass excellent.

July 12th. We were on our road early, continued down the beautiful valley; the road good but very dusty; halted for noon in a very wide part of the valley, turned our oxen out to graze on the luxuriant grass which was here knee high, generally wild blue grass - the common blue fescue was growing in abundance - now in bloom. Our oxen are doing well, getting fatter every day. The river in advance of us makes a bend to the South and we can see the road almost west of us where it ascends the hills; but we will have to go some distance north before we turn - rested two hours and resumed our journey, turned to the left, crossed a stream that flows from the North, went down it a short distance and then entered the hills; we will strike the river again in 6 miles, expect to camp on it tonight. Our road very bad, hills steep and long; $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles crossed a small branch down the valley of this; could see Bear River; from this ascended the longest and steepest hill we have yet encountered; before we got to the top doubled teams in order to get up without straining our cattle; several dead oxen dead on the hill. For the last ten days we have passed from 20 to 30 dead oxen a day. Got up there safe and then have a steep one to go down - traveled through a deep ~~rock~~ ravine and it grew so late we gave up the idea of reaching the river; concluded to camp; our oxen had been watered at the last branch and would not suffer; the grass was splendid; got some water to cook with by going $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile. We were beset by millions of blood thirsty mosquitoes after supper, closed our tents up tightly and was protected from their annoyance.

July 13th. Descended a miserably steep rugged hill and again entered the valley, traveled about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, came to slough watered our animals, nooned in a beautiful part of the valley where the grass was excellent. Miles and Springs came up with us here, we had passed them in the morning. Rested our teams $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour and continued our journey; crossed this afternoon several beautiful streams that flow from the Mts. The water is the most beautiful I ever saw, clear, cold and sparkling. This is the finest watered region I ever saw, and would make a splendid stock country. Saw some Shoshone Indians today; they are a very dwarfish tribe, have good horses. We made a good days drive the road after entering the valley was splendid; camped 1 mile to the right of the road towards the base of the Mts. on a small branch of fine water; the grass good; went $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the base of mountains where we got a good wood from a aspen grove; intend to remain here until Monday.

Sunday, July 14. The day was extremely warm at noon though in the morning very cool. We are all in good health and spirits; our cattle look well and every thing bids fair for us to reach California by the first of September; though there are many difficulties yet to surmount; yet we felt that we are able to surmount them all; would like to hear from home and friends and know the events that have transpired since we left; but we will be ignorant of these things for sometime. The valley is getting narrower; we are surrounded by mountains on almost all sides; they are very high and beautiful, timbered in spots with beautiful groves of fine cedar. This evening some appearance of rain, thundering in the west for the first time that we have heard it for some time; it rains here but seldom at this season of the year. There has been a fine breeze spring up from the west that makes it very pleasant. The day closed; but no rain.

July 15th. I was unwell this morning; had the diarrhea for the first time since I have been on the road; confined to the wagon most of the day. Our road was a little rough as it lay over the spurs of the mountains; the valley quite narrow. We camped at the celebrated Soda or Bear Springs, a beautiful spot. Ivan was taken very ill in the afternoon and continued getting worse and was extremely bad when we stopped. Dr. Miles who was in company with us faithfully attended him - pronounced his disease cholera; we are much alarmed and fear he will not recover.

July 16th. How shall I record the events of this day? DEATH the stern messenger has visited our little camp and taken one of our comrades to his long home. Iven breathed his last this morning at 4½ o'clock, his sufferings were intense; but he bore them all patiently; his medicine had no effect, but he grew worse all the time. Alas! on what a little thread hangs our existence, but yesterday at noon he was in good health; he ate a hearty dinner and seemed quite well; this morning a corpse, his spirit in the eternal world, such is the uncertainty of life; his prospects for health and long life were as flattering as any in our company; but all must die. What a mournful event it will be to his father and friends at home? I wish but happily they are yet in ignorance of it, but ere long it will be known. At eleven o'clock today we committed his remains to the silent tomb; here he rests surrounded by the magnificent works of nature, far from the home of his youth where naught disturbs the deep solitude of nature but the whoop of the Indian or the howl of the wild beasts. At one o'clock we were again on our road leaving the spot that had been the scene of our late bereavement. We continued still down the valley of Bear river which was here very beautiful. The Bear Springs are very numerous along here and much of a curiosity; the most wonderful is Steamboat Springs immediately on the river bank; the water is thrown up from one to three feet at intervals with a noise similar to the puff of a steamboat; the water of these springs is quite warm and has peculiar mineral taste; rather nauseating. There are beautiful groves of cedar along here that render it a very handsome locality. The mountains on either side are very high and rugged and tolerably well timbered with pine and cedar. The valley wide and covered with fine grass. Five miles from here the road leaves the river which here makes a turn to the south in the entire opposite direction of Salt Lake; its usual course before so far as we had followed it was North. There is no water on the road for 15 miles. Filled our casks at the river; a short distance from here the Ft. Hall road takes off, we traveled from this point and eleven from our encampment and camped in the open valley; grass fine; sage for fuel.

July 17th. Resumed our journey at an early hour; the morning was quite cool; but the day extremely warm. Our road lay in a western direction up an ascending plain to the foot of a considerable mountain; the ascent of which was in places very steep; the descent on the opposite side was gradual. We reached the base of the Mt. in the valley of a small stream 10 miles from our encampment a fine spring of cold water, rested here 2 hours; drove on across the stream and then crossed a high Mt. ridge the descent being very bad, and reached another stream five miles from the last; traveled five miles further over a good road and camped in Big Creek, a stream 15 yds. wide, very deep running with a very sluggish current. The grass along our road today very good. The mountains rugged covered with groves of low bushy cedar; snow in the ravines. Millions of mosquitoes assailed us tonight.

