

desolate prairie dog town, of the begging tramps—brothers in wanderlust to the tie-walking horde of today.

As we read the diary we feel that a transcontinental railroad would be impracticable. We hear men talk of cattle thieves, of quarrels among the trains, of Indian raids on stock. We pray for deliverance on the white desert and see the sun fade behind a cloud and feel the cool caress of a sudden breeze. We wonder that the United States could want this unhappy land. We mutter when we learn that the Mormons have a good ferry and fine pasture land up the river, for Mormons only. We suspect white men of commanding the Indians who drive off our oxen and sell them, two hundred miles back on the trail, to oncoming emigrants with weary teams.

But let Hale tell his story—suffice to say that he did return to his home in 1851 with something more than \$1500 in California gold dust. He did not journey to California again, contenting himself with the memory of the great adventure that had come to him in middle years. He died in 1891, leaving behind him a living experience in the fading handwriting of that old brown account book, now in the possession of The Society of California Pioneers, of which his son Titus is an ex-president and one of the few surviving senior pioneers.

DIARY OF TRIP TO CALIFORNIA IN 1849.

Written by ISRAEL F. HALE

"I came with him"

—TITUS HALE

SATURDAY, MAY 5th, 1849.

At twelve o'clock we left St. Joseph for Savanna Landing. The rain on the previous night made the road (which is very hilly) quite slippery and bad until we arrived at the Missouri bottom where we had to encounter deep mud for two or three miles. We camped about midway of the bottom for the night.

6th SUNDAY MORNING. Started again for the landing and arrived about eleven o'clock but not without some hard pulling. Found at the landing about thirty wagons ahead of us waiting to cross. Spent the balance of the day in cooking, cleaning up etc. Got the privilege of using the boats at night by manning them and paying an extra price for crossing. Mine was the thirteenth wagon and was crossed about sun rise Monday morning.

7th. Traveled about six miles to the foot of the bluff and turned out the stock to graze. Wood, water and grass tolerable good.

8th. Started onto the plains about twelve o'clock. Traveled seven miles over a hilly or broken prairie and camped on a hill. A very handsome situation.

9th. This morning we got a late start. Traveled seven or eight miles to Wolf River. The country is becoming more level but is still some hilly. Saw the first Indian this day. Since we crossed Missouri we find plenty of good spring water at almost every camp. On Wolf River we saw an Indian grave in a tree, also a grave yard near the river. After crossing Wolf River we saw some fine land for farming purposes. Last night we stood guard for the first time. This afternoon we saw several Indians. It is said that a large encampment is very near.

10th. Yoked up soon in the morning and were all ready to start when news came that Nathaniel Clark, one of Isaac Herrington's men had the Cholera, when we again turned out the stock. I rode up to the Agency, distance two miles. They have

a large farm, I think one hundred and fifty or two hundred acres, four or five dwellings, a mill, a store and a blacksmith shop. The mill is by far the best building. It is frame, the balance log and not good. The man Clark died in ten hours from the time he was taken sick. We buried him today and traveled five or six miles.

11th. Traveled over a fine country, but timber is very scarce. Water is now seldom found except in holes or in skirts of timber.

12th. Started at sunrise and traveled ten miles and stopped at a pond for noon. In the afternoon crossed the Nimehaw and camped for the night.

13th. SUNDAY. Traveled eight or nine miles to a creek. Passed through a fine prairie. No wood or water until we arrived at the creek, where we camped and spent the balance of the day. In the night we had a hard rain.

14th. Traveled about twenty miles over a fine prairie and encamped at a grove and creek. The weather is very cold and looks like rain. We travel at the rate of two miles per hour.

15th. This day we came to Blue River and crossed and encamped on the west side for the night. The Blue is near as large as the Maramec but not so wide. On the bank of this river we saw a quantity of provisions thrown out, such as flour, bacon etc. But this is not the first lot. It is left by persons who have more than their teams can haul.

16th. At ten o'clock arrived at the fork of the St. Joseph and Independence Road. This day we traveled more than twenty miles and encamped in the prairie without wood and water and but little grass. This day we passed some fine country but very little timber or water. We passed several graves during the day and the road is nearly filled with wagons and teams; as many as eight or ten trains in sight at one time, and some of them large. The weather continues cool and threatens rain.

17th. The country is becoming more broken than formerly. Saw at a distance two Pawnee Indians but none as yet have paid us a visit. Their absence, however, is very acceptable, for they have the name of being a thievish set. We encamped for the night two miles east of Walnut Creek. Good grass, bad water and no wood. The above named valley is an extensive body of flat land and is very handsome. We are, however, several miles from the Little Blue. It is called the Valley of the Little Blue.

18th. Crossed Walnut Creek and then traveled about five miles and took a cut off, which turned to the left. It is said to be a gain of fifteen or twenty miles. We missed our course a little

but were in a measure compensated by finding a good spring of water which enabled us to replenish our water vessels with good water. This day we saw a small drove, or lot, of antelope and the first game of any kind that we have seen since we entered the Indian country. Traveled in the cut-off twelve miles and encamped in the prairie without wood or water and with short grass.

19th. About sunrise in the morning we began to yoke up our stock and found thirty or thirty-five steers gone, also four horses. The latter were soon found; the former were found in small lots and brought in until ten o'clock when they were all found but five. The train then started on and arrived at the main road in six miles travel, where we found wood, water and grass. It was the Little Blue, a stream near the size of Big River in Jefferson County. Here we encamped for the night, also to wait the return or arrival of the men who were hunting cattle. They came in with the cattle about three o'clock.

20th. SUNDAY. This morning we left the encampment a little after sunrise, the road heading up the Little Blue. We saw nothing worthy of note except occasionally a hat or cap would appear to take wings and would sometimes go two hundred yards before it could be overtaken, for the wind blew almost a gale. We stopped to noon after ten miles travel and near a small grove of willow trees and within one hundred feet of Little Blue. Foot racing continued during the day or a bare head was the result. We kept up Little Blue two or three miles when the road left the river and ran across the prairie. We traveled about eight miles and came to a slash or pond in the road. We there turned to the south for wood and traveled one mile; not finding any we returned to the pond and encamped for the night and boiled our coffee water with buffalo chips.

21st. Started at sunrise. In two miles travel came to Little Blue. Traveled ten miles and stopped for noon. In the afternoon we arrived at the place where the road leaves Little Blue and turns toward Platte River, having followed Little Blue near twenty miles without crossing at all.

22nd. This morning the Cincinnati Company killed an antelope. It was little less than a deer and nearly white. Its hair is coarse and very tender, and had I seen it on a log should have said it was some kind of vegetation (a species of grass). For several evenings past we have been troubled with what is called June Bugs. They are a brown or reddish bug about one half inch

long. One evening they nearly covered one of our tents. They appear to aim for a light.

We started at the usual time in the morning, taking with us wood and water for the day, expecting to find none by the way. But such was not the case. Water was plentiful and we had several opportunities to get wood but I would think that water of a dry season would be scarce. We stopped for noon after traveling eight or ten miles. The roads this morning have been heavy, as they are called; that is, they are wet. But we have no reason to complain of roads for they have been dry and solid, until yesterday, since we left St. Jo. The country that we are traveling over is a level prairie with an occasional ravine, which I think are dry except in a wet time.

This morning was one of the coldest I ever saw at this season of the year. Every man has on his overcoat and I had a mind to put on my cloak also. In the afternoon we drove eight miles and encamped in the prairie; water at the distance of half a mile. No wood in sight. About twelve o'clock the weather changed and the afternoon was uncomfortably warm. Mosquitoes made their appearance this evening in swarms.

23rd. The demand for overcoats and blankets this morning was equal to that of yesterday. Between nine and ten o'clock we came in sight of the timber on Grand Island, which to appearances was two or three miles distant. Soon after we struck the bluff a new road took off to the left, which we took. It is probable it is to avoid the sand on the bank of the river where I presume the old road runs. We stopped for noon after a travel of ten or twelve miles. At three o'clock we came to the bank of the Platte River and followed it up a few miles in a hunt for wood, but were unsuccessful and finally struck camp in the prairie.

The Platte River bottom, where we entered it, is most beautiful. It is wide and level, but it is destitute of timber. A man from Prussia (who is with us) says it resembles the valley of the river Rhine, which he always considered the most beautiful spot in the world. Grand Island, I am told, is near one hundred miles in length. It appears to be well timbered. It is not a single island, but is composed of a cluster of islands divided by sloughs as near as I could judge. The timber is cottonwood. The weather has been cold during this day and most of the men have kept on their overcoats.

We still find articles which have been thrown out by emigrants. We have seen two wagons that were left or rather destroyed and

judging from the irons and parts left they were of good quality. We met today five or six wagons from Fort Laramie, which were loaded with robes, furs and the like. They belonged to Mr. Pappin of St. Louis.

Yesterday our company divided. Five wagons left. They thought our train too large. We now number but eleven wagons and forty men. We occasionally see antelope but have not yet seen a buffalo. Game appears to be very scarce. We have not seen as much since we came into the Indian Country as we saw in Missouri. I have only seen one squirrel; that was a prairie squirrel. It had some resemblance to our ground squirrel, but larger and more handsome. One of our men killed a hare. It was similar to our rabbit, but twice as large.

24th. After a drive of two miles we arrived at what is called Fort Kearny. It consists of a number of rudely constructed huts (it will not offend our great men to give them that name) built of the sods or turfs from the prairie, laid up after the manner of laying bricks; the roofs are covered with the same kind of material. Some of them had glass windows and very decent looking doors, the principal thing that denoted civilization. They have two fields fenced in with the same kind of material. They have also had a store, blacksmith shop and wagon shop. These compose the fort, which is situated near the banks of the Platte, opposite Grand Island.

The ground after we left the fort is low and very muddy; many of our teams stalled in sight of the fort and we had to double for the first time since we crossed the Missouri. This morning we had a slight fall of snow. We left several persons at the fort trying to sell a part of their loading. Some sold their wagons for one-quarter what they cost and put their loading in another wagon and joined teams. The wagons are, generally speaking, entirely too heavy for so long a trip. We drove two miles from the fort and made a halt for dinner.

In the afternoon we drove through the rain six or eight miles and called a halt for the night. The Platte at this place is as wide as the Mississippi at St. Louis and as muddy as the Missouri, and within one or two feet of the top of its banks. The banks are said to be low even in low water. This river cannot be very deep as the current is rather rapid than otherwise. A person would think from the appearance that the Platte was navigable for large boats but such is not the case.

25th. After spending a very disagreeable night we started at a late hour. Last night the thunder roared, the lightning flashed an almost constant flare, the rain fell in torrents and the wind blew so hard that a man could not walk without staggering. This storm commenced before sundown and continued until late in the night. The result was the rain blew into our wagons, the ground was soon over shoe in water and nearly every tent was blown down. Every man of our number wished for a more comfortable lodging place, if they did not wish themselves at home.

This morning the wind continued to blow and the thermometer stood at thirty-six degrees in the wagon and out of the wind, within four degrees of freezing cold. Could a citizen of Manchester have seen our company this morning after we had started and had not discovered the teams, we should undoubtedly have been taken for Creoles of the country. For almost every man was wrapped in a blanket whether he had on an overcoat or not.

After we had driven two or three hours I discovered a black something : little distance from the road in the prairie. On approaching it I found it to be a neat little cast iron cooking stove, which had been thrown out. The weight was forty or fifty pounds. At first I concluded to take it but upon reflection I had no vessels to suit it, and therefore left it thinking that I had load enough without it.

We drove about ten miles and stopped near the river for the balance of the day, having good grass, plenty of water and wood by packing it from the island. It appears that most of these sloughs can be forded with a horse which appears the only chance for the emigrants to get fuel in the absence of chips, which are becoming scarce. It is said that the number of wagons that have passed before us exceeds nineteen hundred. This accounts for the scarcity of chips. The cold weather for some days past has given a great number of our emigrants bad colds, attended with coughs. It has had that effect on myself and at night when in the corral, I can hear a dozen persons coughing at a time. Such a scene is not infrequent. With the exception of colds our company is in good health.

26th. This day we have driven through mud and sloughs and have had considerable rain—not a steady or settled rain, but several showers. We traveled eight or ten miles and called a halt for dinner in the prairie near a slough. Good grass but no wood. We made our fire of almost everything: some chips, some brush, some pieces of ox yokes, boxes etc. In the afternoon we drove

five or six miles over the same kind of roads; it has been hard on the teams as well as causing hard labour for the men, and encamped near a slough of good water. Fine grass and some wood but rather of the brush kind.

I saw today a gray or white wolf lying near the road. It was about as large as a common sized dog. Whether it was an old one or not, I am not able to say. This evening we came into the prairie dog country. I saw one today and there is one of their towns in sight of our camp. I saw one, it is true, but it was so much injured by shooting and not full grown that I cannot give an accurate description of it. This evening we have somehow got into a perfect nest of emigrants. If I was to guess I should say there was one thousand head of cattle within a mile of camp.

May 27th. SUNDAY. Contrary to my wishes we left our camp at the usual time once more. It has the appearance of clear weather. It has also turned warm, although we had a hard frost this morning. Having lost several pieces of days by rain and bad weather as well as bad roads is the cause of our traveling today, and the fear of a rise in the South Fork may be called another cause. Nevertheless, our men and stock are both much fatigued. Some of our oxen are poor and ready to give out, and it would surely have been good policy to have lain by for the day.

After we left camp this morning the road ran near the bluff, the first time we went near it since we came down to take the bottom; the river came near, which was the reason of going down to the bluff. The roads this morning are heavy and in some places bad. We drove about ten miles and turned out for dinner and found fine grass and water, but no wood. In the afternoon made a drive of about ten miles over a low, wet piece of ground, making very laborious on our teams and men, and at last made a halt near a slough with grass and water, but no wood but prairie chips.

I discovered this afternoon the ground where there was no grass had the appearance of having been covered with flour. It looked as the ground would after a flour bag had been shaken. I took a little lump and tasted it and found it was salty. This country very much resembles the salt marshes on the Atlantic Coast. I saw a drove of antelope today and saw two men on horseback take a run after them. You may be sure the antelope won the race.

28th. This morning the road was muddy for about two miles. After that distance it became better and we drove on finely for about eight or ten miles. The bluffs are much higher than they

were below, but in point of beauty the valley here in no way compares with that below. Here a part is low and swampy. Some of it is cut up with sloughs and, of course, some level ground. Below, it is a broad smooth high prairie. The weather today has been fine: clear and just cool enough for oxen to travel. In the afternoon we made a short drive and stopped for the night on a creek with good water and grass; not much around. We saw a porcupine and met some traders. Moses Richards also saw some men from Franklin County. I think our men begin to think they have driven too hard, for the cattle are beginning to fail.

29th. Nothing of importance to notice. The roads have been fair. Saw a small lot of buffalo across the river. Stopped for noon on the banks of the Platte. We had some cottonwood but poor grass. In the afternoon we crossed several ravines, most of them dry, and encamped near a ravine; grass short, some wood. We are near the bluffs, and we suppose about ten or fifteen miles from the mouth of South Platte. These bluffs are not rocky but are clay or sand and very uneven. I have seen a great many mounds or sugar loaves. The whole bluff resembles a string of mounds. They are formed by ravines. In some of these ravines I discovered cedar and am told that an abundance of cedar is found back from the river, some of it as much as eighteen inches in diameter.

This afternoon we passed a willow grove which very much resembled one I saw while we were on the waters of Little Blue. The willows were one foot in diameter. I observed that the grass was short. It is buffalo grass which never grows high. It is low, short and fine, and is said to be the equal of oats for stock. We have passed today a great many buffalo heads or skulls, as well as other buffalo bones which shows that somebody has plenty of fresh meat, but it has not been our good fortune to get any as yet.

30th. Last night we had another dreary night. It was my turn to stand guard from eight to half past eleven o'clock. Just as I had got into the wagon a storm came up. The wind blew very hard and the rain fell fast, and for a long time every tent in the train was prostrate with the earth. Some went into their wagons, some under them and others attempted to take shelter under their tent cloths and blankets. In the morning the scene was amusing. Almost every one was giving a history of his troubles on the previous night. When the tents fell, they were generally abandoned together with their contents. And in the morning hats were either filled with water or were laying in the water, which was as

bad. Coats, boots, shoes and the like were in the same predicament.

The weather continuing rain and bad, we concluded to lay by; and the only comfortable place I could find was in the wagon with both ends closed, for we have had almost constant rain accompanied with high winds. About noon two of our company came into camp, each bringing a fine antelope, which they generously distributed amongst our company, and, by the by, was a very acceptable treat. It continued to rain at intervals throughout the day and in the evening turned cold.

