A TRIP ACROSS THE PLAINS

IN THE YEAR 1849, -1850

Notes of a Voyage to California,

WITH -

BY WAY OF PANAMA. • [1854]

ALSO, SOME

SPIRITUAL SONGS, &c.

BY MRS. MARTHA M. MORGAN.

SAN FRANCISCO.

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TRIP ACROSS THE PLAINS,

IN 1849.

LEFT St. Joseph for California via Salt Lake, May 24th, 1849. May 25th-Passed Savannah, Nodawa River, Little Sarkey River and Big Sarkey River. June 1st-Passed Linden, county seat of Atchison. Sunday, June 8d-Crossed the Shnabotany. June 7th-Passed Cainville, and encountered a tremendous thunder shower. June 8th-Arrived at Upper Ferry Bayou, and stopped there till the 1st of July. July 2d-Crossed the Missouri river. July 4th-Encamped in Indian Territory-Omahans Indians-near Mormon Winter Quarters, a city built of logs by Mormons, containing some seven or eight hundred houses, or rather hovels, all of which, at present, are deserted. July 6th-Left Mormon Winter Quarters, and arrived at Elkhorn River on the evening of the 7th, 27 miles from Missouri. The Elkhorn River is from four to six rods in width, with about four feet of water-a dirty stream. and empties into Platte River. July 10th-Crossed Elkhorn River in six hours and forty minutes, with sixty-five wagons and encamped on the west side. July 11th-Traveled twelve miles, and encamped on the bank of the Platte River, at the Liberty Pole ; here we found some bodies of dead Indians, apparently killed in battle. The plain we passed over is beautiful. July 12th-Nothing particular-we traveled thirteen miles over a beautiful plain ; the day was very warm, and passed the First Fifty. July 13th-We traveled ten miles, crossed a branch called he Shell, and encamped by an excellent spring ; this was the

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first good water we found after leaving Winter Quarters. July 14th-Traveled twelve miles, had a bad road, crossed two sloughs, saw one deer, the first we saw on the Plains, and encamped on the banks of the Platte. Sunday, July 15th-Traveled ten miles and a half, had good roads, and encamped on Loup Fork ; beautiful camping ground. The Loup Fork empties into the Platte River ; the bank and bed of this river is composed of white sand ; this section of the country is claimed by the Pawnee Indians. July 16th-Traveled nine and a half miles, coralled, and that night had a stampede in the coral ; broke two wagons, killed one sheep, and broke the horns off several head of cattle. July 17th-Mended the wagons and moved a short distance ; made a strong coral, and that night had another stampede : nothing killed ; one cow crippled. July 18th-In the morning, after the cattle were all yoked, and most of them chained together, we had another stampede, which was truly awful to behold ; cattle rushed from the coral, chained together, from 2 to 3, 4 and 5 yoke, and were literally piled np in heaps, some with broken legs, some with horns broken off, but none killed : two men badly and two slightly hurt. Through the course of the day, we had some six or eight stampedes, and it was with extreme difficulty that we got them quieted ; we then separated them into squads of ten ; during this operation I think I saw some of the tracks of the "big elephant." July 19th-Traveled eighteen miles, and encamped on Loup Fork, near Pawnee village. The Pawnee country is beautiful. July 20th-Removed from near Pawnee town and encamped six miles from Loup Fork Fording, some twelve miles travel ; crossed Cedar Creek, which is from 4 to 5 rods wide, and from 2 to 3 feet deep, July 21st-The past night was noted for a remarkably severe shower of rain ; we commenced our march at daylight in the morning, and traveled six miles to the Lonp Ferry, in a heavy rain, and encamped ; through the day a draft of thirty men, from the One Hundred, was made, to examine the fording. They reported unfavorably. At this place we found a letter left by Mr.