July 18th. The road left the stream on which we were encamped and lay to the southwest over a hilly country but the road was quite good, very dusty; the streams that we crossed yesterday and the creek on which we camped last night run to the North and I suppose flow into the Columbia river. After five hours traveling reached a considerable stream running north with a very slow current; the water not very good, some grass in the valley but not as good as usual; crossed the stream, traveled directly west up a gradual ascending plain to the top of a mountain ridge a distance of about six miles; low bushy cedars on the summit; road turned to the southward; the descent rather steep in places; a short distance from the top a fine spring. Two miles from the top to a small stream running south; camped near the stream; grass very good down the valley. The day very warm and calm.

July 19th. The day very warm; crossed the small stream on which were encamped immediately beyond another branch; five miles further came to a fine spring; two miles another branch and spring; the road kept down the branch 2 miles; in 7 miles from there came to a large spring of fine water. We were informed that there was no more water for 20 miles. The road very good today; grass fine; wild wheat in head bunches 4 ft. high, flax in abundance in bloom together with a variety of beautiful flowers, a scene of rich floral beauty. We reached the spring at 4 o'clock, unyoked our oxen and got supper, concluded to make part of the 20 mile drive tonight; 40 wagons at the spring when we reach it; started at dark, followed over a good road 2 miles down the stream that flows from the spring; traveled until midnight. The night beautiful, the moon shone at intervals, the sky partly obscured by clouds; the road very good except the descent of one hill, the worst that we have encountered on the journey; long steep and rock.

July 20th. Left our camp, ~~went~~ continued rather in a southern direction over a fine road eight miles, reached a bend in the road that turns west, one mile east of here springs of good water, eat dinner, and watered our animals; that were very thirsty; rested 2 hours and grazed our oxen, the grass good; 8 miles from before we reach any more water, resumed our journey again and reached late in the evening over a good road; several beautiful springs rise at the side of the road; encamped here for night; had to drive our cattle one mile from camp before we found grass; not very good; but six teams were camped here when we came; against dark there were between fifty and hundred; they had come from the large spring that day a distance of 20 miles.

Sunday July 21st. In accordance with our usual ~~and~~ customs whenever it was in our power, we remained in camp ~~spending~~ spending the day as a day of rest. A good many of the teams that were encamped at the springs drove on; but several remained to rest themselves and cattle. We had the rare pleasure today for the first since being on the plain of listening to a sermon from the Rev. Mr. Roland, a missionary Baptist minister; it reminded us of our Sabbath spent at home. He addressed a small but very attentive congregation from Ezekiel XXXIII Chap, a part of the 11th verse "As I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked". After a few prefatory remarks and affecting prayer he addressed the little congregation to a short appropriate sermon. The meeting was altogether the most novel and interesting I ever attended. Two wagons were placed eight ft. apart; some blankets placed over the top to protect the minister of the rays of the sun; his pulpit was a water keg and the congregation was seated round on ox yokes. He was a middle aged man; he was not clothed in the silks and satins of the modern clergy; but wore a large coarse hunting-shirt that came down to his knees; his beard long and his hair hung in confusion over his temples giving him the appearance as I fancied of some of the ancient prophets or apostles; he spoke with much feeling and deeply engaged the attention of his hearers. What added interest to the scene was the ~~an~~ benighted Indian of the Plains gazing with astonishment gazing with ~~eyes~~ astonishment at the little congregation as they sat listening to the gospel where probably it never before had been proclaimed. Springer and I named the springs where we were encamped the Gospel Springs as we were not aware that they had any name; the name we thought very appropriate. In the evening a crowd of teams were in and encamped near the springs. The evening was warm and pleasant; our vicinity presented quite a bustling appearance; had more the appearance of a camp meeting than anything else.

July 22nd. Our cattle were some distance from camp this morning so that we did not get started as soon as we intended; however got off sooner than the majority of the teams; from the springs to first water was 8 miles, mostly ascending though not very steep; road quite dusty; the country very mountainous but the evening came to a branch running west down the branch; the valley gradually widening walled in by high mountains; after a drive of 20 miles encamped on the branch; grass tolerably good; had a fine shower of rain this evening; attended with thunder and lightening; the first rain we have had for several weeks, it looked refreshing; completely laid the dust; in hopes that we will have a more pleasant time of it tomorrow.

July 23rd. The morning pleasant and cool; our splendid _____ continuing down the valley of the little branch in which we camped; the valley now of considerable width, covered with good grass, occasional bunches of willow along it and aspen on the sides of the Mts. Crossed the branch and heard that it was 12 miles to the next water; concluded to drive it before we nooned. The road was quite good over a sage covered plain; reached the stream a branch of Raft River at 2 P.M. unyoked our cattle; no grass hardly. After a halt of one and a half hours drove on to Raft creek 6 miles distant and camped, making today 23 miles. The creek 10 ft. wide, 1 ft. deep; dense groves of willow along it; the soil fertile, grass good.

July 24th. The morning warm, pleasant; the weather is very fine for traveling, seldom too warm and never too cool for comfort. Continued up the valley of Raft River, the grass excellent and nooned in the valley; a short distance from this point the road leaves the River and crosses the divide between the waters of the Columbia and the Great Basin. There are now three wagons of us in company to our two wagons; we have 6 yoke of oxen and one odd steer. Came to the conclusion today in order to get along easier and make better speed to put all our load on one wagon and let Springer and Miles have our smallest one, and they would leave theirs as it was a very heavy one. Accordingly while our cattle rested, we make the contemplated change and had everything stowed away in a short time and were soon rolling onward again. Our team is amply sufficient for the load we now have. We crossed the divide before referred to and camped beyond the dividing ridge on a small branch; grass good; we traveled today 18 miles.