31st. Another night like the last, I hope I will not be required to record. The wind blew very hard, and it continued to rain almost the entire night. It began to grow cold in the evening and kept growing colder through the night. Almost every one had got their bedding wet the previous night and we had no opportunity to dry them. Mine fared a little better; my wagon did not leak much and my clothes were but little wet consequently.

Some invalids and the like called on me for lodging, so that we were full to overflowing, and little or no bedding caused all of us to fare hard; so if we suffered cold and lost our sleep we kept ourselves dry, which is something that cannot always be done of a rainy night on the plains.

We started late from our camp this morning and drove about five or six miles through mud and rain and stopped for noon near the bluff. I noticed the bluff at this place and find some rock in it. The clay is of a whitish cast and the rock in color very much resembles the clay. A large train of wagons is just behind us. It is supposed there are three hundred wagons within three miles. We drove but a short distance in the afternoon, it being cold and rainy. The bluffs are getting much lower than they were a day or two ago. I saw another dead wolf this afternoon. It was the same color of the other, but much larger.

We camped tonight in the prairie; good grass and water. Wood scarce. One thing, and the principal thing, that caused us to spend so disagreeable a night was the addition of four persons in our wagon besides what generally slept in it. Then take into consideration the cold, the rain and the division of bed clothes, made our night's lodging anything but pleasant. But under the circumstances I could not refuse, for any of them would have returned the compliment to me.

JUNE 1st. This morning for the first time in several days the sun rose clear. The black and heavy clouds which had almost

deluged us in water for days past have now disappeared. Joy appeared on the countenance of all. By noon the mud began to disappear and the road to improve. We drove about ten miles before we stopped to graze the stock.

We were informed this morning that we had passed the mouth of the South Fork. If such is the case we passed it unnoticed. The bluffs have nearly disappeared. We could drive our wagons up at almost any point. Our greatest anxiety now is, how we are to cross the South Fork. Yesterday some of our men killed a buffalo. They killed it so far from the wagons that they brought in but little. I did not get any. We passed a prairie dog town, but I think the inhabitants have gone on a visit, perhaps to avoid receiving company. I have not seen the first live one yet.

In the afternoon, we drove five or six miles and encamped near a creek and found a good spring a short distance from the camp. The grass is good as also the water, but no wood. The bluffs on the opposite side of the river look like sand banks. We saw several trains on the other side of the river. They are supposed to be Mormons. Traveling on the plains in cold and rainy weather is very disagreeable. But such a day as this has been makes up in some measure for the hardships we endure in bad weather.

Several of our men have been out hunting since morning and we look for a feast of buffalo meat. One of them, however, returned soon; his horse threw him and put his arm out of place. I noticed as we passed along the valley, a great many paths, what we would call foot paths. On making enquiry, I found they were buffalo trails. It is probable they are the paths used in going from the hills to the river for water. When we find them we generally see a dozen more, sometimes five or six near each other; at times they are from fifty to one hundred yards apart, but they always head from the bluff to the river or vice versa.

JUNE 2nd. This day between twelve and one o'clock we crossed the South Fork of Platte River. It is said we crossed fifteen miles below the old or common crossing place. The water is swift but is not deep. It did not come into our wagon bed. The bottom of the river appears solid and we crossed without trouble and did not double teams, so now the dread is over.

We are safely landed on the N. W. side of the long-dreaded stream and have now encamped for the night. We have driven ten or twelve miles and crossed the bluff, or rather went onto the bluff and drove several miles. The bluff ran into the river a few miles before we came to the ford, but before we struck the ford

we came round a sand hill and shortly after turned square off to the river or ford. The river at this place is less than half a mile wide and there are several small islands at the crossing. The water is near as muddy as the Missouri, but there is no quicksand as at the other fords.

Last evening I ate some buffalo meat. It was fine. It was sent in by the men who killed the buffalo a day or so since. The hunters yesterday were unsuccessful. They did not kill anything. It is reported that three or four men have been killed by the Indians, which prevented our men from venturing far from the train. It appears the men have been killed a long time as it was difficult to tell whether they were white, black or red. They had on hickory shirts and were scalped. This should have happened twenty or twenty-five miles below this place. We have good grass for our stock, river water, but no wood. It looks like rain again.

JUNE 3rd. SUNDAY. This morning as we started for the North Platte we had not driven more than two miles, having got well onto the bluff, when we discovered the North Fork. We supposed the distance to be from eight to twelve miles, but found it not to exceed four.

Just as we were leaving camp this morning, two buffaloes were discovered near some cattle (there were several camps in sight), when about a dozen men started in pursuit, some on foot and some on horses. It was a handsome sight. The buffaloes took to the bluff; some went down the river to get ahead of them; some aimed direct for them and others followed on the trail, but the buffaloes were too smart. They got away from all of them.

We immediately crossed the bluff to the valley of the N. Fork and followed that up some eight or ten miles and encamped near a slough where we found good grass and water and some wood. Someone had encamped a short time before us and had left several articles: salt, bread etc. Should any of our friends think of making this trip I would advise them not to load too heavy, also to not buy a cooking stove in the States, for I have had chances to get one almost every day for the last two weeks, and some days two or three. A small hole dug in the ground appears to answer a better purpose than the most approved pattern of cooking stove for the plains.

The N. Fork is wider than the S. Fork was where we crossed. I should think it was near a mile wide. It is not deep. Some of our men waded nearly across, opposite our camp. Main Platte, South and North all appear to have a great many islands in them,

and another thing that they differ from other rivers in the west, we find little or no drift wood, which shows that the heads of the streams are also destitute of timber.

We found another wagon today that was left at a camp. They worked horses in it I presume. They took out the load and packed it. Some of our men used a part of the bed for a box. The balance was left. The valley of the North Fork is not as wide as that of the Main Platte, but so far as I have seen the grass is better. Almost every day we see persons hunting cattle. Some trains have lost near one hundred head, and I am told that some companies are about to return on account of the loss of stock.

4th. This is wash day and we are laying by. I killed a snake today, it being the first live one that I have seen since I started. We heard of one thousand Indians being encamped where we crossed the South Fork. Owing to that and the appearance of a storm we tied our cattle. But neither storm nor Indians came. There is more wind in this country than in any place I ever saw. It often, as at present, shakes the wagon so much that I can hardly write.

JUNE 5th. We left the encampment at the usual time and drove two or three miles when the river came to the bluff and we had to take the hills. They were, however, of easy ascent. We had not driven more than two or three miles on the bluff when news came that some of the men had killed a buffalo. We sent back some horses and drove on. In about half an hour word came that another buffalo was killed nearby. We then stopped the teams until the men returned with the meat. The first was a two year old, the second an old he, but in good order.

We went a short distance and made a halt for noon. We kept the hills near ten miles and then returned to the valley. The bluff was high and rocky and the descent steep, but good, considering the steepness of the hill. We drove a few miles in the valley and turned out the stock for the night near a pond. Good grass, muddy water and no wood.

The Indians that we hear of were the Sioux. They are at war with the Pawnees and have been down to have a battle, the result I did not learn. I am told that they stole a horse and sold it for a bag of flour and a plug of tobacco, but the owner soon found and redeemed him. I also hear complaint of their taking small articles, such as pans etc. It is said that the Pawnees will kill a man to steal his horse, but that the Sioux will steal a horse but will not kill a man. I discovered that the bluffs are getting

higher than they were this morning. This has been another windy day, worse than yesterday, so I will quit writing and eat some buffalo as it is about ready.

6th. Last night it was showery most of the night. I came on guard at two o'clock soon after which we had a shower. When it was over the moon shown bright and I saw as fair a rainbow as if it had been caused by the sun. It was the first that I ever saw by moon light. Near four o'clock I had an attack of colic. I got some medicine from Basset and soon got relief. I have been troubled some little all the morning at times.

This forenoon we have driven near ten miles. part of the time in the valley and part of the time on the bluff. Part of the road has been sandy and was hard pulling. About twelve o'clock we came into a small grove of timber, mostly ash and some shrubbery, such as rose and currant bushes etc. After passing it a few rods we turned out for dinner. It is thundering and has the appearance of rain.

In the afternoon we continued to follow the valley. We passed on the bank of the river a small grove of large cedars. The trees were from twelve to eighteen inches in diameter. We also saw cedar in the ravines of the bluff. The bluffs are rocky now on both sides and is the first rock that I have noticed on the opposite side. We made our encampment at a cedar grove where we found a good spring, and on the opposite side of the river stands a lone tree. We are within two or three miles of Ash Hollow. The road is becoming very sandy which has a tendency to break down our teams. Another antelope was killed today, but was rather a drug, all having been previously supplied with buffalo meat, which is much to be preferred. Grass is tolerable good and on the whole it is a good camping place.

7th. This morning we drove but a short distance before the river, coming close to the bluff, forced us to take the bluffs, which were rather steep. We crossed several hills and struck Ash Hollow. It is a narrow, sandy valley with low ash trees scattered along its sides. We had not driven far when we found considerable underbrush, such as currants, rose bushes and several shrubs that I did not know the name of. The morning was clear, the air was pure and the roses nearly in full bloom, and sent forth a flavour which can better be imagined than described. The air appeared perfectly scented with them and I think if they had named the place the Valley of Roses it would have been a more appropriate name, for there were fifty rose bushes to one ash

tree. We also passed a fine spring that boiled up in the middle of the valley and ran quite a distance before it sunk in the sand, if it sunk at all.

As we came near the river the bluffs were an uneven ledge of rocks and at the river we found six lodges of the Sioux Indians and some traders. Their lodges were of dressed buffalo skins stretched over about twenty poles and in the shape of an umbrella, but more point at the top. The fire is made in the center and a hole on the top fixed on two poles that they can move as occasion may require to keep the wind from blowing the smoke down the chimney. They are much to be preferred to our tents, was it not for their weight. These Indians appeared much more comfortably fixed than I expected to see them. They looked clean and were well dressed and had several good horses. I presume they were some of the better class.

We remained at the mouth of the Hollow three hours and then drove two or three miles and turned out for noon. The bluff along here is very uneven. It has the resemblance to a string of mounds with the tops flat. Opposite our wagons the bluff is rocky and one hundred and fifty or more feet high. Some of the men, or rather boys, went up and rolled down rocks while the cattle were eating. In the afternoon the bluff continued rocky for some distance and the road sandy. Soon, however, the rock gave out in the bluff and the road ran through a swamp near a mile in length. We also crossed two or three sloughs. They were dry, sandy and hard pulling. We have come eight or ten miles from the hollow to where we have encamped near the river or slough that forms an island in front of our wagons.

The buffalo gnats are and have been very troublesome for several days. They appear to have a particular spite on the eyes and ears. I notice the bluff on the opposite side is not rocky and is a more regular hill. We have no wood nor water and poor grass.

8th. This morning we left our encampment at six o'clock. The bottom is gradually becoming narrow. The bluffs continue to have the same appearance of yesterday. The roads in places are sandy, and not a tree have we seen today. Yesterday, seven miles from Ash Hollow we passed Castle Bluff; not knowing that to be the place, I took but little notice of it. Castle Bluff was a little higher than the balance of those flat top mounds that I spoke of yesterday. We drove ten or more miles this morning and turned out

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about twelve o'clock in the prairie with good grass, and some water got from a pond-like place and not good.

In the afternoon we drove through a slash and then came into sand again. In about an hour we saw a lone tree something like a mile to the left of the road. In it was an Indian grave. Soon after that we saw at a distance a grove of pine and cedar trees. It is probably some miles to the left of where the road will run. After that we passed the grave of a man by the name of Tindall. He died about four days since. He was from Wisconsin. We drove ten miles and turned out for the night in a smooth prairie; grass short but good; water tolerable; wood it is useless to mention. We have been very much troubled this afternoon by mosquitoes. They certainly have not been well fed for they are as hungry as wolves.

9th. This morning was rather a damp one but we started about six o'clock. The river bottom became very wide, and the timber that I spoke of yesterday I found was on the bluff but two miles from the road. The cedar was scattered along the bluff for some distance. After a drive of about five miles we passed a grave. It was a Mr. Stevens of Boon County, Missouri. He died on the sixth and of consumption. He was traveling for his health.

We have driven ten miles and encamped near a spring of good water in the midst of fine grass. We passed a creek a mile back, the waters of which had a smell similar to the sulphur spring near Manchester. The roads have been good and the weather cool. After spending about an hour and a half at noon we resumed our journey. Soon after we started the mosquitoes made their appearance in swarms. The horse that I was riding appeared half covered with them. They are a large ravenous saucy breed. The wind, however, soon rose and they in a measure disappeared.

The ground this afternoon has been a little rolling. The bluffs on the opposite side of the river have within the last day or two assumed the appearance that this side had and vice versa, for on the opposite side we see a row of mounds with flat tops, while this side presents an even hill.

We are encamped in full view of the rock called Court House or Church; it is distant about six miles and resembles a large castle in a dilapidated state. We can also see the top of great Chimney Rock from our camp. I think I will ride out to the Church Rock in the morning. If I do, I will endeavor to give a full description of it. We have good grass and tolerable water tonight.

10th. SUNDAY. This morning we started at the usual time. We had not driven but a few miles (say two) before we came to a creek. It was very rapid and about one foot deep. I presume it had risen from the rain last night.

After we had crossed the creek I started for the Church or Court House Rock. It is on the south side of the North Fork and about six or seven miles from the road. The road at this place runs through a smooth prairie and is at least three miles wide, and the rock appears to be just at this bluff. When you arrive at the bluff you cannot see that you have shortened the distance, but after traveling over four or five miles of rolling prairie and sand hills I arrived at the rock. It is situated on an elevated piece of ground and composed of a soft whitish sand stone. It can be cut with any kind of edge tool, even a hoe. It is six hundred feet in length and from thirty to one hundred in width. It is widest in the middle. I would suppose it was two hundred feet high, although it is said to be three hundred. I was at the top of it. I ascended partly by the ravines that had washed in it and partly by holes that had been dug in the rock for that purpose. It was not perpendicular on the side that we went up, for we frequently came to benches like, that we could walk some distance on before we came to a place that was perpendicular. In this way we arrived at the top.

The view was fine; in the immediate vicinity I had a view of the prairie and sand bank over which I had traveled and the horses that we rode, but they did not look larger than sheep. On the east a trough sixty feet deep and a rock that I will hereafter describe; on the south a most beautiful plain with several trees scattered about, and a creek that wound its way through the plain and came near the foot of the hill on which the rocks stand. The margins of the creek were covered with thornberry. On the west a deep ravine was near; at a distance a high mound with a round top and high bluffs; also the famous Chimney Rock. At the top the rock is small. Where you ascend it is not more than two or three feet wide; further west it is six or eight. On the south side and end it is nearly perpendicular. To all appearances it is fast washing away and I believe in time it will be mingled with the balance of the earth in the vicinity. I think it has been larger and much higher than it now is. Hundreds have inscribed their names upon it, and places of residence and date. Two hundred yards east stands another monument. It resembles a wall about eighty feet long and thirty or forty wide and one

hundred and fifty high. I could not get on it, but from the appearance the rock was similar but not being so large as the other and more width. It had not been injured so much by rains.

After spending an hour or so at the rock we started for the wagons. On our way back the B— boys killed a wolf. When we arrived at the road we found our teams had not passed. We took the road back and found they had encamped shortly after we left in the morning in consequence of one of the men being sick.

11th. MONDAY. Last night we had a severe hail storm. After that the rain commenced and continued until near midnight. This morning we got a late start. The road was heavy. We passed this forenoon a large slash. We did not go through it but went round the edge of it and found good road. We drove about eight miles and turned out for noon on the side of a hill in fair view of the Chimney and near a good spring. It is to the right of the road and just over the point of the hill.

After dinner we yoked up and started. The road being bad I remained with the team about one mile. I then started for the Chimney Rock. While viewing the noble monument at the distance of a mile or two I could not help imagining that it might be the work of some generation long extinct and that it was erected in commemoration of some glorious battle or in memory of some noble chieftain. But on arriving at the spot I could discover no marks of hammer, axe or chisel, no cemented joints by which it should be cemented in one solid mass. It is not then the work of human hands. It must have been a freak of nature to display her art, astonish man with the variety and grandeur of her works and show the power of Deity. It is situated on the south side of the North Fork of the Platte River and two miles from the main road. It has a high bluff on the south, the balance of the boundary is low prairie. It is a soft sand stone with a mixture of small hard stones of different sizes. It resembles an inverted funnel and is two hundred and fifty feet in height. The diameter at its base I would say was five hundred feet. It runs up say one hundred and twenty five feet to a point of forty when the chimney rises one hundred and twenty five feet more holding its size to the top. I was up it as high as the large part. The chimney I presume was never ascended above the large part. I saw many names written on it, some of which were familiar.