Egan, captain of a company that passed this place, on the 29th of June last, stating the death of 4 men, two from cholera, one from drowning, and one killed by the Indians. July 22d-We lay in camp all day, waiting for Alred's Fifty, to pass over the Loup Fork River. July 23d-We crossed the river ; had very good luck, and encamped one mile distant. The bed of this river is quick-sand, and the borders are liable to change materially in half an hour. The water was, at the time of crossing, about twenty inches deep. July 25th-We took up our line of march in the morning, traveled twelve miles through a different country from the east of the river ; the plains were round hills of sand, and the road was sandy and hard to travel on ; grass thin and short ; water scarce, and no wood at all. This day I saw the first antelope : it was killed by the Ten ahead of us. July 26th-Traveled ten miles ; saw one antelope ; crossed one mile of wet bottom and deep mud, and encamped within five miles of Platte River, in a heavy rain ; had no wood. July 27th-Traveled eight miles. Mr. Grav broke his wagon tongue in the morning, which hindered as ; we encamped on Wood River. This river is from twelve to eighteen feet wide ; eighteen inches water and excellent camping ground-Here we found thirty-seven head of cattle, evidently lost by some emigrants ahead of us : the most of them were work-cattle. The real cause of their being found astray from their owners is shrouded with the mantle of invisibility. It may be, however, they were stampeded by the Indians or buffaloes. From this on, we expect to see sights-hear old women dream and young men prophecy. This morning we had to repair Hatch's wagon wheel and, consequently, started at a very late hour. July 28th-In the morning we made some division of above-mentioned cattle and with a protracted start, traveled fifteen miles, and encamped on Platte River. Opposite Grand Island, passed two graves ; one designated by the name of Moses Hale, from Wisconsin,-died of cholera. Wood River runs parallel, partly, with Platte River. widening from one to ten miles, in traveling fifteen miles west,

and it is the most beautiful country I ever saw. Here I saw the first prairie dogs : they resemble the dog, but they partake more of the nature of the rabbit ; they are about as large as a small ground hog, and live in little villages, containing from one half to one acre of territory. Their holes are very thick ; they live on grass, and they are good to eat. Sunday, July 29th-Traveled twelve miles and encamped on the prairie ; had bad roads, and passed the grave of Capt. Gully and one of his men, who died of cholera ; he was captain of the Hundred, that started four weeks previous to us. This day we found forty head more of cattle. July 30th-Traveled eighteen miles, and encamped near Dry Creek, at the head of Grand Island. We passed Fort Kearny this forenoon, which lies about six miles south, on Grand Island. The country remains handsome, and the prairie dogs are as thick as grass-hoppers. We are now two hundred and twenty miles from Missouri, or Mormon Winter Quarters. This was the first night we used buffalo chips to cook with. July 31st-Traveled fifteen miles and encamped. Plenty of grass and water, but no wood. The evenings and mornings are quite cool, and the days are rather cool for this season of the year.

August 1st—Traveled twelve miles, and encamped near the Platte River. Started rather late on account of a broken axletree. August 2d—Traveled eighteen miles ; this day, for the first time, we were gratified with the sight of the buffalo ; 1 suppose we saw one thousand ; our company killed two and one deer ; I made two shots without effect. August 3d—Lay in camp, and hunted buffalo ; caught none, but wounded several. Here we found a grave ; death out of the Hawk Eye Company, Iowa—named Haggard. August 4th—Traveled 18 miles, and our company killed and brought in one buffalo and one calf, and killed several more. This day we found the road very bad, and the owners came for the cattle we had found. They belonged to Captain Owens Company of gold-diggres, from New York and Wisconsin ; they lost them during a severe storm, which lasted two days and one

night, Sunday, August 5th-Traveled twelve miles over tremendous bad roads of sand and mud, and encamped near Skunk Creek. This day we received intelligence from G. A. Smith, that England had sent sixty thousand troops to California, and as many more to Mexico ; and that France and England were in difficulty : also of the death of James K. Polk and Gen. Gaines. Here we met five wagons of gold-diggers, on their return home, on the south side of the river ; they had lost some of their men and got dis couraged. August 6th-Traveled thirteen miles over bad roads ; for the last three or four days the country has not been so handsome ; the prairies are low and wet, with occasional sand hills. We pass a very large spring of excellent water, a great juxury to me, as it was the first draught of good water I had en" joyed for four weeks. We also passed the junction of the South Fork of Platte River ; kept up by the North Branch and encamped on the bank of the river ; had no wood, and were compelled to boil our mush-pot with buffalo chips, August 7th-Lay in camp. S. Snider killed one buffalo and one antelope. Here we gave up the lost cattle. We have been traveling amongst the Sionx Indians since we left Grand Island. Their country extends from Independence Rock. The Crow Indians occupy the country lying between the South Fork and Francis River. August 8th-Traveled fourteen miles ; had good roads in the fore part of the day. and encamped on the bank, across the river. We saw buffaloes in droves, and at night some of them tried to cross over to our camp. I should have mentioned that on the 7th we had a f dance. August 9th-Traveled seventeen miles, and encamped on the river. In the fore part of the day we had good roads, but in the latter part sandy and hilly. Crossed Bluff Creek, six rods wide, eighteen inches water, sandy bottom and good crossing. This day we passed Capt. Alred's Fifty, resting their cattle. They had killed two buffalo ; plenty of buffalo now in sight. August 10-Traveled twelve miles over hard hills and sandy roads : passed several streams of good water, and encamped under the Bluff ;