July 25th. Left the branch on which we camped; crossed several small branches, came to fine Mt. stream 10 ft. wide, 6 ft. deep, reached in five miles over a somewhat rough road a considerable branch and at noon passed the junction of this and the Salt Lake Road distant 5 miles from the last branch; reached in 3 miles travel a small branch where we nooned; no grass. Plenty of water along our road in the afternoon which after descending was very steep and in 1 mile from the summit came to a level spot and as it was late, concluded to camp; good water and grass found $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from camp. Traveled 23 miles today.

July 26th. Commenced early the descent which was extremely steep and rough but reached the foot without any accident where we crossed a fine stream and in about 3 miles from that reached Goose Creek, a stream 1 Rd. wide and 1 ft. deep, running North; no grass on it where we struck it but a short distance below plenty, traveled 2 miles down it and nooned. Traveled in the afternoon but 3 miles; the day had been warm and a black cloud was rising in the west that gave strong indications of shower; concluded to camp on this, was the first time that we had stopped for rain on the journey; it however rained but little. Traveled 13 miles. Still on Goose Creek; grass very good.

July 27th. Moved from our encampment very early this morning - quite cool; the rain last evening had made the road in places somewhat muddy which was an agreeable contrast to the dust. Still continuing up the valley of Goose, narrow but covered with good grass most of the way; the road very good; traveled 13 miles and nooned on the creek here, small and no grass. Traveled in the afternoon 5 miles up the creek, crossed it twice, the last crossing bad; the mountains closed in made the road in places rough. Watered our cattle and filled our kegs at a fine spring near the last crossing, there being no more water between this and Warm Spring valley 13 miles distant. Traveled 7 miles, concluded to camp, the country very barren, wild sage the principal and in many places the only production. Our cattle wandered some distance from camp and found pretty good grass.

Sunday, July 28th. Contrary to our usual custom were obliged to travel today to get water. The morning cool but the day very warm; in 6 miles travel reached a fine spring at the head of the valley, watered down our oxen; not a bit of grass here; traveled 7 miles down the valley, reached some fine spring but no grass scarcely, it all having been eaten up by the stock in advance of us. Stopped here to eat dinner and water our cattle and let them rest. Rested 3 hours and drove on hoping soon to find grass. The road very dusty, traveling disagreeable; reached in 6 miles a beautiful part of the valley covered with a rank growth of wild wheat in places higher than a horses back; but no water only what was obtained by digging two ft. deep in a dry channel.

July 29th. Day quite warm, concluded to remain in camp until noon; dug some wells, and got plenty of water for our cattle. Started from camp at 1 o'clock P.M. our cattle having rested and got a good fill of grass, traveled 10 miles encamping again in the valley at several fine springs and good grass.

July 30th. This morning quite cool; wind blew hard from the west in the forenoon, kept a fog of dust in the road all the time making driving very disagreeable. The road, good roads, generally abundant; 8 miles reached the fountain, a considerable stream, the water so hot that I could scarcely bear my hand in it; halted for noon near some cold springs at the end of the valley; grass fine. A high sage plain intervening between the valley and the Mts. 6 miles distant over which the road passes; no water until near the Mts. The road then enters the hills and crosses over to the waters of Humboldt's river soon after entering a ravine through which the road passes; came to a spring, thought it best to fill our kegs, not knowing whether we would find water at camping time, proceeded 3 miles further and camped; but passed some water in that distance, the grass not very good; the country quite mountainous but the road very good.

July 31st. Continued up the Mt. and the ascent gradual from the top, had a view of a snow covered mountain before us; in 6 miles travel came to some springs forming a small branch, watered our oxen, proceeded 3 miles, halted for noon, no water but plenty of grass. Continued our journey over a plain covered principally with sage, did not reach water until camping time. Struck a farm valley; good grass and numerous deep springs.

Thursday, Aug. 1st. Quite cool; ice formed in our water buckets $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick; overcoats worn quite comfortably now around the fires. Started down the valley, soon left the springs and for some distance it seemed to be destitute of water but at length in 6 miles travel reached a considerable branch running west formed by springs, this being the head of Humboldt's River; nooned 5 miles below the grass here is very fine; the valley seems to open in front and appears beautiful covered with luxuriant grass willows growing along the margin of the stream forming the only thing in the shape of timber. The stream 15 ft. wide, 3 ft. deep; very miry in the bottom, the water clear and cold. 5 miles from our nooning place brought us to north branch of Humboldt, longer than the other stream, crossed above the junction at a good ford and continued down the valley 6 miles, encamped on the bank of the main stream here; same 20 ft. wide and 3 ft. deep; grass splendid. The fertile portion of the valley is 1 mile wide bounded at this distance by a barren sandy sage plain of a various width from 1 to 5 miles intervening between the base of the mountains; the road very good.

Friday 2nd. As usual, quite cool owing to our close proximity to the snow capped Mt. to our left. The day though very warm; continued down the bottom 15 miles and crossed another branch from the north as the one we crossed yesterday is farther over two points of the hills and across one really brought us to our present encampment in the river and by this way not a very good one either on account of the sloughs which are very dangerous for stock to pass over. These bogs seem to be a characteristic of the valley and will never prove a sad detriment to its ever being cultivated or used in any manner; 20 miles today the road good but very dusty.

Saturday Aug. 3rd. After passing over on elevated pieces of land for a short distance entered the bottom again and continued it all day - 25 miles; the road very good but horribly dusty.