Like the Court House Rock it appears to be in a rapid state of decay. The rains are washing deep channels in many parts of it.

Large cracks are seen that extend from the summit near to the large part or basement and many large pieces have already slid or flaked off. Even the names that were written yesterday were nearly obliterated by the storm last night, and if I mistake not the famous Chimney Rock before many years will be among the things that were known in history, for I am very sure it cannot stand many years before large flakes will slide to the ground, if all does not come down in a general crash. I returned to the wagons and found the roads soft and heavy. We came near stalling several times and finally camped about four miles from the Rock on a little high prairie with good grass and water close at hand.

12th. This morning we got an early start. The roads were bad for several miles, the ground being low. The first objects that attracted my attention were five mounds extending from the bluffs towards the river, three large and two small ones. The large were round, the small square. One of them had every appearance of a brick kiln. I also discovered another Chimney Rock, but diminutive, however, in size compared with the rock of that name. But through this section of country we find mounds of every imaginable shape and size.

We at last found a good road and drove from twelve to fifteen miles and turned out for noon nearly opposite Scotts Bluffs, which are a cluster of mounds of unusual height and situated on the banks of the river. The road runs back of the bluffs and we have neither wood or water. The country south of us or rather the hills are covered with pine and cedar. The hills are two or three miles from us. I saw today several pieces of fine bacon thrown out where some one had encamped, also heard of another lot of bacon and some beans.

This has been a fine cool morning for oxen or we could not have driven the distance that we have. In the afternoon we had but just started when a heavy shower caused us to stop for a while; after the rain ceased we started into a valley that lay between two uneven bluffs. We followed the valley about eight miles and encamped near the head. The bluffs are covered with cedar and is a most beautiful place with good grass and water.

13th. At an early hour this morning we made a start for the bluff. We passed out of the valley at a kind of gap. We drove over a rolling prairie for about twelve miles and turned out at a slough or break. We had, however, to dig the banks before we could cross.

This morning we saw some of the peaks of the Rocky Mountains and some who had sharp eyes say they saw snow. The weather feels very much like it and I presume they were correct. Quantities of bacon, beans etc are still found on the way. Should the weather continue this cold, our thin or summer clothing will be a useless article, but we should be thankful for it, for it is fine for our oxen.

After spending an hour and a half for a nooning we drove about a mile to Horse Creek. It is forty or fifty yards wide and about six inches deep, on an average, with low banks. We then drove a few miles and came to a salt marsh on our right and a fine high prairie on the left. It extended a mile or two. There were several ponds or sloughs in the marsh. They were brackish. The road then leads over rolling prairie for several miles where we at last came over more near the Platte River, driving about ten miles this afternoon and more than twenty today.

I saw this evening soon after we came in sight of the river a ledge of fine building rock. I think it was lime stone. We encamped by the side of a fine creek of clear cool water and a good spring within forty feet of camp. The weather has moderated since morning and is now very pleasant and clear, but we have had rain almost every day or night for a week or more. I have passed some most excellent land today for agricultural purposes, if timber was only at a reasonable distance.

14th. This morning, rather reluctantly, we left our camp and good spring water. We drove about two miles and came near the bank of the river. The bottom was narrow but the road fine. We found timber scattered along for several miles. We passed several sand points running toward the river and what drew my attention was a point or so of rocks that came down in the same way. After them came the sand points again.

We also passed an island that had been well timbered but had been cut and taken away. We followed the bottom eight or ten miles when the road took up the hills where we drove two or three miles and stopped for dinner. As we were on the hill or bluff I rode to the edge and saw that the river was full of islands and those generally had small timber on them. I noticed also that the bottom on the other side had many dead trees standing on it. In the afternoon we soon left the hills. On arriving at the bottom I discovered scattering timber near the river.

Finding that our camp at noon was only eight miles from Fort Laramie we stopped after a drive of four miles near the banks of the Platte with good wood and grass.

15th. After a drive of three miles we came to the Laramie River where we raised our wagon beds by means of blocks and crossed the river dry. The river is one hundred and fifty yards wide and where we crossed four feet deep. It had raised from recent rains. The first object of note was Fort John, a short distance from the ford. It is an abandoned fort and from the appearance at the road was nothing but the bare walls which are made of unburnt brick called "dobaes."

One mile up the river and near the bank stands Fort Laramie. It is also made of the same kind of material as Fort John but is in tolerable good condition. It is one hundred and forty or fifty feet square and about two stories high. A row of buildings extends round the fort, the wall of the fort forming the outside or one side of the houses. It is now occupied by the American Fur Company. They have a store, blacksmith shop and some other shops all within the walls of the fort. Many emigrants have left their wagons or sold them here for five dollars but they cannot be bought from the fort men for less than from thirty to seventy-five according to quality. It is said that the government have or are about to purchase the fort to establish a military post here for the protection of emigrants and traders.

We remained at the fort two or three hours and drove out three miles and encamped on the Platte with wood, water and grass of fair quality. The destruction of property is immense. On the road from the fort I saw a good side saddle left, also a nearly new wagon cut to pieces near our camp. I saw a wagon—tolerable good but heavy—bacon, beans, stoves, chairs, iron wedges, crow bar, soap, lead, ovens and many other articles all laying about in the prairie. They could not use them and they could not carry them, and the only alternative was to leave them.

16th. This morning we got a late start owing to some of the steers being out. We followed the river two or three miles and took across the hill. It was an open rolling prairie with cedar or pine hills in plain view, but no appearance of water until we drove ten or twelve miles, where we found a fine spring about a quarter of a mile to the right of the road. It affords us as much water as Houses Spring of Jefferson County, Missouri. The water, however, was warm. We then drove up a valley where pine trees were scattered along hill sides and up a steep hill at the head of the valley. We then came into a rolling prairie until we came to a creek which we followed up about a mile and turned out. Wood and water plenty, grass only tolerable. We drove today over twenty miles.

17th. SUNDAY. It became necessary, Sunday as it is, to take a short drive this morning. We followed up the creek, on which we encamped last night, about four or five miles, where we found good wood, water and grass. The name of the creek is Laramie's Creek; Laramie's Peak is in fair view and I think that we will get to it tomorrow. It is one of the Rocky Mountains and is among the tall peaks.

18th. This day we have driven about twenty miles. In places the road was good. It is in the Black Hills and we expected bad road. We crossed a creek in fifteen miles and have just crossed another. We have passed during the day several springs. The water in this section is clear and cold. Pine is the principal timber but the grass is bad.

19th. Nothing but hills presented itself this morning for about thirteen miles. The country over which we traveled was nearly a barren waste, but the road, generally speaking, hilly as it was, cannot be surpassed by any road in the States; taking the natural ground into consideration, I think the best road that I ever saw. We at last arrived at the Labonte River. There we merely took a check but did not turn out the teams.

In the afternoon we drove five miles to Little Labonte. The first object of note was a ridge of mounds entirely of rock that extended to all appearances across our road, except a narrow gap which we expected the road ran through, but such was not the case. The road went to the right. I had the curiosity to look through the gap. I there saw mountains of various kinds. I also discovered that our road wound round, and that a gully was the cause of it not running through the gap. When we got round the mound the earth was red almost as blood. I soon saw a place that was white. I went to it and found it sounded hollow as I stepped on it. I also discovered that it was a kind of rock. I pulled up a piece of it and found it was white almost as snow and as light as a cork and some parts as open as a honey comb. It had the appearance of a volcanic eruption. I afterwards saw several places similar to it. I noticed also that many of the sides of the mountains were of different colors, mostly red.

We are now past Laramie's Peak and we saw the snow on the top for several days. I must have seen it for two hundred miles. The grass through here is bad. There is plenty of wild sage but that is bad food for cattle.

20th. Our route this morning was through the valley that contained the red earth. After we left it the ground was rolling

but not so bad as yesterday. I noticed some fine grass under a cleft of rocks and as my horse had not fared very sumptuously for the last twenty four hours I concluded to give him a bait. While he was eating I thought I would examine the ledge of rocks. I found it was composed of small pebbles with an occasional rock as large as an egg. They had the appearance of being cemented together and were quite solid but by striking on it with another rock they would crumble to pieces.

We drove about ten miles and turned out for noon. No wood, water and but little grass. We remained about an hour and then drove two or three miles to some springs; one was fresh water, the other tasted strong of sulphur. We crossed the branch again in a mile or so just below where three more springs broke out. We followed the branch a short distance and took to the hills. In traveling a mile or two we came to the river where we took in water for the night.

Soon after we started some buffalo were discovered. Five or six men started in pursuit. They made them run so fast that they run off. I then went onto one of the mountains near by. It was tolerable high but by no means the highest. I had a fine view for miles around. I could see the road that we came and the one that we had to go. There was no timber on it and it was covered with small stones of various colors but mostly black. I then took a near cut and struck the road as the wagons were forming a corral. Water we have with us, also wood, but the grass is rather bad. We can see plenty of timber on the high mountains around us, but none near.

This is a high rolling prairie that is the valley between the mountains. The air is pure and rather cool until late in the morning and it gets cool long before night. But we must recollect that we are now in the Rocky Mountains and that snow can be found on many of the mountains at no great distance from us. The rains that we had while on the plains have now ceased to fall. The ground is dry and the atmosphere is also dry and clear. I would remark that rains only fall at certain seasons of the year and where the grass is eaten or destroyed it does not grow anymore that year.

For the last few days we have traveled through the most barren country that we have seen since we left the States. Our cattle have suffered more for grass and their feet with the gravel in the last four days than they have on the balance of the journey, and it is not done with yet. Some of our men are fearful that one

half or more of the cattle will give out and that we will be forced to leave half the wagons, double team, lighten the loads and pursue our journey in that way.

I noticed several days before we arrived at Fort Laramie that an immense number of prickly pears were seen in almost every direction and of several different kinds. One kind that I noticed and the one I presume from which they took their name resembles a large pear sitting upon the large end with the stem up and on the top a most beautiful reddish flower. These pears are here seldom seen. A handsome scenery is in view of our camp at the foot of the mountain. In the southwest there is a straight level bench and on the edge is a handsome row of pine trees.

Now if Dr. M— should see this place he surely would build upon it, for the place is already fitted to suit his fancy and indeed it would suit the fancy of almost any one. This is quite a windy evening but it has not commonly blown as hard here as it did in the plains.

21st. In about two or three miles travel we came to a small creek; in two or three more we came to the Lafouche Bois and between nine and ten o'clock came once more to the North Fork of the Platte, having traveled eighty miles through hills and mountains pass. On arriving at the Platte instead of finding an abundance of green grass, we found the grass thin and nearly dry. We drove this forenoon eleven or twelve miles and turned out for dinner. After dinner we heard that a ferry was established near and we went up to see. We learned that eight hundred wagons were in waiting at the upper or Mormon ferry and that the cattle were dying there also. But we could not cross at the new ferry, but concluded to try and ferry it on a raft and with wagon beds. We therefore drove up to the place and commenced preparatory to cross on the morrow.

22nd. The 22nd. was a busy day. We obtained a raft ready-made and situated two of the best wagon beds and corked them, fitted them out with oars for boating. The raft was composed of four cottonwood logs with four binders strongly pinned to them. Thus equipped we commenced operations about nine o'clock in the morning. The river was three hundred yards wide and the boats and raft could make a trip in forty-five minutes, strong as the current was. The raft was towed up by oxen but the boats by manual labor for you may well suppose that a craft of that kind could not go straight across.

When we commenced crossing with the boats a company of

us swim the cattle over except the four yoke we kept for towing purposes. And a little after sunset we landed the last of the goods on the north side of the river. A few men, however, were left that stopped to swim the towing steers. I was among them which made it about dark when we got across. And just as I expected, everything was in confusion.

My goods were in one place, my wagons in another, tent in another; the cattle were scattered; and the horse to take out some distance and picket out—and it was just about dark when we landed, and we very much fatigued, after such a day's labor. But we succeeded in getting things a little together and about eleven o'clock crept into our wagons and soon fell in a sound sleep. But in the evening there was a fire—one just below the wagons on the opposite bank. A tree was on fire and burnt rapidly. In the mountains south we could plainly see a number of signal fires made by the Indians (we are now among the Crows) to call a council or something of the kind and then up and down and across the river were the fires of the emigrants.

23rd. This morning we got a very late start. Our wagons were to load and our loading to gather together, besides having to hunt oxen and do many other things that I have not time to write. However we started about ten o'clock and found the road not as good as we could wish. We have had several hills to pull up and then sand hills, besides finding considerable sand on the level, but I saw one place that drew my attention. It was where the road ran into the river bottom. The road ran next to the bluff, and between the road and river there were two rows of willow trees, one large, the other small. The large were next to the river, but what drew my attention was, they were perfectly straight and the rows were near half a mile in length.

We drove about six miles and then turned out to rest with only tolerable grass. After resting an hour or two we made a start and found the roads very sandy and hilly. We drove five or six miles more and turned out for the night, having wood and tolerable grass. I notice the prickly pears have yellow blossoms, instead of red, through this section.

24th. SUNDAY. This morning we got an early start, and considerable sand although we had some good road and passed some of the finest grass that I have seen since we left the States. We passed the upper ferry, called the Mormon Ferry, about ten o'clock and made our noon about two miles above. We have driven about twelve miles this morning, but have little or no grass,

no wood and river water. In the afternoon we drove but a short distance when the road ran over the hill. It was a long one, tolerable steep and very sandy and may be set down as the hardest hill to pull up between this place and St. Jo. We soon returned to the river and came to the old ferry.

It appears that the Mormons have removed the ferry a few miles lower down that the emigrants may cross and leave the grass unmolested for their Mormon friends. We then left the Platte for the hills and drove three or four miles and encamped. Grass tolerable, wood (wild sage) water—none. We passed a mile or more from the river two alkali lakes which we could not use. The dust has been very bad for several days, the ground extremely dry but it is now cloudy and looks much like rain. We have seen and passed today on both sides of the river two or three hundred wagons, but we have had hard work for Sunday.

25th. Just as the sun was rising we started on our journey. The road ran over a rolling prairie; thin grass and no timber, but not as much sand as yesterday. In about ten miles' travel we came to some red bluffs, and soon after a sulphur spring where we stopped for breakfast. In the afternoon we drove thirteen miles over the most barren country that I have seen lately. We also passed several springs, some of alkali, some of sulphur and one of good water, in about ten miles from our nooning. We encamped about one mile below Willow Spring and near the spring branch. We had no good water, no wood but wild sage and almost no grass at all. Saw quite a number of dead cattle, caused by drinking poisoned water.

26th. Left camp about sunrise; came to Willow Spring and got water there; drove seven or eight miles over a kind of barren and turned off to the left onto a creek to feed. In the afternoon we drove twelve miles, within two miles of Independence Rock. It is a rock about one thousand feet long and one hundred or more high. It is of an oval shape.

27th. This morning we crossed Sweetwater Creek about one mile above the Rock. Saw many names on the Rock. I had not time to go onto it. One of my steers was sick and as soon as I saw the team over Sweetwater went back to see him. He was dead. I then returned and followed the train. In about six miles I came to the Devil's Gate, which is a gap in the mountains where Sweetwater passes through. The rock is said to be four hundred feet high. It is solid rock. The road runs through another gap to the left, but the rock is not perpendicular like the

gate. I saw a great many steers lying dead by the way. We have now lost four in our train. We drove about fifteen miles and encamped on Sweetwater. The whole earth appears filled with alkali.

28th. We have traveled up the Sweetwater most of the morning. We took one cut-off and are now at noon back on the banks of the river again. The roads were sandy this morning for a few miles but are now good. We have seen snow all the morning on the left of the road. It is, of course, on the range of mountains. The mountains are of rock and some are very high. The report of a gun quite astonished me. The first report was normal but the echo resembled loud thunder. In the afternoon we drove six miles and encamped on the river about one mile from the road with good grass and water—wood scarce except sage.

29th. We drove six miles and came to a ford but understanding that the next ford was a foot deeper, we took the left hand road and drove eight or ten miles through heavy sand without water and very little grass. We encamped again on the river about a mile above what they call the Devil's Road. It has the appearance of a wagon road running up the point of the mountain.

We have been in sight of snow during the morning on our left and also have a fair view of the Wind Mountains which appear covered with snow. The alkali still is found on the river bottom in small quantities. We have not seen as many dead cattle today as formerly. Yesterday we passed twenty-five. This has been a very warm day in the valley, hot enough almost to melt a person; and any quantity of snow in sight may appear strange—nevertheless is true. We passed some mountains on the left today that were well timbered. The sight of a forest, although at a distance, reminds one of Missouri. In the afternoon we drove four miles and encamped on the river—grass not very good—sage for wood. Thermometer stood one hundred and two in the wagon.