Aug. Sunday 4th. Taking the sweets of repose that is gladly hailed on the return of this day set apart by the creator for this purpose. Our cattle are grazing on splendid grass that is growing here in great abundance, enough to feed many 1,000 head. The fertile portion of the valley is wide and extremely rich but as usual traversed in every direction by dangerous sloughs. Went out today to look after our cattle and found our largest ox completely mired in one of these sloughs and had considerable difficulty in extracting him from his uncomfortable situation. A train of several waggons camped with us today. A clergyman belonging to it has kindly preached two excellent sermons to us. His name Yeager at Cumberland, Presbyterian, from Mo.

Aug. 5th, Monday. Started at sunrise this morning; in 5 miles travel reached where the river enters a narrow pass in the mountains 7 miles; one road goes over the mountain. Traveled in time of high water; the one as we came down the narrow circuitous route of the river crossing it 4 times in a distance of 6 miles; 2nd crossing of $\frac{1}{2}$ miles below the 1st, 2nd 3 miles below the second, and the 4th 2 miles below the third. The fords good; nooned after crossing the last time and 7 miles from thence left us to our present encampment $\frac{1}{2}$ mile where the road leaves the river and takes to the mountains for 17 miles; fine grass here, plenty of willow brush across the river.

Tuesday 6th. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile before we encamped yesterday evening crossed a brook of fine running water, a tributary of the Humboldt; $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from camp crossed another, 1 mile from this struck over the mountain; the road tolerably steep in places; 5 mile a small spring to the left of the road a short distance; 4 miles further brought us to where there were some holes dug 2 or 3 ft. deep from which we procured a little water for our cattle; nooned here; the country very barren, plenty of sage, but little grass. Halted but a short time; hitched up and drove on; in 2 or 3 miles passed several weak springs; reached the forks of the road; the left hand strikes the river in $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile, right hand or straight ahead road in 2 miles

and also 2 miles below there the left hand reaches it. Took the left hand, traveled 18 miles today; fine grass by driving our cattle over the river.

Wednesday 7th. To have regained the main road we would have had to follow the same road back some distance and then struck down, it being impracticable to follow down the river on this side to the point where the main road strikes it and where the regular ford is, but we fortunately discovered that we could cross over to the south since here there being a good ford and very good trail beyond that brought us to the main road in 2 miles or rather a fork of the main road, it having forked at the ford one branch striking over the mountains on the north side, the other crossing over and following down the south side; 12 miles travel; crossed at a bend of the river; 2 miles from there struck over the dusty rocky hills for 4 miles and in 2 miles further, making 28 miles today; reached our present camping place on a slough being unable to get to the river; the water not very good; grass fine.

Thursday 8th. Started out this morning expecting to find better water than the slough in which was encamped in a few miles travel but most woefully were we disappointed; the road here lays entirely at a distance from the river on account of the sloughs and over the most barren, dusty, cheerless, disagreeable plains imaginable. Nothing growing but sage and other like shrubs; nothing to relieve the eye from the dull cheerless monotony; no cooling fountains gushing from the adjacent mts. to quench the traveller's burning thirst or wash the dust from his clogged throat but envelopes him in a cloud of dust he makes his way beneath the parching rays of an August sun. Traveling on till noon and seeming to be no prospects of reaching water on the road, we determined to turn to right towards the river and endeavor to reach the river or at least reach a slough where we could get some water; at a the place where we turned off were some holes sunk from which we must procure a little very bad water being very brackish but which however served to allay our thirst to some degree. We traveled 2 miles down as the river and reached a slough that stopped our further progress in that direction. We unyoked our cattle and watered them in buckets out of the slough; the water very warm and scarcely fit to drink but we make it out to get dinner with it; resumed the road and reached the river five miles travel; grass tolerably good; plenty of willows for fuel. Traveled about 24 miles but 20 on road.

Friday, 9th. Started early having yesterday experienced the want of water so sorely; to avoid ever being the case today we filled our kegs and canteens from the river and proceeded on our way. Traveled 25 miles over a similarly disagreeable road to what we passed over yesterday and brought us to our present encampment on the river bank; not much grass.

Saturday, 10th. From our encampment left the river and did not reach it again for 15 miles. At this point travel 2 miles across the hills and reach the river again; ~~traveled 1 mile off to the right and camped on the bank;~~ splendid grass; will stay here until Monday. 18 miles today.

Aug. 11th, Sunday. Resting all alone today; no one camped near; the day beautiful. Our teams are doing fine feeding in the luxuriant grass; some of them fat enough for beef; everybody is pushing ahead; all seem to be tired of the journey. No sickness of any consequence among the emigrants at present; the greatest difficulty seems to be scarcity of food; a great many are now out of provisions and many long miles before them and not only out of provisions but their teams have failed and they are forced to take it aloft with what little they can carry on their backs and there are others again who have become impatient and left their teams to their comrades and start with a few dollars in their pocket expecting to get their existence from their fellow emigrants but they are sadly disappointed. There are no provisions to spare nor will not buy them, consequently there is much suffering and I have saw some of them who have not tasted bread for several days but live on beef alone and others have been several days without anything to eat.

Monday 12th. Made an early start; traveled 2 miles and struck over the hills for a distance of 4 miles; a pretty rough road; reached the river, followed it 6 miles, and nooned. Some teams were camped here; they had killed a beef; we bought some; it was not very fat and tough in the bargain but it went off pretty well; traveled 8 miles and camped; grass pretty good; fuel scarce; warm and dusty.