30th. This forenoon we drove sixteen miles, there being no water as the road left the river. We passed the Ice Springs about midway of the distance where we found clear ice by digging from fifteen to twenty inches. The roads have been good but the country barren. As we came near the river we saw a grave that had been robbed by the wolves. Whose it was I could not learn. The ford we crossed at was called the Fifth Crossing, although it was our third. In the afternoon we drove about four miles and crossed the river twice. We encamped directly of

crossing the last time. Most of the teams are now making a rush for the South Pass, distance thirty-six miles. Two hundred and fifty teams are within eight or ten miles behind and near five hundred between here and Fort Laramie. It is said there are about eight or ten hundred ahead of us.

JULY 1st. SUNDAY. This morning we followed Sweetwater about five miles. The weather was warm and bid fair to be a warm day, but after driving that distance the road led up the mountain, called Sweetwater Mountain. We ascended through long hills and then took up a valley that led towards the mountains that were covered with snow. We drove about sixteen miles and encamped on Strawberry Creek, first rate water and no appearance of alkali. The wind rose soon after we struck the valley above and it now is uncomfortably cold at three o'clock in the afternoon. We expected to drive a few miles further today but the oxen were rather tired and we concluded to remain the balance of the day.

Some of the men, in hunting wood, discovered a lot of snow near our camp. The distance being short, I went to see it. It was about two hundred yards or perhaps more from camp and up the creek. The bank was near two hundred feet long, from thirty to sixty wide and from one to five deep. I then went a little further into a grove of the shaking aspen. It was a very handsome place situated at the foot of a mountain or high cliff of rocks or rather between the creek and mountain. I noticed the appearance of a road once having been cut through the grove, something like twenty feet wide.

JULY 2nd. After driving a few miles this morning, we came to a creek and on the bank was a large bank of snow, supposed to be seven feet deep. We soon came to another creek and once more, and for the last time, crossed the Sweetwater; and immediately after crossing, the road led up a steep hill. We drove a mile or two and turned out for dinner. I have seen a large quantity of snow today, and wind blowing very hard makes it extremely hard. Almost every one have found their overcoats comfortable. We are now within seven or eight miles of the South Pass.

This afternoon we, as we thought, drove about the distance to the South Pass and came to a place that answered the description given in books of the Pass. The wind blew very hard and the dust was terrible; and we took a right hand road and soon came again to Sweetwater where we encamped for the night.

The wind continued to blow so hard that it was attended with much difficulty to cook. The water in the river is nearly as cold as ice water and has no bad taste. As I sit in the wagon and write I can see a mountain in front, well capped with snow. The weather has been so cold that I have worn my overcoat all day.

3rd. This was a cold morning and we did not start until late. In two miles we drove through the South Pass. It is nothing more in appearance than a small ridge. We drove to the Pacific Spring and encamped for the night.

4th. JULY. Yesterday morning was cold, but it did not compare with this morning. The ice this morning was more than half an inch thick. I went to the bucket of water to dip out some. I took hold of the tin cup handle and raised the bucket that was half full of water. We drove this morning fourteen miles to the forks of the road and through a perfect barren country. Nothing can be seen but wild sage. There is neither wood, water or grass at the camp. In the afternoon we drove five or six miles to Little Sandy. We have little grass scattered among the wild sage, but it is very thin.

Since we left the States we used water that ran within seven miles of home, until last night, when we drank and used the water that feeds the broad Pacific. The streams have altered their course and run a western course. This has been a more pleasant day than yesterday. It has been comfortably warm. We have, however, been much troubled with dust.

5th. This morning we drove sixty-two miles in Sublette's or Greenwood's Cut-off to Big Sandy where we encamped until evening to go, or take, the thirty-five mile stretch. Big Sandy is near as large as Maramec. Poor country and no wood, but two miles below the ford tolerable grass.

6th. Last evening at half past five o'clock we started across from Big Sandy to Green River and arrived at Green River between three and four o'clock, and instead of the distance being thirty-five miles as Mr. Ware, in his guide calls it, it is fifty-one and three-quarters miles from one river to the other. The first part of the road is good but the last is bad enough to make it up. The dust was terrible and one hill that we came down was long and very bad. We had to drive down ledges of rocks that were two feet perpendicular. It was the Green River Mountain or bluff of Green River.

On our arrival the first thing to be done was to make arrangements for crossing. We found it too high for fording and the

ferry man only charged us seven dollars for setting my wagon across the celebrated Green River, a stream not as large as the Maramec. Of all the poor countries that I have seen this is certainly the poorest. There is little or no grass, no timber—water scarce, but high wind and dust in abundance.

7th. Between three and five o'clock we crossed the river, and about the same time swum the cattle over. We found on the west side several half-breed Indians—traders. They bought and sold at their own price. Alkali is still abundant and we find more or less stock lying dead every day, some from the effect of the poisoned water, others hard driving. We sent our cattle up a ravine where we found tolerable good grass; wood very scarce.

SUNDAY—8th. This morning we gathered up the stock for another start. We drove but a few miles before we came to a hill or mountain and then again into a valley and then another hill. I saw snow that appeared lower down than we were, but it was at a distance. We drove about eight or ten miles and encamped on a rapid running stream, three rods wide with good grass but no wood, but willow.

Green willow switches make as poor a fire as anything I ever tried. Buffalo chips are bad enough but willow is worse. Wild sage is good. I had as soon have wild sage for a fire as the common wood used in Missouri. Green or dry it burns well and we often find it of good size; as large or larger than my arm. After having encamped for so long a time on the barrens and in the sand, we find it quite a luxury to encamp once more on the green grass and more especially in as handsome a valley and by as fine a creek as this.

9th. This morning we were under way at the usual time and drove up Ham's Fork of Green River or Fontinell's Fork about four miles. We passed a place where they were burying a man by the name of Merrill, of Lexington, Missouri, that was killed by a wagon. We also passed a train of U. S. Troops going to Bear River to build a fort. After that we took to the mountains and traveled through dust ten miles more and encamped by a creek near some pine and poplar trees. Grass and water tolerable good.

About one-fourth of our men are on the sick list, and there is much complaint among the trains generally about sickness. We see considerable snow on the sides of the mountains, and what appears singular is to see cattle and horses feeding within a few feet of a snow bank, and that on good grass. The mountain peaks are not high, but snow at this season of the year goes to

show we are on ground that is very high. We see much of human nature on a trip of this kind; hardly a day passes that a train does not split or a division takes place. In a measure the like has occurred several times in our train. In starting we had more than twenty wagons. It is now reduced to eight.

10th. In consequence of our sick folks we made a late start this morning. The road was hilly at first: it might with propriety be called mountainous, for we went down several hills at which we had to lock both wheels, but after driving five or six miles, it became more level. We crossed several ravines that had some water, but not very good. We at last encamped where the road takes the hill, which we presume is the ridge dividing the waters of the Bear and Green Rivers, and near a branch of first rate cold water. The spring must be near at hand. We have been in sight of snow most of the day. It is not as plentiful, however, as it was near the South Pass. We have driven about sixteen miles and have good grass, wood and water.

11th. This morning we started over the ridge of mountains and crossed what we suppose was the fork of the Bear River. We then came up a long and steep hill where on our left we could see mountains that were high and covered with snow. It also could be seen in every direction. We followed a ridge several miles and came to two graves about three hundred yards apart. We stopped to noon between them. A valley runs off to the right of the road, and round the left hand point we found a spring of fine water. In the afternoon we followed the ridge up by a spring and a grove of shaking aspen trees and during the afternoon went through a most beautiful grove of pine, the first timber that we have driven through for many days or weeks. After that we again struck the prairie and followed the ridge to the edge of a mountain where the road took down. It must have been three or four miles to the foot of it. However, we at last arrived and encamped in a small valley near a creek of fine water, with sage for wood and good grass at the distance of a mile or so from camp. Distance traveled eighteen miles.

12th. This morning we drove up a hill and down a mountain, a long and steep one. We then struck a valley which led us to Bear River, a very handsome valley where we encamped. The grass is fine and alkali abundant. Traveled about ten miles. The water in the wash pan was frozen so hard this morning that it could be turned over without losing its contents.

13th. We left our alkali camp this morning and made our way back to the road again which we found good for five miles. We then crossed three creeks and passed through a gap or between two high mountains; the one on the left was clay; the one on the right was rock and I think was about five hundred feet high. The rock resembled cakes of ice sitting on their edges. We then followed the bottom of Bear River and near the bluffs. Bear River is not as large as the Maramec, that is not as wide, but deeper. We drove this morning about eight miles and stopped for dinner near the river with wood and good grass for our cattle.

The air in this country appears close and is hard to breathe, and the higher we go the more close the air appears to be. It may be good for weak lungs but it certainly is very hard on them if they are very weak. Violent exercise here would almost force an emigrant to faint, the difficulty of breathing would be so great. This afternoon we followed Bear River Valley a few miles and there took up the valley of another creek. We drove up this valley to get a good crossing. We got to the creek and encamped. We passed this afternoon two springs, one fresh water, the other sulphur, both very cold water. The mountains on both sides of this valley are high but the highest are on the right hand side. This is a very level, handsome valley and three or four miles wide. We have driven about twenty miles today. The country through which we are traveling appears to be but little known. I cannot learn the names of the creeks from books or from men.

14th. JULY. We started a little after sunrise and crossed the creek or river, and soon began our trip over the mountain. It was not very steep, but long. We then wound round in the valleys for a few miles, then went through a narrow gap but just wide enough to admit of a wagon passing, and soon after commenced our descent to Bear River again. The descent was both steep and long. We drove until we came to a bend in the river where we encamped for the night, making our day's travel about eight miles. We encamped near some Indians. They have commenced visiting our camp and we have but just encamped.

15th. SUNDAY. For the first time since we left St. Joseph we rested on Sunday, or rather rested our teams. The cause of it was that one of the men that belonged to Tindall's wagon was very sick and he could not stand travel. Soon after breakfast was over Mr. Smith, a mountaineer, came to our camp. Soon after several other persons called in and if I am not mistaken

they had a jolly day of it. As for myself, it was wash day with me. Several gangs of Indians called during the day, the more especially about meal time. These Indians appear to be well off. They are well clad and have large gangs of horses. Some of our men have caught some mountain trout, but they do not bite free. I have not eaten any of them. They are said, however, to be very firm. Bay, our sick man, is not better this evening.

16th. Bay, the sick man, is no better, consequently we are forced to lay by today. Smith, the mountaineer, was down again today and some of our men went home with him to dinner. I had an invitation, but could not conveniently leave. I am told he has a comfortable house, cooking stove, hogs, cattle, cats and also a churn and to complete his equipage, a squaw for a wife. Smith has but one leg and is quite fleshy, a little taller, but very much resembles Esq. White of Bonhomme Township. He is fond of company and treats them on the best he has and in great abundance, almost to wastefulness. He is about fifty-five years of age and has been in the mountains over twenty years and appears as happy as a lord. His squaw is about sixteen, rather bulky than otherwise. She has one child, a boy, and a spoiled child.

17th. The sick man, Bay, is very little better. He is unable to be moved. Titus is sick today and we are still laying by. The cattle are getting in fine order, but our camping ground is nearly eaten out and the water is not very good. Friend Smith and the Indians visit us every day, but there is considerable dissatisfaction in camp on account of our laying by. I think we will start tomorrow. Our trip is a laborious one. We are getting very tired, but when the roads are good and we are not troubled with dust, the variety of scenery and natural curiosities serves in a great measure to blunt the fatigue and hardships of our trip. We were all willing to lay by and take a rest, but are now equally as willing to again start on our journey.

We are fearful that the grass will become scarce on the Humboldt River and many other places, although Mr. Smith says we are ahead of the time that emigrants usually pass. Mr. Smith says the snow remains on the mountains throughout the year, but that it goes off in the valleys in April or May when the grass puts up and soon furnishes an abundance of food for the stock. I am sure I would not like to spend a winter in these mountains. Game is becoming very scarce. The principal kinds are mountain sheep, antelope and some black tail deer. Occasionally they kill a white bear. The buffalo have left.

18th. Our invalid was considered able to travel this morning and we started at a late hour. We drove about four miles down the Bear River Valley and passed considerable timber, cottonwood and willow. The willow in this country grows to be a large tree. We then took up a small valley or rather one not so large as Bear River Valley and followed it to its head. We crossed several fine creek and passed two or three excellent springs of clear, cold water. When we struck the valley the hills were very high and had a good quantity of pine timber on them. The valley was a most beautiful one. It was not so wide but in other respects could compare with the Big Platte Valley, when we came into it. I think the soil was superior to the Platte Valley. We drove to where the valley took to the left, where we found a fine spring of water a little distance from the road. Good grass and plenty of wood where we encamped for the night, after traveling twenty good long miles.

19th. This morning we got an early start and found the road ran over several hills and across several ravines. We crossed some creeks, which were generally bad to cross: the banks were steep and some of them muddy. We came to the river in about four miles and followed it the balance of the day. We came to the Soda or Beer Springs about three o'clock. There are several of them and each appears to have its own temperature and flavor. I did not see them all; those that I saw boiled like a pot. Some were warmer than others and some sour, while others had a sweetish taste. We drove a mile or so beyond the springs and encamped on the river with good grass and some wood, tolerable convenient. For two days we have had no noon spell, which is something that I object to, both on account of men and cattle. Both become fatigued and hungry, and not only that, we do the work in the heat of the day. Drove today about sixteen miles.

20th. In two or three miles from our camp the road left Bear River. After a few miles travel we came to another Beer Springs. It did not boil like the others but was rather sour. It tasted like the bottled soda of St. Louis shops. We had rather a rough road: a great many rocks in it in places. In the afternoon we came to a kind of swamp: both water and grass is said to be poison. We drove two or three miles further and encamped on a creek with good grass, water and wood. Traveled today about twenty miles.

21st. We followed the creek, on which we camped, to its head, which was in the mountain. The road for the most part was good but the creeks were very bad to cross, the banks being bad and

the creeks sometimes muddy. We drove until about two o'clock and stopped to noon but had no water and poor grass. In the afternoon we soon got to the summit and commenced our descent but found no water until we got well down the mountain, where on the left of the road we found one of the best springs I ever saw. The water was abundant, clear, cold and pleasant tasting. There we all took a hearty drink and filled our vessels. We then drove on and crossed the branch several times, the crossings being universally bad. We soon struck a small valley where we encamped for the night with wood, water and grass. Our drive today has been twelve or fourteen miles.

22nd. This morning we started at the usual time. We had rather a rough road for some miles. We crossed a creek that the banks were two feet high and so bad we thought best to dig it down. We followed the creek half the day. Soon after we crossed the creek it had the appearance of going under the hill, but it did not—it ran through a gap. We at last came to the Port Neuf bottom or a large bottom that we suppose to be that, and stopped for dinner near the creek that we had followed. In the afternoon we left the creek and took through the valley that was covered with sage. It was a long dry and sandy road but we got out of the sand and to water before sundown. We encamped by a creek with good grass and wood. Traveled today about seventeen miles, and all hands perfectly willing to stop at any place where water could be got, the fatigue has been so great.

23rd. About ten o'clock we arrived at Fort Hall, which I found was built of mud bricks and was one hundred feet square. It was one story high, except the corners which were higher, the wall forming the outside of the rooms, which extended round. It is still occupied by the N. W. Fur Company. I saw one or two field fenced in with rails. Several Indian lodges stand about the fort. The ground that the fort stands on is very level. We drove about eight miles and crossed the Port Neuf where we encamped. (After resting an hour we started again. Soon finding that the grass was not likely to be good, we encamped for the night, making our drive about fifteen miles today.) . . . The above was a mistake; it should have been seventeen.

24th. Three miles from Port Neuf we came to the Pannack River. It is a clear stream one hundred and twenty yards wide and four or five inches deeper than was convenient for our wagon beds. Soon after we crossed the Pannack, we came to a slough that we had to brush before we could safely cross it. The mud

in the slough was as deep as the river. We then continued down the valley of Snake or Lewis River throughout the day. We traveled on the second bench or bottom and over a country that grew nothing but wild sage, but it produced a quantity of dust. We drove six or seven miles when the road ran near the river and we stopped to noon.

In the afternoon we took our station on the second bench among the sage and dust and soon came to a creek. It, like most of the creeks through here, was deep and muddy and had steep banks. We then took to the dust and sage again and followed it until the sun was about an hour high when the road ran near the river, where we found grass and water but no wood. Distance traveled, fifteen or sixteen miles. Last night the mosquitoes were more numerous than I have ever seen them and as hungry as wolves. They were not as large as they were further east, but they made it up in numbers.