Tuesday 13th. Traveled 8 miles over a sandy, disagreeable sage plain and nooned in the afternoon; traveled 10 miles over the same kind of road and camped on the river; the sloughs so bad that we had to cut willow bush to make bridges for our cattle to pass over in order to get them to grass which by the way was excellent.

Wednesday 14th. Made some addition to our bridges this morning by putting more brush so that we drove our oxen over very well; got rather late start. Traveled 18 miles generally over the sandy sage plain adjacent to the immediate river bottom; passed a board with the inscription "to the Ferry"; off to the left; we are now on the south side of the river and decided keeping down on this side as far as possible as we think grass will be plentier on this side as most of the emigrants are on the other side.

Thursday, 15th. Started late this morning. Traveled 10 miles, mostly over the adjacent sandy plain; high and barren of everything in the shape of vegetation except the usual production (sage) and its kindred productions; descended and nooned on a slough; rested a short time; left the slough expecting to reach the river before long but were very much disappointed; our road lay for 15 miles over the usual high dusty plain and consequently did not reach the river until after night after a fatiguing drive. Nothing but willow bushes for our cattle to feed on; millions of musketoes. Grease wood for fuel.

Friday, 16th. The last bottom or portion of the valley that produces anything for stock to subsist on is getting very narrow and consequently grass is getting extremely scarce. The road lays entirely on the high second bottom or plain that rises from the 1st bottom; very abrupt forming what might be termed a bluff composed of loose sand or dust. The road over this is very heavy. The country is dreary, cheerless and destitute of vegetation except the everlasting sage and grease wood; a shrub of a similar nature. The dark gloomy mts. on either side at a distance of 10 or 15 miles seem to correspond with the barren plain at their base. I traveled on today till 1 o'clock; think we might find a road leading down to the river, but finding none we halted on the bluff as near the river as we could get and unhitched and drove our oxen to the water 1/2 mile distant. Some Root Digger Indians were camped on one of these high sandy points with nothing to shelter them from the burning sun but a few bushes; a more uncomfortable situation for being to live in could not be imagined; poor degraded beings they certainly correspond with the dreary country in which they are. Rested here a short time and drove on till towards night; came into a ravine and concluded to follow it to the River as there was a good road and in one mile reached our camping place where we have tolerably good grass and a splendid lot of musketoes.

Saturday 17th. Regained the road this morning by following the ravine back a short distance and then taking to the right; traveled 9 miles, took a left hand fork of the road leading down a ravine to the river; reached it in $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles; watered our stock; followed down the bank $\frac{3}{4}$ miles and then ascended a sandy hill. Some Indians camped here; I visited their camp; they seem very friendly but were the most degraded and filthy set of beings I ever saw; the squaws were almost naked; the men and boys were dressed in old clothes got from emigrants and seemed to be so indolent that they could scarcely live. The squaws were engaged in pounding a kind of seed that grows very plentiful along the river; they pound or grind it in with 2 stones, one concave in which the seed is put, the other to pound with; how they prepare it for eating afterwards I know not. In 4 miles again reached the river; on reaching it it was 14 miles to grass; we stopped, watered our oxen; got supper and started on this stretch at dusk; a most splendid moonlight night; everything hushed in deep ~~moonlight~~ ~~night~~ ~~surrounding~~ repose; very pleasant traveling; at midnight reached our present camp; unyoked our cattle; pitched our tents and gladly sought that repose so sweet to the weary.

Sunday August 18th. Arose this morning quite early; went out to take a survey of the country and look after our cattle; found them a short distance from camp in splendid grass; we are now at what is called the "Big Meadows", where the river widens out and forms a large marsh and lake covered with tall grass and rushes. This marsh is several miles wide and I suppose is the commencement of the sink of the river or rather is a lake or marsh in which the river finally loses itself. We have nothing here for fuel but what is called grease wood, being the poorest fuel for cooking I ever saw. It is a shrub growing in bunches like the sage only not so large and burns with a quick oily flame that dies out in a moment so that it requires fuel constantly added to keep it "going". It is eight miles from here to the place of laying in grass and water for the desert. After resting until noon we thought it advisable to drive thither this evening so accordingly hitched up and continued on driving and at sunset reached our camping place found some 50 or 60 teams encamped making preparations for the desert. No fuel within camp, then a mile of here and then nothing but grease wood. We fortunately however had the good luck to have the remains of old wagon willed to us by a company that were just about starting; that abundantly supplied us as long as we staid.

Monday, August 19th. 1 o'clock P.M. The hardest and most difficult job has been completed that we have had to do on the road and one that I never want to do again and that is procuring grass and water for the desert that we will start entering after leaving here. To one that never saw the place or is ignorant of its situation it may seem but a trifling matter to cut 2 or 300 lbs of grass and dry it and fill 2 or 3 kegs of water. I put them in the waggon, the one camped at the edge of the water. The whole country is very strongly & impregnated with salt; in many places I have noticed a crust of pure salt $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick over the ground as white as snow. Consequently the water near the edge is very salty so much so as not to be fit for use. We accordingly had to wade in a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile through water from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 ft. deep before drinkable water could be procured, and then it was barely drinkable but as a matter of course had to put up with it. It was a pretty laborous way of procuring water certain. We went splashing through the water with our kegs to the place of filling and after getting them filled would lash a rope around one and pass a lever through it and one take hold of each end and retrace our steps to the wagon and frequently as this was very uneven and covered with water we would make a false step and having as much as we could carry, down we would come. We had to get our grass in a similar manner; that near the edge being tread down by the stock (and it grows nowhere only in the water) so that we had to go out where it had not been tread down, cut it in the water, gather it up, tie it in bunches, lashed it to our backs and waded out with it, spread out on the ground to dry. But it is all completed now and we have everything snugly fixed for crossing the long looked for and much dreaded desert. Our cattle are in good condition for it; have enough of grass to give them and feed and plenty of water to give if they need it. I am sorry to add

however that one of the very best oxen in our team died last night, but we still have 5 yoke left; amply sufficient for our wagons. We are informed that grass extends 8 miles further, sufficient for grazing and we drive there this evening.

Late in the evening reached this place 8 miles from our place of getting grass and water; the road as level as a floor; plenty of rushes and a kind of cane growing here; cattle are tolerably fond of it; fuel of no kind; had some of the remains of the old wagon that we brought along. This seems to be about the termination of grass, rushes or anything else for stock to support on. Hundreds of duck, geese, cranes, seagulls and all kinds of water fowls here that keep on incessant squalling.

Tuesday 30th. Resumed our journey quite early, continuing down the margin of what now seems to be an extensive lake some 6 or 8 miles wide, presenting a smooth unruffled surface on which are sporting innumerable waterfowls. This is indeed a singular looking place and presents an interesting view to the traveler. It seems to be walled in on all sides by dark gloomy mountains; the very picture of desolation not a single shrub nor one verdant spot to relieve the eye from the dull monotonous scene but they appear perfectly bare and rugged not even so much ascending forth as a single rivulet to quench the thirst of the traveler. The plain at their base is from 1 to 8 miles wide and is generally nearly on a level with the water of the lake. I presume during the rainy season the greater portion of it is overflowed. In traveling along today I saw two small cottonwood trees being the first and only trees that I have saw on the river. Reached by noon in 8 miles travel the final termination of Humboldt Lake and the end of the long crooked river that has been so long the companion of our travels. This certainly is a remarkable stream, formed by a few springs and a few tributary branches near its head; it flows a distance of over 300 miles and finally losing itself in a lake of its own. Rested here an hour and half, drove our cattle into the lake to drink; the water though not very good being very brackish; but by wading out some distance from the shore found it tolerable good; the water is 3 or 4 ft. deep.

Started from our halting place as we supposed on the great desert but we saw that we were mistaken after going a short distance we perceived that there was a considerable stream leading from the lake in the direction of our road and passing over an eminence in front of us I saw that this stream formed a considerable lake that we reached at sunset where we halted, got supper and fed our cattle a small bundle of grass spiced. At 8 P.M. embarked on the mighty desert in earnest. The night most beautiful - the moon almost full, shining most brilliantly and making it almost as light as day and plainly revealing the barren aspect of the country; the road at the commencement very good but worse as we advance; the last 12 miles is a sandy plain and the hardest road for the length of it we have yet passed over; the sand very heavy and what makes it so much worse is its having to be passed over when teams are in a very weak and exhausted condition. Hence a great many teams fail when reaching this stretch and they are forced to unhitch and drive their stock onto water and then return after their wagon. The desert (the course or route which we intended to go) is 50 miles; the 1st water reached is Carson River. At the very commencement of the desert I was astonished at the number of dead stock; the cause of this great mortality as well as that upon the latter part is owing in a great measure to the bad water of the sink. At daybreak on Wednesday morning, the 21st, halted to take breakfast and feed and rest our oxen; having been driving constantly since starting yesterday morning; do not know how far it is yet to the River but hope to reach it by noon.

The shades of night having passed away we have a distinct view of the country and a more perfect picture of utter desolation could not be imagined; it seems to be entirely devoid of any kind of subsistence for either man or brute; one seemingly bounded by sandy waste stretches out in all directions; far in the distance occasional mountains peer above the sandy surface. The destruction of property is already very great. We have already passed a great number of wagons that have been abandoned and answered for fuel; that there is a great abundance. Through the whole night the road was almost illuminated with the fires made of the remains of wagons.

After resting some time we rolled on; our cattle standing the trip finely. At 10 A.M. reached the 12 mile stretch of sand; we found water here for sale \$1.25 per gallon. At 4 P.M. reached Carson River with our wagon and all our stock safe and sound; they stood it nobly ploughing their way through the deep sand beneath the parching rays of an August sun; the loss of stock and destruction of property then very great. The entire desert yet exceeds all belief and far beyond what I had ever imagined or anything that I had ever read of before on the last 12 miles. For that distance there is almost a perfect line of abandoned wagons, many of them left with their covers on and the principal part of their contents scattered around consisting of articles of every description, making up a California outfit, provisions excepted. The dead stock were strewn so thickly along that the stench arising from them was almost past enduring. There were a good many left that were not yet dead; it was a melancholy sight to see the poor things hovering in the shade of some wagon; barely able to stand; some had already fallen over and were now struggling in the last agonies of death; others that were yet able to walk would fall on the passing wagons; their instinct teaching them that that for which they were dying could be obtained by going ahead; but poor things their strength would not carry them for soon they would sink like so many of their fellows to rise no more.

We counted in passing over 450 dead oxen, 300 dead horses and 23 dead mules in addition to this I suppose there were at least 500 wagons left and destroyed. The cost of all this property in the state at the most reasonable estimate could not fall short of \$75,000. This in addition to other property destroyed would swell the amount to almost \$100,000. This desert is truly a hard place, both on man and beast. At the place where the road strikes Carson there are a number of traders from beyond the Sierra Nevada with flour, pork and other necessities for sale, for which many of the emigrants are now suffering. But good Heavens, what prices! it would take \$5 to buy a meal's victuals; flour \$2 per lb. and other things in proportion; a small pie worth 5 cents in the states sell for \$1.25; most of the emigrants are out of money and have to trade their stock for some thing to eat; an ox brings from 4 to 10 lbs. of flour and horse and mules at about the same rate.