25th. After a drive of about four miles we came to the falls of Lewis River. They are worthy of note. The fall of water is from fifty to sixty feet, not perpendicular but from bench to bench until the last where the fall is nearly perpendicular and forms a rainbow. On the right hand side, the fall appeared greater, but the rocks in the river prevented a fair view of the opposite side. The river is about two hundred yards wide, and at the falls foamed like soap suds. The last fall was about twenty feet. I noticed a riffle about a mile above, also some distance below. After passing the fall a few miles, we came to a small creek, sufficiently large, however, to turn a mill, and I have no recollections of ever seeing a better mill seat, the falls was so great. In crossing the banks were steep but the bottom hard.

One wagon broke a king bolt at this place. We drove a mile or two and stopped for dinner. If it is a blessing, we have plenty of dust, mosquitoes and wild sage. To walk in the road the dust is over shoe deep—to walk in the sage is like walking among rough bushes, and the mosquitoes annoy us both day and night. Snow is not as plentiful as formerly. I can see a small quantity of snow from the wagon at this time, but for the last few days we have often been out of sight of it. In the afternoon the road soon led to, or near the river.

The place where we neared it was worthy of note. It passed through the mountain. It seemed to have opened to let the river pass there, being high cliffs on each side. I went over one of them while the wagons went round on the west side. The rocks were

black and appeared to have been almost melted. It is, no doubt, the effect of some volcanic eruption. The road passed through several ravines. They were very steep, and a great many holes were worn in the road, especially on the hills. The road then led through the mountain like the river. There was a place for it and rocks on each side.

The river on whose bank we have traveled today has been falls or rapids most of the distance that we have traveled. There has been no low bottom, consequently no grass. Grass and wild sage do not grow well together. There is no timber through this country. We pass, occasionally, some cedar bushes, but they are small. We drove until the road came to the river and encamped, being in sight of the gap in the mountain. We have traveled today about fifteen miles and have river water, wild sage and poor grass.

26th. Some few days since, our company came to the conclusion that they would dispense with the cattle guard and it appeared to answer, but this morning five only were in sight of camp. Five more were soon found and by sending men in all directions twenty one more were driven in. We waited for the balance of the men to return but in vain. Five or six more of us started again. We had not got a mile from camp when we met the captain on his return. He said he could find the cattle, that he had tracked them about four miles but was of the opinion that an Indian had driven them off for they appeared to be in a string, and followed one after the other, and that he plainly saw the track of a horse or of a person with shoes; also the tracks were running back from the river into the mountains, and as he had neither gun nor pistols he thought it best to return to camp for help. We immediately returned to camp and all that could be spared and could bear arms started on the expedition, thinking it highly probable that we should have a skirmish. We had not traveled more than a mile when we saw on the mountain before us the lost cattle coming toward us.

The mystery is soon explained: the cattle followed a large brindle steer, as a leader, that was, by the by, a great rambler. That shows why they were in a single file; as regards the moccasin track, one of the men had on a pair of moccasins and found the trail and followed before the captain and left the mark of his feet. The cattle soon came up and we returned to camp well satisfied to get our cattle without traveling thirty or forty miles and perhaps then have to fight for them. We started about ten o'clock and had a rough road through sloughs that were bad and

after a drive of four miles came to Fall River. It was not large but had high and steep banks. We then came three miles further and the road left the river. We then drove seven or eight miles where we came to a muddy creek and encamped for the night, having tolerable grass and sage for wood, by going half a mile for it. The cattle were found six or eight miles from camp.

27th. The creek on which we encamped last night is thought by some to be Raft River. The road ran up the creek and we followed until noon. There appeared to be a road that ran toward Lewis River that we supposed to be the Oregon Road. Passed two graves today, a man and a woman, one buried in '46, the other in '47. I exchanged the fore wheels of the wagon this morning. We have driven about ten miles this morning and have good grass. The grass is good only in places, the wild sage occupied most of the ground. The dust has been very bad, and the weather warm. After resting an hour, we started again but finding that the grass was not likely to be good, we drove a short distance and encamped for the night, making our drive today about fifteen miles.

For the last few days we have had a great deal of wind. The ground is dry as ashes and we are forced to travel in a cloud of dust. Our persons, our wagons and everything about us is covered with dust. Water is not plentiful and is warm and bad tasting. Good grass can only be found at times, so that this part of our journey is anything but pleasant, but the worst is still to come. Grass, when we strike the Humboldt, we are told will be very scarce and the water not so good as this and in many places none at all.

But this is borrowing trouble and I will stop and take a view of the other side. Our cattle are in fair order, our men are mostly in good health and we have a plenty to eat at present and are about two weeks ahead of the time that emigrants generally pass this place, and if no bad luck happens we will, in thirty five or forty days, reach the land that is said to abound in gold now, if, the reports are true and we can reach the place in safety and have common luck, we will be liberally compensated for our toils.

28th. We followed up the Raft River, as we suppose it to be, this forenoon past a small spring on the side of the mountain and came to where Hudspeth's Cut-Off came into this road again. The cut-off took out soon after we left Beer Springs; those who took it have not gained very much on us. The road today has been tolerable and we have not been troubled so much with dust.

We have come ten miles this morning. This afternoon we drove until we came to a place where we suppose the road leaves the river and finding good grass we encamped for the night, making our drive today about fifteen miles. This afternoon the wind has blown very hard and the dust consequently bad in proportion to the wind.

29th. SUNDAY. We took the ridge this morning and left Raft River. The rise was very gradual, the descent equally so. Our road after that was level but had several muddy places to cross, something like small creeks that had spread and made a kind of slash. The road was rather crooked. We drove ten or twelve miles and encamped for noon on a small creek, grass tolerable. Last night, after we encamped, another of my oxen died. He was in fine order this morning.

I saw a plenty of frost in the valley and snow on the mountain; and the night was so cold that I lay under a thick comforter, a counterpane and blanket and was a little cold. If the last of July requires that quantity of clothing, I do not know what one would need in January. In the afternoon we followed the valley about two miles when the road took through a gap in the mountain. It was narrow but wide enough for a road. We went round one peak and found that the new road from the Salt Lake entered ours about this time.

The curiosities began to appear. Our entrance into the mountain reminded me of the walls of a city and the many singular shaped rocks of ancient castles, towns etc. The road wound round them and they continued near four miles. They were in almost every imaginable shape. One large round one I noticed had a large cave that projected over sufficiently for one to take shelter under and had a kind of cupola or belfry. Another had a portico similar to a house; some were nearly square. I noticed at the edge of the basin (for I knew of no better name to give it) that there stood a number of small steeples, from ten to fifty feet in height. The mountains around were high and points of rocks pointed still higher. After we got through the rocks, we passed a handsome valley and passed out at another gap on the opposite side. This ridge was a ridge of rocks and had several gaps that a wagon might pass through. We then drove on in quest of water. We drove until dark and encamped without water, wood or anything but grass. I understand that the above named rocks are called Steeple Rock, which I think an appropriate name.

30th. When we got back to the road this morning, a distance of near two miles, we found a good spring. We then drove about two miles further and took over the hills to Goose Creek. They were hills indeed, both long and steep. We passed several springs during the day. They were small but the water was good. We nooned at one of these springs, but did not turn out our cattle. In the afternoon we went over another hill and came to Goose Creek. As we came into the valley I noticed a round mound with the top flat but sloping. The top had cedar bushes on it, the sides were bare and a small stream was running near the foot of it. We then drove two miles up the creek and encamped for the night near the creek with small willow for wood and tolerable grass. We had another frost this morning; traveled today fifteen miles.

31st. We followed Goose Creek this forenoon. The creek is about one rod wide and eight or ten inches deep. The valley is narrow but has spots of good grass; a great many good camping places on it. The creek forks eight or ten miles from where we struck it. We took the left and stopped for noon a mile or two above. Several horses were lost last night and I fear they were stolen. I saw ice this morning. There is some fine fish in this creek. In the afternoon we followed up the creek and passed some warm springs. The water, in one, was as warm as I would like to drink coffee. We encamped on the creek with good grass, but no wood. Drove today about sixteen miles.

AUGUST 1st. In about two miles we came to a gap in the mountain, which we followed by the side of the creek on which we lay last night. The gap was narrow at first, but became wider and contained some grass. We followed the creek two or three miles in the mountain and left it, I know not where or when. We drove across the hills fourteen Mormon miles and came to a spring at the right of the road at the point of a hill, where we watered our stock and rested an hour. There was no grass but a plenty sagewood in abundance from the time we left the valley of the creek. In the afternoon we drove about five miles and encamped in the same valley where some one had sunk a hole and found water that was muddy but cool, about four feet deep. The grass was tolerable; no wood, not even sage. Traveled about twenty two miles.

AUGUST 2nd. We were late in starting this morning, in consequence of our cattle being scattered for miles up and down the valley, the name of which is Hot Springs Valley. We at last found all but eleven when we drove on to a spring two miles

distant. Before we arrived at the spring nine were found and brought in, the other two we found on the road eight or ten miles, in the hands of a man who said he thought the owner was ahead.

After watering our cattle at the spring we started on our journey. In eight miles we found some bad water but did not stop long. We then drove near eight miles further and stopped for the night with good grass, no wood, but water for stock, and got water for use by digging. We were indebted to Mr. John Hutson for digging a well, which we gave the name of Hutson's well.

3rd. We left the well at an early hour, the cattle being guarded close at hand. We followed the Hot Springs Valley eight miles and came to the Springs. There was a dozen or more small springs and all of them nearly boiling hot. They smelt very strong of sulphur and the branch was filled with a sediment that resembled rusty iron. About one hundred yards above was a fine cool spring and very deep. The water, however, was a little brackish. We drove about a mile and stopped for noon with fine grass and water, but no wood. In the afternoon we followed the hollow to its head and found tolerable water and grass and sage for wood. Our drive today has been sixteen or seventeen miles. Hardly a day passes that we do not pass more or less dead cattle, horses or mules and sometimes see all of them in one day. We also see some cattle that have been left from lameness or poison and other sickness.

4th. We got an early start this morning and drove over a ridge or so and then struck a valley where the road forked. We took the right and followed it a few miles and encamped near a creek of fine water. It is said to be a tributary of Humboldt River. The grass is fine, but wood is scarce. It had very much the appearance of rain this morning and we heard thunder during the day, but it finally cleared off without any. The ground is extremely dry and the dust almost suffocates one near the road. We have driven about eight miles today and laid by the balance of the day to rest the teams, wash, repair wagons etc.

5th. SUNDAY. Yesterday when we came to the forks of the road, John Sutton was ahead of the train and took the left hand road and did not get to the train last night. In consequence of his absence we did not start this morning, for it often happens that a person lost from his train has trouble in finding it again. This is the second Sunday that we did not travel since we left St. Joseph. Our men have scattered throughout the country;

some are hunting, some are fishing and some have been hunting John and a few of us have been laying about camp.

The hunters have killed some hares and birds; the fishermen have caught some fine mountain trout. They are fine indeed in color. They resemble salmon, being of a yellow cast and the water being cold and clear, they have a fine flavour and are hard. A large number of wagons are passing us, but our cattle are resting as well as our men and all will be in better condition for traveling by laying by on Sunday. We had a small shower today, or rather a sprinkle of rain, something that is uncommon in this country—to have rain at this season of the year.

AUGUST 6th. Sutton returned last evening, after being absent from the train two days, consequently this morning we were enabled to pursue our journey. Our cattle were well rested and traveled fine. The road for two or three miles was good. We then struck the canyon that we had to pass through. We crossed the creek eight or nine times and some of the crossings were bad. A portion of the road through the canyon was very rocky, so taking it altogether it was far from being a good carriage road. The distance through was about three miles. We then drove about three miles further and stopped for noon.

I notice south of us a high mountain, partially covered with snow, which is something that I did not expect to see until we arrived at the Sierra Nevada. We had fine grass, good water and willow wood. As we were coming through the canyon, I saw one wagon turned over and a cart that had been broken down. The cart was abandoned, the wagon was broken but was being repaired.

I hear about this time of a great number of horses being stolen. One was taken but a short distance from our camp. It is laid to the Indians and probably is, but I think some white men may be at the head of it. Horses are very valuable here. A good horse in order would bring one hundred and fifty dollars and a pony that could be bought in the States for twenty five would here bring seventy five or one hundred dollars.

In passing through the above named canyon, I saw a tolerable large warm spring. It was the handsomest that I ever saw, the bottom was gravel and about as warm as a person would like water to bathe their feet, and perfectly clear. It was sufficiently large for a person to bathe all over. In the afternoon, we followed the valley which contained spots of fine grass and some of sage. We also passed a good spring of cold water and encamped for

the night on the creek near a spring with an abundance of good grass, but no wood except such sage as we brought along and some willow that we could pick up about the branch. The fish that are caught are very fine. They are mountain trout, chubs, gilders etc. We have had several fine messes and I think I hear some frying for supper.

We are now coming into the Digger Indian country. They are said to be a bad Indian and that they steal horses and cripple cattle so that they cannot be driven, when they get the meat for beef. We have driven today fourteen or fifteen miles.

7th. After a drive of three miles we came to the fork of the road, or rather where the roads came together. We followed the stream, being the one that led through the canyon during the morning, but about twelve o'clock we came to and crossed another stream that is larger than the one that we have followed. It is said to be the north fork of the Humboldt. It is about one rod wide but shallow. After crossing we stopped for noon, having made a drive of twelve miles this morning. The grass has been good since we came into this valley. It is wild rye and several kinds of coarse grass. Our cattle eat it well, but it is not as good for them as finer grasses. I see a large quantity of wild flax but the cattle do not appear to like it.

Snowcapped mountains are still in view. In the afternoon about starting time news came round that Bassett was sick and that we would lay by until morning. We dislike laying by for several reasons. We are all anxious to get through and prepare for winter; also that grass is daily becoming more scarce as trains pass us and use it up; and another that there is a possibility of our being caught in the snow should we be forced to lay by much more; and another reason is that butter, milk, fruit and vegetables are luxuries that we are deprived of.

Horses and mules continue to be stolen almost daily. Six were taken last night from the ground on which we are encamped. One of the mules was regained. They were taken about three hours before daylight. It is said to be four miles to the Humboldt, St. Mary's or Ogden's River (it being known by all three names) where it is necessary to keep a close watch on everything that we have. I am almost certain that white men commit depredations on the credit of the Indians, for the horse that was taken from our train a week or so ago passed this place last evening driven or led by a white man and bound for California, but it is doubtful whether the owner ever gets him for we have not a

horse in the train that is fit to ride on a trip of the kind and the man that owned him left the train this morning, although he was informed of his horse having passed this place last night.

Wood continues very scarce through this country. I have no recollection of having seen a tree of any size since we left Fort Hall. We see bushes along the creek in places and sometimes small ones on the hills, but no trees. I think a sage bush is the largest bush that we have passed for near two weeks. How Mr. Benton intends propelling his locomotive when he gets his railroad completed is more than I can say, for it will certainly be a tedious business to gather sage, for it is short and hard to cut, but when provided would answer a better purpose than anything else that I have seen for the last two hundred miles. However I presume that when that is completed they will load a car or two with fuel and not attempt to procure it in such places as this.

8th. AUGUST. We have followed the larger creek since morning. It is a very handsome valley about two miles wide, and many places in it appear to be fine soil and very black. Other places are of a whitish cast, neither sand or clay but by stirring it up it makes dust of the lightest kind. We have driven about twelve miles and stopped to noon near the river with fine grass and willow for wood. The river at this place is hardly deserving of the name of river. It is not as large as Big River in Jefferson County, Missouri, but appears to be increasing in size as we follow it down.

Another wagon left our train yesterday. It was Jamison that formerly lived on Mrs. Rennock's Place. We have now but six wagons left in the train. In the afternoon we followed the valley about seven or eight miles and crossed another branch of the river. The two branches soon came together and ran through a canyon but the road went over the hill; the river then ran through a small valley and took through another canyon and the road ran again over the hill. In the next valley we encamped for the night, making our drive twenty two miles today. We drove the cattle over the river and found good grass; sage convenient for wood, and river water. The road today has generally been good but dusty, more so when we came to a lot of sage where there was grass. It has been level with the exception of the two hills or spurs of mountains. The river at this place is as large as Big River if not larger. It is a tolerable clear stream and has a little fall, sufficient, however, to give a good current. The valley in which we are encamped is small. It is neither wide nor long.

9th. In one mile from our camp the river ran through another canyon, and the road over another hill. After that, until noon, the road kept the valley. The mountains on each side of this valley are rather high but not rocky. The road is good but a little dusty. The growth of the valley is sage and grass. The margin of the river has in general a strip of willows that shows us its course.