Carson is a clear beautiful stream presenting quite a contrast to the filthy alkali waters of Humboldt and rises in the Sierras and flows in an easterly direction and like the Humboldt enters into a lake of its own about 25 miles east of this place. A most gratifying sight was here presented to my eyes and one that I almost despaired of seeing on the road again; it was some large waxy stick cottonwoods, being the first trees that I have saw for several hundred miles. It is indeed most gratifying to repose in their cool shade after travelling so long over a country entirely bereft of shade and presenting nothing to the eye but barren plains. We feel now that we have surmounted the worst difficulty on the road and that we will ere long reach our journey's end. It is said to be 200 miles from here to Hangtown, the last reached in California; we follow up this stream to the mountains. Grass is here extremely scarce; drove our cattle over the river where they did tolerably well.

Thursday, Aug. 22nd. Remained in camp until 2 P.M. to let our oxen rest. Then continued up the river 8 miles and encamped. The road passes over deep sandy hills and bottoms alternately. Found no grass; but plenty of willow bushes that cattle will eat when they can get nothing else. The fertile portion of the valley is very narrow here and being so near the termination of the desert is cut off perfectly bare - hope to find better grass on ahead, our cattle needing it badly.

See 5 +

Friday 23rd. Started quite early this morning; bore off from the river over a sandy plain $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles and turned into the pines $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant and nooned; beautiful shady cottonwoods here; drove our stock over the river; very good grass. The grass being good we let our oxen graze until 4 P.M. at which time started; regained the main road and traveled on 8 miles; turned into the river and camped at a late hour. Our cattle forced to the necessity of feeding on willow.

Saturday 24th. Drove 4 miles this morning - finding excellent grass; rested the remainder of the day to allow our oxen to graze. Quite warm today until near night. A dark cloud arose in the west in which direction the rumbling thunder could be distinctly heard and the fiery lightening started at intervals over its dark surface. The indications that we would have a small shower were pretty strong and sure enough it did rain and this we did not expect as we are in a country that it seldom rains at this season of the year.

Sunday 25th. Resumed our journey before the dawn; in one mile rose onto a sandy plain over which we traveled 10 miles and again came to the river; followed up the valley 2 miles and halted for noon in a grove of most beautiful cottonwoods; the grass most splendid. This is the most beautiful camping that we have had on the road; in fact a more lovely spot could not be desired; the cool refreshing shade; the soft tender grass growing luxuriantly on which our cattle are feasting and the clear sparkling water of the river form such a striking contrast to the barren alkali region over which we had been travelling before reaching this stream; that comparatively speaking it seems almost like a paradise. M- belonging to the wagon that is travelling with us - being sick of diarrhea, it was thought that he was unable to proceed further today so we are consequently lying by enjoying the beauties that surround us.

Monday August 26th. Very pleasant morning. M- being still unable to travel but some better, we remained in camp all day. A pleasant breeze stirring. Made this a general wash day, having a great many dusty garments that have been some time accumulating. Had quite a merry time of it; our cattle doing fine; 4 Root Digger Indians visited our camp this evening, of low stature but heavy built.

Tuesday 27th. M- being better this morning we were up early; had everything in readiness and were off by 4 A.M. Very pleasant travelling, cool all day. Traveled 21 miles; found no water after the first 6 miles until we reached our present camping place, cross to south side of the river this morning at a good ford; passed a trading establishment this evening; flour \$1.50, hard bread the same, apple pies \$1.50

Wednesday 28th. Started at the dawn of day; $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles travel; crossed the North side and traveled up the bottom $\frac{1}{2}$. The road here leaves the river for 12 miles ascending first a high rocky hill and then continues over an undulating rocky sandy country; some low scrubby cedars growing. Reached the river at 2 P.M. stopped for noon; no grass here; drove in the afternoon, 8 miles entered a valley and camped to the right of the road on a little brook; this is the first one that we had seen since near the head of Humboldt, or Man's River. There is plenty grass here but so strong impregnated or covered with salt that stock dislike it very much, in fact our oxen would not eat it but wandered some distance from camp towards the base of the mountain where they found grass to their notion. This seems to be an extensive valley here, the river passes to the left of a mountain from here and this valley is watered by springs from the mountain on our right. The mountains here present a different and more beautiful aspect than the barren rugged one of Humboldt; they are higher and are beautifully dotted with pine and cedar. (I suppose the distance being too great to tell certainly). Gold has been discovered in the Mts. on this stream and a great many have come over the mountains

Sept. 1st, Sunday. A most beautiful day; a cool mountain breeze stirring. All in camp today resting; this is indeed a most lovely spot; the lofty rugged mountains wall us in on all sides; in the north sides of the lofty peaks are large peaks of snow that have withstood the heat of the sun thus far; there appears to be no outlet in any direction; from all appearances we will have some steep climbing after we leave here; our cattle are doing fine today, splendid grass and water and beautiful shade.