The sage that I have often spoken of is of two kinds; one kind in shape and appearance resembles our garden sage, with two exceptions, one is it is much larger and the other is that the leaves are not half the size of the garden sage. The other kind is called broom sage. The stalks are small and the limbs or branches resemble the willow used for making baskets but not so large. It answers a good purpose for making brooms. We drove about nine or ten miles this morning and stopped to noon in a bend of the river with tolerable grass and willow for wood. It is often the case that in bunches of willows we find many dead ones. These are very easily pulled out and makes a reasonably good fire for cooking.

We passed an ox last evening that had been killed by the Indians. They had carried off about one half of him, the balance was still laying. It had the appearance of having been killed a day or two but meat will keep in this climate a long time and that without salt. I have eat meat that had been killed from eight to ten days, nor had it been salted and was as good meat as I ever eat in any country. That was on Bear River. This afternoon the road continued in the valley and was good but dusty. We drove today eighteen miles and encamped on the bank of the river with good grass and willow for wood. The willow is some of it large enough for a walking cane. I saw on the bank of the river another ox that had been killed by the Indians. Not much but the bones were remaining.

10th. The road followed the valley this morning about seven miles. It then forked: the right hand led up the mountain, the left followed the river. We took the left. After driving a short distance the river took through a canyon in the mountain. We crossed the river four times and went over several spurs of the mountain and in one place the road ran a short distance in the river. We have driven from six to eight miles in the canyon and have come to an open space where we have stopped for noon; that is, a part of the train, with good grass and willow for wood.

Some parts of the mountain is high and rocky, others of small stones and some of dirt or clay. In coming through the canyon we found the passage very narrow in most places and the mountain generally steep. In the afternoon we kept in the valley and had a good road and made our day's drive about eighteen miles. We encamped by a creek of good cold water with coarse grass and willow wood. The snow seems to have melted on the mountains in this section of country. We are either getting too far south for it or the mountains are not of sufficient height. The latter is probably the cause.

Fish in this river are scarce or hard to catch. Our fishermen do not have any luck in fishing. I think Fremont in his writings speaks of the scarcity of fish in the Humboldt. If the whole of California is like the country through which we have and are now traveling, the government has paid dear for the Whistle, for on whichever side you cast your eyes beyond this small valley you behold nothing but naked barren mountains, and mountains beyond and on the top of mountains, and all void or nearly so of vegetation of any kind.

11th. Just as the sun was rising we left the creek on which we had encamped. We followed the valley about two miles when the road took up the mountain. We went up and down hill, but more up than down, until eleven o'clock when we arrived at the Summit, and there it was reversed. After passing the Summit we drove a mile or two and stopped for noon at a spring on the left of the road. The grass is poor and water not very good. We passed two other springs but they were very small. The hills over which we have passed produce little else than sage so that we have traveled today about ten miles and most of the way over rocks and hills through dust and sage. In the afternoon the road was descending for several miles. In places it was rocky and also led through two or three canyons or gaps in the mountain. We at last came in sight of the river again, but had a spur of the mountain to cross before we could get to it and four or five miles to drive over the ridges. We at last got to the river and corraled with poor grass for our stock and willow wood, having made a drive of about twenty miles.

The nights are very cold at this time. I was on guard last night from midnight until morning and found it extremely cold. It was so cold as to freeze in our camp the thickness of window glass, which in Missouri would be called cold weather for the eleventh of August. The mountains near the river are not as

high as they were where we left this morning, but the back mountains appear to be higher. Our cattle are beginning to fall away. The grass does not possess sufficient nourishment for teams that have so much work to perform or hardships to endure.

12th. SUNDAY. Having had some trouble in gathering our cattle we did not get a very early start. The morning was also rather cool, so much so that an overcoat was no burden, but before ten o'clock the climate changed and it became extremely warm. There was little or no wind and the sun appeared to almost scald. When we first came on to this river the grass was fresh and good but as we followed it down, the grass began to diminish by degrees and has now become very scarce and of an inferior quality. We drove about seven miles, stopped for Sunday with poor grass and willow for wood. We crossed the river this morning in three miles from camp. Mr. Jeffries of Union came to our company today. Cattle are stolen almost every day. Night before last about twenty were taken. Last night the rise of that number was taken.

13th. This morning we got a good start and drove about seven miles and crossed the river. The road also ran across a point of the hill. We drove about ten miles, stopped for noon with poor grass and willow wood. It is reported that the men who lost their oxen tracked them up and found all but one; they in possession of ten or twelve Indians, and the men killed seven Indians and took five horses from them. The company were from Jefferson City, Missouri. I give the above as I heard it, but do not vouch for the truth of it.

In the afternoon we kept the valley and drove about eight miles, making our eighteen miles and encamped on the bank of the river with grass and wood similar to that which we had at noon. In walking in this valley the ground appears hollow or porous, which is caused by the moles and ground mice. We find this the case in any place where the soil is rich. The mountains or bluffs of the river at this place are high and mostly very steep. They generally begin with low small mounds at the foot and grow higher as they go back and at the top or pinnacle are almost perpendicular, but I discover but few rocks in them.

The valley is not as wide as formerly and the grass appears dry and in many places sage and greasewood takes the place of grass. The mountains still continue bare of grass or any but sage. The dust has been very bad today. We are perfectly covered with dust and everything about us is in the same situation. How our

cattle stand it I am unable to say, for it is often the case that we cannot see oxen or wagon for the dust, consequently have to drive at random.

14th. Last night it was my turn to stand guard, and from twelve o'clock until daylight I followed our half-famished cattle around the valley in search of grass. I am astonished that they hold up as well as they do. The grass is so dry that it will break as you step upon it. From appearances there has been no rain for months to wet it and there is no dew of a night to even moisten it, but still what little grass there is looks green and must possess great nourishment or our cattle could not subsist. We left our camp at rather a late hour this morning and drove about five miles with a good road and not a great quantity of dust, when we came to the river. The road then left the river and ran through a patch of sage of about ten miles and the dust was from four to six inches deep, when we again came to the river and found a sprinkle of grass where we stopped for noon, or rather to rest, after a drive of fifteen miles without watering our cattle, there being none for the last ten.

It has much the appearance of rain and in a rainy climate should look for it; but here we do not. I am a little disappointed in not finding swarms of mosquitoes on this river, but as yet we have not been the least troubled with them. I cannot account for it in any other way than, judging from my own feeling, that they cannot stand the dust. When we left the river, two miles back, the valley began to widen and at this place it is full five miles wide, with a strip of grass on the river and sage back to the bluffs.

There is laying a few rods above us a joint stock company from Ohio. They have fell out and divided and fell out again and then agreed to leave it to the Yankees, and I left. Who the Yankees are I do not know, but I have seen enough on this trip to satisfy me that a copartnership or stock company will not do. The reason is: men do not think alike.

In the afternoon we drove four or five miles and put up for the night, making our drive nineteen or twenty miles. The grass is but tolerable, willow is convenient for wood. We are daily getting news from behind and occasionally from ahead, and if one half is true the distress in this great desert, for I can call it nothing else, will be great.

We heard by the Parkers that the teams that were two and three weeks behind us at the Willow Springs and the Black Hills had no grass at all and that men, women and children were seen

sitting by the roadside (sadly) weeping and lamenting the situation of themselves and teams. Also today we heard a report from ahead that the grass was poor for sixty miles and then we would have to go one hundred and sixty miles with little or no grass and forty five without any water and there was six hundred head of dead cattle between here and the Sink of the river, the supposed distance being one hundred and sixty miles.

When we passed those places the grass was very scarce, and we fear the report is true, but we are in hopes that the report from ahead is not so. We heard on Bear River that the grass was burned from Fort Hall the balance of the route, but we know that a portion of that is false for we have come about four hundred miles from that fort and have seen but very few places that have been burned, and those we presume by accident. However the reports, whether true or false, are well calculated to disturb the peace of the emigrant and cause many a sleepless night.

15th. This morning we got under way about six o'clock and had a fair road during the morning and not an extra quantity of dust, although we came through several patches of sage. We drove about ten miles and encamped, the road leaving the valley about this place for fifteen miles. Our grass is not good but the cattle are feeding on willow leaves and some coarse grass.

Five or ten cattle were stolen last night near our camp. I saw a man from a train camped two or three miles below us that told me they did not guard their stock last night, that their company was large and their young men wanted some sport and concluded to let the Indians steal them to give them an opportunity to go after them and shoot the Indians, and I have no doubt that they thought that they could make a raise of horses from the Indians, as several others had done who had lost oxen, but the Indians were too smart. They did not touch them. These Diggers are a small Indian or rather short and have very few guns but are armed with bows and arrows. They are seldom seen on or near the road, but keep themselves concealed during the day, and in the night leave their ambush and sally forth in search of plunder. It has been their custom to cripple stock in such a way that it would become useless to the owner and they would leave it, when the Indians would return and carry off the meat. But this year they pursue another course. They drive off cattle, horses and mules and in large quantities. We have passed several wagons that had lost their stock by the Indians and were unable to pursue their journey in consequence of it.

It is the opinion of many that either some mountaineers or some of the Mormons are at the head of this business and that they will drive them through some pass in the mountains and eventually return with them to the road one or two hundred miles back and sell them to the emigrants, as they are much needed and would bring large prices. This traffic, it is presumed, could not be carried on without the assistance of white men. The bluffs where we are encamped are becoming low and the valley not as wide as formerly, although the bluff retains the same barren appearance that it had, or has had for several days.

16th. We were mistaken in having to cross the mountain this morning. The road took over a small hill and then ran through a flat or kind of plain of sage for a few miles and came again to the river, which we followed until about ten o'clock when we stopped for noon after a drive of about eight miles. The grass is short but tolerable good and willow convenient for wood. The Franklin County Company came into our train today. They camped near us last night. We have now eleven wagons. It has very much the appearance of rain and the air is smoky and the wind from the south. About these days we have an occasional frost.

Messrs. Berry, Hensly, Sutton and Boley join our mess in hunting and fishing, and with the game we have pot pies, soups, stews, fish fries etc. Some of our dishes would be called fine even in the States. In the afternoon we have followed the valley for about eight miles and encamped again on the banks of the river with good coarse grass on the opposite side and willow for wood. The road has been good the most of the day.

Every day I hear of deprecations being committed by Indians. They stole a lot of cattle from a company called the Helltown Greasers and I have not heard of them getting them. They stole a lot from one company and they pursued them and found that the cattle had been driven through a narrow pass in the mountain and finally came in sight of them, but in possession of Indians. They had them so fixed in the mountain that they could roll stones down and prevent any person from ascending and there they were, shaking their blankets, halloeing and bidding defiance to the whites, who had lost the cattle, although the cattle were in plain view. I understand that forty or fifty men are now engaged in the matter, but how it will terminate I cannot say, as the Indians are beyond rifle shot and cannot be approached by the white men for fear of the rolling rocks from above, which they are well supplied with. And the mountain is three quarters of a

mile high and can only be ascended in one place, owing to the steepness of it. The termination I will endeavor to note if I hear how it results.

We had a very small sprinkle of rain this afternoon, just enough to say it rained. The water in the river is becoming bad. It is warm and not as clear as it was a few miles back and there is at this place very little current. It is becoming almost like a pond in comparison to what it was near the head. Neither has it increased in size for several days.

17th. The road this morning went around a bend in the river for about three miles and then took up a gradual ascent and through a kind of flat and then through a gap in the mountain, after which it came again to the river where we stopped for noon, with tolerable grass and wood as before, making our drive about eight miles. We discovered on the flat something like a puzzle. It was a number of little fields that were partially fenced in by laying down sage around them with an occasional gap or gateway. The fields contained each about one quarter of an acre. Many were the conjectures of their use. Some thought they were maps of the country made by the Indians, others that they were to give notice of some plan, some one thing and some another, but we finally learned they were for catching rabbits, so the mystery was solved at last.

It is raining a little and I have heard it thunder several times. It is now eleven o'clock in the morning. We continued in the valley this afternoon and drove about eight miles, making a sixteen mile drive today. We encamped on the bank of the river, having as good grass as we could expect to find in this section of country, but no wood. We had another little sprinkle of rain this afternoon, but neither of them were equal to a Missouri dew.

The river at this place is narrow but has more current than where we encamped last night. It is still muddy. The soil is fine at this place, the river having high banks. I took a spade to dig some steps to get water; I found the soil deep, black and as light as a bank of ashes. The valley is wide, but is destitute of wood. I saw a good wagon that had been left today, also where others had been burned. At our noon camp I saw some rushes of a mammoth size. They were very tall and an inch or more in diameter. The mountains here, like most of the mountains on this river, are round and vary in size and height.

18th. AUGUST. I have very little to note, for this morning the road has generally been good and we have kept in the valley

and driven about ten miles and stopped to noon in a flat one quarter of a mile from the river. We have a little grass, but no wood. We might get sage by going to the mountain, a distance of half a mile. It would be a difficult matter to describe our different camps, the similarity is so great on this river that unless a person was previously instructed in the names of the places, if they have any. Some of the works that I have seen have given names to any of the points they speak of, camping places and the distance between them. But a camping place can be found anywhere where there is grass, and the only art in selecting one is to select good grass and water.

In the afternoon we drove seven or eight miles, having tolerable road and encamped on the bank of the river at, or near a place where the road takes over the point of a hill or through the mountain, which, I cannot tell. Where we are traveling we do not know. We suppose, however, on the Humboldt, but the distance to the Sink we have no way of finding out at present. No marks are laid down in any of our guide books and we have no person along that is familiar with the route. We suppose that we are between eighty or one hundred miles from the Sink.

We still find wagons, or parts of wagons and dead cattle by the road side and at old camping places, but we find no provisions thrown away about here. We have a great many that call to stay all night, generally foot men. Some say their teams have given out and some are lost from their trains, others have left their trains; some propose paying, but they are mostly on the begging order and endeavor to pay by telling some great tale respecting the route. We at first entertained these travelers, but we learned that many imposters were on the road and at the present time it takes a very smooth and straight talk to get accommodations in our train. We have driven today about eighteen miles.

Tonight we are to have another feast. We have a sage hen and a duck and with the addition of a little bacon and some crust and other little things to season it, makes us a fine dish. Buffalo, elk and deer or antelope we have not seen for many weeks. It is said that antelope are found in the mountain but they do not show themselves near the road.

19th. SUNDAY. When I got up this morning I took up the wash pan for the purpose of taking a wash and attempted to throw out some water that was in it, but the frost had secured it so that not a drop was spilt. I then took it to the fire and thawed it, when I found that the ice was over one quarter of an inch

thick. We made a late start but found a good road for a mile or two and then came in to sand but not very bad until we came to a watering place on the river, where the road takes up the point of the hill. There the sand was deep and many of the teams had to have help to get up the hill. The road continued deep with sand for more than a mile when we returned to the valley and left the sand. We drove into a bend in the river and encamped for Sunday with some grass and willow wood.

A few miles back we saw a large smoke and on approaching near to we found the grass and willows in the valley were on fire, but we soon discovered that it had not burned to any extent. Grass and willows are the main support of our teams, consequently we were very thankful that the burning was not a general thing, as we heard was the case when near Fort Hall. The valley here has become very narrow. It is not more than three quarters of a mile wide and the hills bare of anything but sage. The hills or mountains are not as high in this place as in many points that we have passed, although some high peaks are in sight of our camp, but at a distance from the river. The snow has entirely disappeared of late, and we have not seen any for several days past. We have driven today about ten miles.

AUGUST 20th. This being Monday morning and having rested half a day yesterday we got an early start. We had a tolerable road for about a mile when we came into sand and soon went over the point of one or two hills. We then drove onto the bluff or second bottom which we followed several miles through sand and sage and finally came to where a road came in from the opposite side of the river. After the roads came together we drove about a mile and stopped for noon, but had very little sand the last mile. We should have taken the road that came down on the left side of the river, but we passed it without knowing where it went, for there are many roads that lead off to camps and then return again, but had we taken it we should have saved a great deal of hard pulling. Where we have stopped for noon there is neither grass nor wood. The cattle are picking on a few small willows and weeds.

The Humboldt is a long river for one of its size. It varies but little in size from Big River. We have been on its waters sixteen days and have no knowledge when we shall leave it, for we cannot learn the distance to the Sink. The water is getting bad and the grass nearly given out. Willows will soon be all that our cattle can get. The low bottom or valley is very narrow at this place,

scarcely one quarter of a mile in width. The second bottom or bluffs are from fifty to one hundred feet high and two or three miles wide and are covered with sage; then comes the round mountains back of them.

We have driven this morning about eight miles. At noon our cattle got badly scattered, owing to the neglect of putting out day guard, consequently we did not get off until near four o'clock. We then started and took the right hand road that led onto the second bottom. It was a good and straight road but dusty. We drove until near twelve o'clock at night and stopped as soon as we arrived at the river. We did not unyoke but chained up our oxen until morning, making our drive twenty four miles, having little or no grass and small willows.

Some few days since, a train lost some cattle and thirty men started in pursuit. They divided into companies, most of seven each. One company, however, had but four men in it. This company came across four Indians and walked up towards them intending to take them prisoners, but when they got within bow shot of the Indians they shot their arrows at them and wounded three of the white men: one in the shoulder, one in the forehead, the other in the wrist. The white men killed three Indians and one ran away. I understand that one Indian wounded all three of the men and had two wounds himself and when he found that the white man would catch him, as he had shot all his arrows, he stopped and told the man to shoot him in the head, which he did. The company found their cattle, but they had all been killed.

21st. AUGUST. About daylight this morning we hitched up and started in search of grass, but did not drive more than half a mile before we found a place that contained some rushes, some grass and some willow, where we stopped to graze our stock and get our breakfast. We remained at the place until nine o'clock when we started again. We had not driven but a mile or two when we came into the road and the second bottom that we left last night.

In two miles from that place we met Mr. Green of Franklin County who had been ahead and told us that the route discovered by Mr. Childs was taken by the emigrants and that if we took it we would leave the river in four miles and that by doing so we would cross at the mountain at a lower gap and would find better water and grass than we would by the Sink Route and furthermore that we could get to the Sacramento in nine days travel. Having had a history of the route before and hearing that Myers and Hudspeth, two old mountaineers, had taken it we concluded

to drive down to the fork of the road there and camp until morning, and then take it. (The route is described in the back part of this book as having been taken from the *New York Herald*.) We drove a mile below where the road takes off and there encamped, I trust for the last time, on the Humboldt with tolerable grass and some willow. The valley here is something over a mile in width and the second bottom is wider than the low one. I am told that the Helltown Greasers have got back a portion of their cattle, but did not learn the particulars. Drove today about eight miles.

22nd. This morning we took the cut-off, if it is one. It takes off at a point where the Humboldt runs south and the cut-off runs a west course to a gap in the mountain. It starts in a valley that extends rather north, and several miles from the road is seen a round mound that appears to be in or near the center of the valley and is eight or ten miles, I should think, from the Humboldt River. By that mound, the bend in the river etc., the cut-off may be known. We drove through sage about eight or nine miles and then took into the gap or pass in the mountain and after driving in the pass about four miles came to or opposite three springs on our left, but there was so many teams ahead of us we could get no chance to water our cattle. We drove four miles further and stopped to rest our teams and take a lunch.

We rested about an hour and started for Rabbit Hole Spring, said by some to be thirteen and by others sixteen miles from the springs in the pass. We arrived at what we supposed to be the spring about ten o'clock at night, but we could not get water there but drove about two miles further where we found some wells that had been dug by the emigrants to get water for stock etc. We arrived at these wells about eleven o'clock and remained until three in the morning when we started and drove about eight miles and stopped again to rest and get our breakfast, but we have no water nor grass for our cattle.

We have passed a great many dead cattle and as many that were not dead but had given out and had been left to die. We have not seen fifty spears of grass since we took this road and had but one chance for water and that in a small quantity and of an indifferent quality.

23rd. Before we had our breakfast ready a man from the Black Rock Springs came up and told us we had better hurry and get through the Salt Plain before the heat of the day for if we did not we would see trouble. We did hurry but it was nine

o'clock before we got a start. Our cattle were then nearly worn down, having traveled between thirty and forty miles without food and but one sup of water. But go ahead we must and as fast as possible. We reached the Salt Plain about eleven o'clock and a very warm morning. We thought of stopping until the cool of the evening before we took the plain but our cattle had been without food for thirty hours and that would not do.

About this time clouds began to appear and shield us from the heat and shocking rays of the sun. The wind began to blow and in a short time it was thick and cloudy and we had a strong wind from the south which took the whole of the dust from drive and oxen. We had a slight sprinkle of rain and we drove on and had just got through the plain as the wind fell and the sun again made its appearance. It was certainly a great blessing sent upon us by the Hand of the Almighty, for if it had continued as warm as it was before the wind raised we could not have come through the plain without losing more or less of our stock, but as it was we came through safe without the loss of a single steer. This plain is from six to eight miles wide. It is covered with a whitish crust and entirely void of vegetation of any kind.

As we came near the edge we came in among a lot of mounds from six to ten or twelve feet high. They were from thirty to one hundred feet apart and extended as far as my eye could see. They covered hundreds of acres. We then came up a small hill and soon were opposite Black Rock. The spring is one quarter of a mile from the rock. It is on high ground and runs into a basin from four to six rods square and then runs down a hill. The water is hot as it comes out of the spring, but that on the opposite side of the basin is sufficiently cool for oxen to drink without doing them any injury.

The spring takes its name from the color of the large rocks near them. They were doubtless blackened by some volcanic eruptions. We encamped in the flat below the spring with poor grass and no wood, but any quantity of hot water. We are now fairly into the cut-off and through what is called the dry stretch and is called forty-five miles in length, that is, from Humboldt to the rock, but if it does not come nearer fifty five than forty five I, for one, am very much mistaken. One man that I conversed with says it is sixty miles but I do not think it is quite sixty. The road is mostly level, some few rock. There are no bad hills, no vegetation on the route, except some small cedars on the mountains. Wild sage and greasewood cover the valleys and plains with the

exception of the Salt Plain. The number of cattle lost in this dry stretch within ten days past will exceed two hundred largely, for the road has only been traveled ten days and one hundred and fifty head are now lying dead in sight of the road and between the Humboldt and Black Rock Springs.

24th. Last night I was on guard from twelve o'clock until morning. The grass being eat out at the Black Rock Springs we drove the cattle about two miles up the valley to some other springs and spent the night with them. They were said to be restless in the fore part of the night but it could easily be accounted for as the grass even then was short and it took them some time to fill themselves but after twelve they lay down and lay until morning.

After breakfast we started for the Hot Springs, five miles further on and passed the Spring in the valley where we herded the cattle last night. I then saw the springs; they were not so large as the Black Rock Springs, but there are several of them. In one I saw an ox that had been scalded to death, his hind part was in the spring and his forepart on the bank, probably the way he died; his mouth was partially open and his tongue was out. It could but excite pity to look at him. Near another was one lying dead that had been scalded but had been hauled out. Others had got in but were taken out alive, but the hair came off as far as the water came up on them. As we came on this morning we struck or came through another plain, then came to the first springs and after passing them we came through the third Salt Plain before we reached our encampment.

In this valley there are other springs that are equally hot as any that I have seen, but none of them are as large as the Black Rock. There is in this valley five, in a kind of huddle, two of them are large and three small. I put my hand in one and could not tell any difference from that and any other boiling water. It is said to be one hundred and eighty six degrees of heat. They all run off in one branch and retain their heat a long distance, while Black Rock and all the others spread and stand in puddles on the low ground. Grass is found only in the immediate vicinity of these hot springs. The balance of this valley, for we have mountains on both sides, is either salt plains or a barren with patches of greasewood scattered over it in bunches varying in size from two to twenty feet square. The mountains are high and generally rocky but the valley as level as a floor, consequently the road is fine. Drove today five miles.

25th. This morning our cattle begin to look a little natural. To deprive oxen of water a great length of time has a singular effect. They become much swollen about their eyes and the eyes appear to diminish in size and sink deep in the head and when in this situation a person could scarcely tell his own team by the head, but after they get rest and a good quantity of water and food the swelling goes down and their eyes again get their natural appearance.

This last drive has been a hard one on both men and cattle. It has been laborious on the men, and the stench arising from the dead cattle, horses and mules on the road and at the camps renders it unpleasant in the extreme; also being deprived of good water is bad on the men as well as the cattle. The spring water is the best that we can get and that when cooled in a bucket or can by standing all night is hardly fit to drink. It has a saltish disagreeable taste and the more you drink of it the more thirsty you become. There are several wells at and near the camps, but the water, although cool, has a bad taste and a dirty reddish look.

Our train has set three o'clock this afternoon to make a start and several of our men are at the springs washing. Yesterday when I was at the springs several persons were cooking, some were making coffee, others boiling meat, rice, fruit etc. Their coffee pots were either set on the branch below or hung into the spring by a pole and string. The meat, rice etc., were put into a bag and hung into the water where it appeared to boil most. The boil of these springs is not a hard boil like a kettle over a hot fire but is bubbles that come from the bottom. One of the springs at or near our camp is about sixteen by thirty feet square, the other not so large, the depths of one twenty feet, the other seven or eight feet. The Black Rock Springs must be very deep. To stand near them, the heat or steam arising is similar to any other boiling water in the same quantity.

A few minutes before three o'clock we started for the Salt Valley. We soon left the grass and came into a barren of greasewood, and occasionally would pass through a flat without any vegetation of any kind. The ground, since we came past the Rabbit Hole Spring, has been covered with a crust and still continues, with the exception of some sandy plains. This crust in places is whitish, in others the natural color of the earth. This valley, which I will call the valley of the hot springs, varies in width from one mile to perhaps ten or twelve; the mountains have

a reddish cast and look as if they had been scorched and are perfectly bare.

We drove eight miles and heard of a spring off to the left, at the foot of the mountain. We sent and got a canteen of water. It was cool and well tasting. It was a great treat. We drove until nine o'clock and stopped to rest. We started a little after and drove until near three and tied up the teams. We had no grass for them and by tying them saved a guard during the night. After the moon went down our men would go ahead of the teams and touch a match to a bunch of greasewood bushes that would burn although as green, as will dry oak leaves, which gave us a tolerable light to drive by. We have driven since three o'clock about twenty miles.

26th. SUNDAY. This morning, a little after daylight we were again under way and after a drive of five miles came to the Salt Valley, where we found good grass and tolerable water, although the grass is mostly dry, but cattle that are hungry eat it very well. We found a large number of wagons encamped, among others a train of the United States Troops. They are on their way from Oregon to meet troops from the States and assist them if necessary on their way to California. If they do not need their assistance they will render such assistance to emigrants as they may need.

Yesterday they sent four men to search for a road from here to Humboldt, thinking that a better and more direct route could be had and more grass and water, but on the route two of the men went up on the mountain to take observations. While there they saw two Indians coming. They professed to be Snakes, but as soon as they came near enough they shot one of the men dead and wounded the other. The man that was wounded killed one of the Indians and the other fled. The other men were at the foot of the mountain with the horses. The wounded man gave the alarm and the three men brought in the corpse which is to be interred today.

This Salt Valley is nearly surrounded with mountains and is of an irregular shape. It is neither round nor square. The air here is very close and dry; everything made of wood shrinks terribly. There is scarcely a wagon wheel in our train that has a tight tire upon it. The pegs in shoes and boots come loose and the hoe nearly falls to pieces. This has been the case for hundreds of miles back, but I think not to such an extent as at this place. The grass has mostly turned yellow in this valley and

would burn like tow if fire was once put to it, but the grass on Humboldt, although dry, still continues its green color.

27th. Ten miles from Salt Valley, we came to High Rock Canyon. The first six miles was an entire up-hill business, for we crossed a mountain that was six miles from the foot to the summit. It was not very steep, but a constant drag. On the opposite side the hill was short but more steep, but the road was rocky, which made the traveling bad. The balance of the road to the canyon went through a flat and was very good. As we entered the canyon the mountain was not very high nor rocky, but we soon found them increasing in height and after driving about two miles in the pass I saw a round hill on our left that reminded me of the Chimney Rock. The large part was higher but the top or nose part was not as high, but much larger. It must have been from *three to five hundred feet high and the rocks on the right hand were nearly as high, but curved, not perpendicular.

We next came to rocks on the right that were near the same height and were perpendicular. They did not present a level surface but resembled large pillars. I also saw a cave in one of these pillars. It was twenty or thirty feet square and eight or ten feet high. I here saw a small spring, out of which I thought to take a drink, but there were so many ahead of me that I could not wait, but was told there was one up the mountain a short distance so I went up sixty or seventy feet and got a drink of cold spring water. We drove on until the canyon forked where we encamped for the night, having good grass and a fine spring up the left hand fork of the pass. Wood, however, is very scarce; distance traveled about fourteen miles.

28th. This morning we started on in the canyon and followed it more than ten miles before we came to the end of it. It is certainly the longest that I ever saw and the most of a curiosity. We passed several fine spots of grass but of a coarse quality. The road was good where the passage was wide, but where it was narrow it was rocky. I passed one place that reminded me of Pine Street in New York—the rocks were perpendicular on both sides. The canyon seems to have been formed by nature for a road. Its length I would say was fourteen miles, but at the out-

*These rocks, by a writer for the *New York Herald*, are said to be seven hundred feet high. He may have measured them, but I had no time. I thought I would put it low enough.

come the mountains were not as high as at the beginning and center. Many of the mountains resemble the Hill at the Sulphur Spring on the Maramec, where there is a vast quantity of small rocks, except the rocks in the canyon are of a reddish cast.

I noticed the rocks at the foot of these mountains. They appear to have been burnt, even the whole country has the appearance of once having been on fire. The rocks resemble the cinders about a furnace more than rocks. I saw several caves as we passed along the road but I thought it best to keep away from them as they might be the lurking places for the Indians. By what I can learn the Indian that killed Garret was not much to blame. Garret was the first aggressor and I fear it will have the effect of enraging the Indians against the emigrants. They have it in their power to do much mischief. They are expert with the bow and arrow. They could kill our stock or steal them. They could burn the grass and many other things that would annoy us very much. We drove two or three miles after we got through the canyon and camped on a branch with good grass and water and sage at a convenient distance. We traveled today fourteen miles.

This afternoon I took a walk to the top of a hill near our camp. I could see nothing but mountains; some appeared to be covered with sage, while others were perfectly bare and all had the appearance so far as I could judge of having suffered by fire. The one that I was on was covered with blackish rock and I saw several pieces of a something that looked like black glass and resembled the thick part of a black junk or Porter bottle. Many of the rocks were porous and so light that they would but just sink when put into water.

I could see nothing green but the little valley in which our wagons were standing. I could trace the road from the canyon to where it appeared to take into the mountain at another canyon, which I supposed to be the upper High Rock. I notice also different colors in the different mountains in view. The highest were red while some were of a yellow cast, and some low ones were nearly white but the rocky ones were nearly black. While we were at Salt Valley, I walked over a portion of it and noticed that in certain places there was no grass and thought that I would examine them. The earth was perfectly soft and loose as you could possibly imagine. It was in flakes and looked and felt very much like light wheat bran, and to step on these spots you would go several inches over shoe-mouth.

I find that the long dry stretch has injured our teams very much. They all appear weak, dull and sluggish and I am fearful that we may lose some of them yet. Some have the hollow horn; for that we bore the horn and put in salt, pepper and water until it runs out of their noses. They have another disease called the hollow tail; for that they split the tail where it is hollow. Two teams left the train this morning in consequence of the steers being weak and sick, and about ten o'clock another team stopped for the same cause. The last team, however, has come up, having given their team a little rest, and also let them feed awhile.

We hear sad accounts from the Sink Route. It is said to be very sickly and the sickness proves fatal in most cases. It is said that the stench arising from the dead cattle is insufferable and that men die nearly as fast as the cattle. What will be the effect on this route (near the Black Rock where cattle lie almost touching) in two weeks from this, can better be imagined than described. It was bad enough when we passed there and numbers were daily added, which would soon add to the stench and help to increase it. But here the air is pure and but very few cattle are in this section found dead. The grass, too, is getting better than it has been for many miles back.

29th. In two miles' travel we came to the upper High Rock Canyon. As we came near the canyon we passed a spring of fine water. It came out half up the mountain and ran across the road. The rocks in this passage are not as high as those in first or High Rock. The roads through it were very bad and rocky. Some of the rocks that we drove over were half as high as the wagon wheels. We also had to drive in a creek for some distance and cross it several times. The crossings were also bad. In this canyon I saw the first trees that I have seen since we left Fort Hall. It was quaking aspen or poplar and some of the trees were from four to six inches in diameter. After we left the canyon we crossed over one or two hills and passed some water and grass and then took round a hill and encamped in a valley a short distance after passing some large rocks on our left.

I saw while on one of the hills a few miles back three bunches or parcels of snow on a high mountain which we suppose to be the Sierra Nevada. From its appearance I think it to be thirty or forty miles distant. I also notice on our right some flats that appear to be covered with salt of something that is white and on the mountain beyond that there is small timber. It is either pine or cedar. We have driven this morning about eleven miles, two to

the canyon, three through it and six to camp. In the afternoon we drove about two miles and stopped for the night in a valley to the right of the road with tolerable grass, sage convenient for wood, but no water.