Monday, 2nd. We were off quite early this morning; expect today to have a view of the Elephant. Traveled up this little valley passing occasionally over a spur of mountain; very rocky; reached in 10 miles travel the base of the mountain over which we have to pass; it looks pretty high. There is a small mountain like this at which we are now resting so that our teams may be fresh for the ascent. The mountain breeze wafts to our ears the repeated cries of the teamsters urging their weary animals up the toilsome ascent. 5 o'clock P.M. Again in camp. At the time of reaching this place, the thunder echoed through the mountains and was followed by a slight fall of snow and rain intermingled. We got up the mountain this evening very well; better than I expected. It is certainly an awful place to go up with a wagon and 6 yoke of oxen and one would think from a glance at it that it would be impossible to do it; but our cattle being of the true grit and our wagon substantial, we got up finally; it is 1 mile from the foot to the top, very steep and rocky. After reaching the top rested a short time and then descended one mile over very rough road and understanding from a notice on a tree here that there was good grass off to the left of the road, concluded to camp here; good teams camped here. After eating supper 4 of us started off with our oxen in search of the grass which we found in $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from camp; we have a tent with us and will stay out to watch them tonight to keep them from straying. The grass is very good. This is the most wild romantic spot I ever was in; it is a dense forest of the largest trees I ever saw, pine, cedar, and fir; the lofty mountain peak show on all sides; the sweet music of the little rivulets leaping down their rocky sides shone through the shadows of the forests and meets the ear delightfully; there are also huge banks of snow from 10 to 20 ft; there just been on one that seemed to be very deep; it was quite a novelty to me to see such banks of snow at this season of the year. Had quite an amusing time tonight setting the old trees and logs on fire, the resinous substance in them caused them to burn with a very brilliant flame; even the boughs of the green ones burn by touching a brand to them and in an instant shoot from the ground to the topmost branches.

Tuesday, 3rd. Drove our cattle in and started early; continued to descend over rough road for 4 miles; reached a small valley through which flowed a clear brook towards the west. From here we commenced the ascent of the 2nd and last steep ridge that we have to cross; it is higher than the one we crossed yesterday. It is 5 miles from the foot to the top. 2 of the 5 miles are very steep and equally as bad as that yesterday excepting there are not quite so many rocks; near the top there is a large bank of apparently many ~~xxx~~ feet deep. The road passes over it one place. Reached the top in the afternoon and halted to rest and take some refreshment of which we stood greatly in need; I felt much fatigued, more here than at any one time on the road; we are now occupying a loftier position than at any other time on the road. This place is said to be 8,000 ft. above the level of the sea.

A very cold wind was blowing from the north; so cold that we had to put on our overcoats. The top of this mountain seems to be above the point of vegetation; nothing but ice, few dwarfish pines growing in among the desolate rocks. From here the view is grand; the eye gazes over a seemingly endless field of mountains, and seeing in the distance the snow capped peaks glitter like silver in the bright sunbeams; to one like myself raised in the great Mississippi valley where gentle undulations and level valleys pervade the beautiful surface, such a scene as this is particularly interesting. I have always desired to tread the lofty Mts., to clamber up their craggy peaks and gaze over such a field as this; it is even more

beautiful than my imagination had ever pictured it. We have now surmounted the last great obstacle and are now drawing near the end of our long and toilsome journey; the remainder of the way will be principally descending the mountains; but a portion of it will be pretty rough but not to compare with what we have passed over. Traveled 4 miles in the afternoon (road rough), making 13 miles today; no grass tonight of any consequence.

Wednesday, 4th. 7 miles brought us to a ravine in which we were informed there was grass and our oxen standing greatly in need of some, we stopped at 9 AM and drove them 2 miles off the road in search of grass, but were disappointed. There seems to have been pretty good grass in the little valley then for these mts; but it is now all eaten up. We rested here 3 hours and drove on 8 miles and camped at the roadside. No water nearer than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile down in a ravine; no grass as usual; some weeds on which our cattle fed.

Thursday, 5th. 2 miles, reached Leak Springs, very good water here; several trading posts here; provisions and liquors of all kinds to sell. 9 miles from here to water on the road; drove 4 farther and nooned, no grass. Afternoon drove 8 miles and camped on Camp Creek; no grass but drove our cattle down the creek 1 mile and up into a ravine where ~~it~~ was a great quantity of fern growing that was pretty good feed for our cattle. The Mts. here are densely covered with very large trees; they look grand, so large, straight and tall.

Friday, Sept. 6th. Our two horses strayed off last night and all hands were out hunting them this morning, the search however proved fruitless. We yoked up and started leaving some 4 men to renew the search if they overtook the teams at noon with the best animals. Had quite a mountain to ascend this morning. Drove 7 miles and nooned where there were some springs but no grass; found a notice from Id who left the road day before yesterday on a hunt. We had no tidings of him till today; had begun to be uneasy about him. This evening came up with him; he had got bewildered and laid out in the mts. the 1st night and stuck into the road next morning ahead of us. Traveled 10 miles in the afternoon the road generally descending; scrubby oaks are beginning to appear among the stately pines and cedars and they too answer an admirable purpose here in this region where there is ~~is~~ no such thing as grass; for on their branches alone our poor oxen have had to depend for subsistence.

Saturday, Sept. 7th. 6 miles brought us to the forks of the road; left hand road goes to Bear River 20 miles; took the right hand to Hangtown 16 miles; 4 miles further nooned; without water; cut down some oak for our oxen. In the afternoon traveled and finding some pretty good dry grass in a little valley, concluded to camp here; the road today very good, gradually descending but awful dusty, half leg deep in some places.

Sunday, Sept. 8th. Our oxen being very much reduced from travelling over the mountains with scarcely any feed, we will stay here today and let our cattle rest and graze on the dry grass. We are now in the mining region. Miners with their picks and shovels and pans, though sandy as it is, are passing our encampment; "prospecting". There seems to ~~be~~ be no regard paid to the observance of the sabbath. I went to "Shinsend Rancho" this evening $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant in the road. This is the 1st house I have saw in the country; it looks as though we were getting in the land of civilization now; quite a number of persons here; good many mining in the ~~the~~ vicinity; a store and boarding house kept here, some 2 or 3 women officiating in the cooking department; this makes it look home-like.