I saw today a quantity of hard black substance that resembles glass and am now satisfied that it is nothing more or less than glass and presume it is melted sand and the like that was perhaps melted hundreds of feet below the surface and thrown up by volcanic action. It is very pure and solid. There are no impurities in it but a perfectly solid jet black glass. This morning I saw ice near half an inch thick and today has been more like a day in October than the last of August.

30th. The road this morning has generally run through valleys and flats which have been mostly covered with sage. We have driven about twelve miles and stopped to rest and let the cattle eat, but have no water for them. We are now within a mile or so of the little mountain pass. It is in sight. About two miles back we came to a lake. It is near a mile in length and half as wide as it is long. The lake appears to be very shallow and muddy. The water, so far as I could examine, was not more than six inches deep. Snow is beginning to make its appearance again in quantities, which accounts for the cold weather. The nights are very cold and when we get up in the morning we put on our overcoats and wear them until nine or ten o'clock. If we have water standing out at night we have a plenty of ice in the morning. In the afternoon we drove through the little pass. It is nothing more than a gap or passage through a small mountain with a gradual slope to the hills and has several springs coming out some rods of the sides. We drove three or four miles after we got through and encamped in a valley surrounded by mountains. We had good grass and some water. Wood was not convenient. I noticed as we drove along several mounds. They have the appearance of whitish hard clay. Some of them resemble stacks of hemp as it is put up after being cut or pulled. I also noticed a number of small trees on the mountain sides. Drove today about seventeen miles.

AUGUST 31st. This morning I went out to see if all the cattle were in the gang but found two missing. It therefore became necessary to take a hunt for them. I went onto the pinnacle of a mountain and took a view of the scenery and was not a little astonished to see the change in appearance.

I could see mountains beyond mountains and them mostly covered with vegetation. I saw also trees that were large enough for house logs and near the tops of some of the mountains the grass appeared as green as it was in the spring of the year. There was also a change in the color of the soil. It is now a whitish clay, and a light colored rock has taken the place of those black and cindery looking ones that I have heretofore described. In my hunt for cattle I saw several fine springs of good, cool pure water, breaking out at the foot of the mountains and the water forming a serpentine channel through the valley of green grass below. In one of these valleys I found my steers and then returned to camp, much pleased with my trip, although considerably fatigued by climbing mountains and walking so long a distance.

We have not traveled today; our cattle have not recovered from the fatigue of the long dry stretch, although we have made small drives since we got through. The men too are becoming tired of traveling and want rest. Some are complaining of not feeling well and taking medicine and the sick appear to mend very slowly. But the air is very pure here; the morning was a little cool for comfort without an overcoat but after the sun got over the mountain it became pleasantly warm, that is, it is about such weather as we have in Missouri the first of November. We expect, however, after two days to begin to go south. We are now twenty six miles from the summit of the Sierra Nevada and after we pass that we look for the weather to become warm as we go south or near the Pacific.

SEPTEMBER 1st. This morning the road ran through a valley for several miles and we passed grass and water and several good camps. After that we crossed several hills and flats of sage and after a drive of about ten miles came to the Warm Springs where we found good grass and warm water, but wood is scarce. This has been a smoky day. It is like the weather of Indian summer in Missouri. Finding that it was eight or ten miles to water we concluded to remain all night here. The water is salty and spreads as it runs down upon the flats and forms a marsh and a large one. This afternoon I wrote home to send by Dickhorn.

2nd. SEPTEMBER. SUNDAY. We made a late start this morning; there being so great a number of cattle in the marsh, it took considerable time to select ours. We drove about two miles and crossed a handsome little stream of pure looking water. On putting my hand in it, I found it was as warm as dishwater. It

was a rapid stream and ran through a field of sage. We drove on through sage for a few miles and then came to a barren plain. For two miles after that we came through a plain of fine grass and soon came in sight of a mountain that was partially covered with tall pine trees. We were near the mountain when we discovered it, for the air today is full of smoke. We drove a short distance further and near to the foot of the mountain, which is the Sierra Nevada and encamped for noon.

Near our camp there came rolling down from the mountain a clear, pure stream of good, cold water and ran briskly past us on its bed of clean washed gravel. The men, the cattle, all started to quench their thirst at the mountain stream. It was indeed reviving and all took a long and hearty drink, after which the men returned to the wagons to get their dinners, while the cattle strolled along the banks enjoying the green grass that could be found in abundance. This mountain is high, or rather, has high peaks and on some of the highest sends forth the tall spired pine.

There is more timber in sight of camp than we have seen for months past. The mountain is handsome and the valley is a most beautiful one. The road has been good all day, but since we came into the grass it has been excellent. It is as level as a floor, dry and hard and not dusty. We have come ten miles. In the afternoon we took a north course by the side of the mountain, having on our right a fine flat of grass for near two miles in width and after that came a barren plain that was perfectly bare. I fancied that I saw a barren mountain in the distance but could not discover it distinctly in consequence of the smoke. We passed one or two creeks, flowing from the mountain. The soil since we came into the grass has been fine, equal to any that is found in Missouri. We have come to the side of the mountain about one mile from the foot, where we have encamped with wood, grass and water. Came today sixteen miles.

SEPTEMBER 3rd. Last night I stood guard and about daylight in the morning we drove up the cattle to start up the mountain. We drove about one mile and then doubled our teams. We got up without difficulty, although the last mile on the mountain was very steep. On arriving at the Summit, I saw a rocky peak on the right hand of the road which I ascended to take a view of the surrounding country, but the smoke prevented my having as fair a view as I could wish. I could see a mountain on the opposite side of the plain, through which we had traveled, near as high as the one that I was then on. I could also see some snow

on a distant mountain, also another mountain on the other or west side of where I stood; the two last were partially covered with timber.

We then commenced our descent for the valley below, which might be called handsome. The soil was rich and black and was about two by eight miles and nearly enclosed by mountains that were covered with straight young pine trees. They stood rather thick on the ground, which no doubt prevented undergrowth, which gave it a very clean, cool and pleasant appearance. The grass was green in the forest, but dry on the plain, although our cattle appeared fond of it.

This valley, as well as the flat on the east side of the Sierra Nevada, will in time be cultivated. The quality of the soil, situation of the land, convenience of water and timber all combined, must cause settlements soon to be made. We are encamped in this valley about three miles from the Summit, making our drive five miles today.

While I was standing up on the rocky summit or point, I had a fine view of the road and had counted, I think, twenty eight teams and as my eye reached the Summit I saw a heavy laden wagon driven by ten yoke of oxen start rapidly down the mountain. The chain attached to the tongue had broken just as they had reached the Summit. It ran two or three hundred feet, taking the wheel steers with it and luckily turned bottom upwards. Many saw it and as many rejoiced to see it turn over, for had it continued to follow the road it must have destroyed considerable property, if not some lives. As it was, the chain and an ox yoke was about the amount. The wagon was not broken and the loading was provisions. The wagon was soon turned back, the loading was partly packed to the Summit and the balance replaced in the wagon, the team again hitched and all safely arrived at the Summit. The dust was so great that I did not discover oxen being fast to the wagon until it turned over. One had broke his bow and got loose, the other remained fast to the wagon, and you can judge of my surprise on his being let loose to see him jump up and run away; and how it was possible for a yoke of oxen to be drawn backwards that distance and with so great velocity and for neither to be killed or crippled is something for which I cannot account.

SEPTEMBER 4th. We left the valley this morning, after driving about two miles, when the road took through the timber. The road, after we struck the timber, was a little rocky, but the

novelty of traveling in timber made up for the rocks. The timber of this country is pine with some few fir trees scattered amongst them. It is the fir from which the balsaam of fir is obtained. We had a steep hill to come up and after an hour or so a similar one to go down, when we came to Goose Lake.

The lake is about twenty miles long and six or eight wide and surrounded by mountains which are principally covered with timber. There is also a strip of grass around the pond, that is from one to four miles wide. The appearance of the lake would denote the presence of alkali. I noticed a white strip near the water's edge. The road took to the left as we came into the valley near the pond and is a fine road to travel. We drove today about fourteen or fifteen miles and encamped on a creek with all the necessities of fair quality. In the afternoon we drove five miles to another creek where we encamped for the night. The water is good, also the grass, but the wood is inconvenient. We have it to pack near half a mile. The soil in this valley is good in places, a portion of it is gravelly and we have passed some rocky places this afternoon.

The mountains around this lake are not high but generally round and many of them have very handsome groves of timber on them. The general appearance of the country since we crossed the Sierra Nevada is better for agricultural purposes than it was on the other side and the water, with one or two exceptions is decidedly better on the Pacific side; also there is an alteration in the weather since we crossed the mountain. It is now warm and pleasant, even of a night. We have driven today about twenty miles.

5th. Soon after we started this morning, we crossed the creek on which we encamped and in a short distance, a larger one. After that we crossed two or three more small ones, but as fine water as can be found in any country. After we left the flat of Goose Lake the road ran up a kind of valley. The road was very rocky in places, which made it bad traveling. We drove about ten miles and encamped on a creek nearly opposite a canyon on our right. In the afternoon we drove over two hills and struck a creek, which may be the one on which we nooned, and came through the canyon. I think it is called Canyon Creek. We followed the creek a few miles and encamped for the night, making our drive about eighteen miles.

As we came down the valley of the creek, I noticed a high, steep mountain on the right and some low, round ones on the left

and between low ones I saw several steeple or sugar loaf rocks; some were single, while others were in clusters of five or six but varying in size. They had a singular appearance as there were no other rocks near them. We had good grass tonight, warm creek water and willow wood.

6th. We followed the creek a few miles this morning and then took over the point of a hill and there came to the same or another valley, which we followed until noon, making a drive of ten miles. A mile below where we encamped, the Indians made an attack on the stock of a small train from Ohio. They killed one, wounded six and drove off two of their oxen.

The mountains have some timber on them, but not as large as those near the Sierra Nevada. We have stopped near a creek with good grass and creek water and willow wood. In the afternoon we drove over a hill or point of it and returned again to the creek, which we followed awhile and took over another hill. While on this hill we had a fair view of a round mountain in the valley below. Went near the mountain and encamped for the night with good grass and willow wood and creek water. Traveled today eighteen or twenty miles.

7th. The road ran to the left of the mountain near our camp. We followed the creek, or river, as it is called Pitt River, until noon, occasionally acrossing the point of hills. We also crossed two creeks of good water and encamped near the third one with good grass and water. Wood scarce. We left the route given in the *Herald* when we left Goose Lake, consequently we have no knowledge of what is ahead, so all we have to do is to follow the road and take what comes.

While we were nooning eleven Indians came down the mountain on horse back and approached near to the stock of Captain Campbell's Company of Missouri, who were encamped on the opposite side of the creek from us. The day guard, or some one else, saw them and gave the alarm of Indians. The Indians retreated to the mountains and both our trains started on our journey. Ten or twelve men, however, of Campbell's train started on horse back in pursuit of the Indians and in a few hours one man returned and reported that they had the Indians hemmed in the mountains and wanted more men to go and attack them. Several went from Campbell's train and a few from ours. The result is not known. We followed the river this afternoon, except when crossing points and then started into a canyon about two miles and encamped for the night with tolerable grass and water, but wood

one quarter of a mile from camp. Traveled today about eighteen miles.

10th. We followed the valley this morning and about noon came to a mountain. The river runs through a canyon, but we took the mountain after a short nooning. In the afternoon we drove until night over mountains. The road was rocky and bad and we encamped in the mountain without water for ourselves or teams. The distance come today was eighteen miles.

11th. We started this morning and drove four miles to water. The road was very bad, hilly and rocky. We have, however, a good camp and will lay all day. We are in a small valley surrounded by mountains and them covered with pine. The Indians are bad. They shot one ox last night eleven times and I am told that four or five more were shot in another company. What companies lost cattle I am not informed.

12th. It appears that we are to lay by another day. Robert Harper is sick and several others in the train and a black boy died last night in Campbell's train; also they have some sick and our cattle need rest very much. I noticed, some days since, that this was an unknown route to any person on it, and the reports that we hear annoy us greatly. At one time we hear the distance to the mines is not more than twenty miles and perhaps in an hour we will hear it is between two and three hundred. The one will encourage, while the latter will greatly discourage and not a day passes but what we hear similar reports to the above. Myers, the pilot of Hudspeth's train, is the only man that has been in this part of the country before. But this road was not made at that time, consequently he knows nothing of the route of the road, but he says he once encamped across the hill from our camp and in one day and a half rode to the settlement and says unless the road runs very crooked we can reach the settlement in from three to five days.

This road was made by Lawson, whose settlement we will probably strike first. It is also the main road leading from Oregon to California and from the appearance of the road has been traveled early in the season or when the ground was very wet as it has the appearance of the wheels going to hub in mud. I would think this road impassable very early in the spring for those deserts I have spoken of are undoubtedly lakes of water, also many of the valleys through which we have passed have every appearance of a yearly inundation. In passing through them we see the ground all cracked open for miles and some of the cracks are wide and deep.

Provisions are becoming a little scarce at this time. Flour and bacon will bring twenty five cents per pound each, beef twelve and one half, sugar and coffee from fifty to seventy five cents, but those that have it will not part with it unless to a friend and then it is mostly loaned to be returned in California. In consequence of living on salt meat without vegetables so great a length of time, many of the emigrants are troubled with the scurvy. Bowel complaint and fevers are also very common, neither does the sickness appear to decrease, but rather increase.

13th. Last evening the United States Engineer arrived from the settlements with his attendants and gave us a way bill. The distance is one hundred and forty miles and a large portion of the road is bad, it being over mountains. They had among them several invalids and I sold them one ounce of quinine for twenty dollars. We lay by another day for the benefit of the sick and the teams. The engineer employed several men from Campbell's train to go with him. He pays, for man and horse, three hundred dollars per month. The object is to find out whether it is practicable to build a railroad to the states. These men speak of money being very plentiful, but say that the health of the country is bad.

14th. This morning we made another start and had another invalid to take along, which was Bassett. He was taken last night with something like the flux. We drove six miles and stopped to rest at a creek, then six more and encamped for the night with poor grass but good water and pine wood. It is said we are now within one hundred and twenty five miles of Lawson's, the first settlement.

On the morning of the fifteenth, the train started on, with the exception of Bassett's and Hemstead's wagons, Hemstead also having the flux. I remained with them. Six days passed before Bassett was able to travel. Our drives, from this time to the city of Sacramento, were from five to twenty miles per day. The road in places was good and other places bad. We had fine water at convenient distances for camping and found a tolerable supply of grass. We descended some very steep hills, but those that we ascended were not so bad. We also passed some of the largest pine forests that I have ever seen. The road for the most of the way was through pine except the valleys, which are prairies and have generally a fine stream of clear, cold water running through them. We also saw many fine springs of most excellent water, until we came to the desert, a distance of fifty miles from the

settlement. Here the road ran through the mountains where we had no grass or water.

We found water in two places by going two or three miles off the road, but no grass at all and the road was both hilly and rocky. Many teams gave out and many wagons were left, but we at last reached the settlement in the Sacramento Valley. We then had one hundred and fifteen miles to travel before we reached the city. We arrived on the fifteenth of October, but we were forced to lay by with the sick; that made us so late getting in.

The city is below the mouth of the American Fork on the Sacramento River. It has been lately built and is quite large, but most of the buildings are covered with cloth. A large business is doing, but the largest dealers are those that keep provisions. There is lying at the landing about twenty vessels of all classes, from a good sized ship to the smallest class of sloop. The valley in which this city stands has perhaps no equal. The width is said to be from forty to one hundred miles. It contains much fine land but a portion is at time inundated. It is said that a portion of the city will be covered with water at a certain season.

Timber is found on the banks of the river in abundance. It is the live oak. Back from the river we find nothing but prairies. Another city is now laid off above the American Fork. It is called New Boston. I am now encamped six miles above the city on the banks of the Sacramento for the purpose of resting ourselves and cattle before starting for the mines and have been since the fifteenth, it now being the twenty-second of the month.

The cause of my not keeping a daily journal was bad health. I was afflicted with the scurvy and had a fever for several days and was unable to write, but have given a general history of the road, timber, water, grass etc. I may hereafter make some additions to these remarks, should anything occur to my mind that I have omitted to record that I think would be interesting to my family, for whose benefit I have penned the notes. It has been done in haste and without any convenience for writing. I therefore trust that they look over the errors when they consider the circumstances under which it has been written and accept of it as a present from one who feels a greater interest in their welfare than any other person living.