plenty of Buffalo in sight all day. August 11th-Traveled seventeen miles over good roads, and passed Cedar Bluff. Sunday, August 12th-Lay in camp ; killed four ducks ; in the afternoon we had a religious meeting, the first we enjoyed since we started. August 13th-Traveled fourteen miles, one mile and a half being high sandy Bluff, in consequence of which we had to double teams The bottom land has grown much narrower, and the Bluffs more rocky. The river here will average three-foruths of a mile in width, but I think the water would all run in a stream twenty rods wide and four feet deep. The Bluffs on the south side are partially covered with small cedar. We passed the grave of a gold-digger, from Iowa. August 14th-Traveled sixteen miles; passed Ash Hollow, on the south side of the river, and the Lonely Tree on the north side ; this is the only tree on the north side of the river, for the distance of two hundred miles-from this it takes its name. It is cotton wood, and stands about half way between the road and the river. We passed the grave of a golddigger, from Adams county, Illinois-died of cholera. August 15th-Traveled fourteen miles ; good roads. Received request from Captain Taylor to stop till he came up. This evening. Mr. Perkins came on and informed us that they had had a stampede in the wagons-about fifty ; they broke some and injured several persons. We furnished them with two new axles, and a blacksmith to repair damages ; encamped on the bank of the river. August 16th-Lay in camp all day ; nothing worthy of notice transpired. August 17th-Still in camp; at evening, Perkins and Moore's teams came up, and also Alred's Fifty, and informed us that one woman had died of the wounds she received in the stampedes. August 18th-In the morning we had a meeting of the One Hundred, called by Capt. Taylor. The Mormons quarreled like fiends, and I think besmeared about three-fourths of an acre of ground, but Perkins' Ten went ahead ; in the evening we met brother Babbit, from Salt Lake ; we traveled ten miles. August 19th-In the morning we heard some letters read, from the

valley ; quite interesting and cheering, and I believe we all traveled on with much lighter hearts than we commenced our journey. We traveled eighteen miles and encamped on the bank of the river ; had good roads and good feed. August 20th-In the morning we saw twenty-nine government wagons pass down the south side of the river ; they were from Fort Laramie, bound for the States ; they had with them some unfortunate gold-diggers, one crazy man, and several crippled by being in a stampede ; we traveled twenty miles and encamped on the river, opposite Chimney Rock. This rock is quite notorious, and can be seen forty or fifty miles with the naked eye. This rock, together with the bluffs, up to the Scott's Bluffs, are very interesting, and many of them appear more like the work of art than of nature. August 21st-Traveled nineteen miles and encamped on the river, opposite Scott's Bluff. These bluffs appear like so many fortifications ; they are from one to three hundred feet high. August 22d-Traveled fifteen miles ; nothing particular transpired. It was, however, a very warm day and one ox gave out. August 23d--Traveled fourteen miles ; weather excessively warm. August 24th-In the morning, we received a visit from three Indians, the first we had seen since we left Missouri, a distance of five hundred miles, through an Indian territory ; they were Sioux and ostensibly very friendly; we traveled five miles, and found an Indian camp with some French traders with them. Sioux is a new trading post, fifteen miles east of Fort Laramie ; they received us with friendship ; we stopped some four hours and traded with them, giving flour, meal, powder, lead and cloths, for buffalo robes and moccasins. In the evening we traveled six miles, over a heavy, sandy road, and encamped on the river in the night. August 25th-Lay in camp ; set wagon tire and made general repairs ; in the afternoon the wind blew a hurricane, and the sand rose in clouds and drifted like snow. Sunday, August 26th-Lay in camp until three o'clock and finished repairs ; then traveled five miles and encamped on the river, four miles below Fort Laramie ;

we received a visit from some teamsters across the river, going to the Fort ; Gray broke his wagon. August 27th-We crossed the north branch of the river, at Fort Laramie. Here stands an old Fort called Fort John, built by the Western Fur Company: it is nearly torn down: Laramie Fort is built one mile up Laramie River, a beautiful place for a town. Here the roads from Independence, Fort Leavenworth, Saint Joseph, Council Bluff and Arkansas River come together. From this place we began to see the destruction of both life and property ; in the first eight miles we saw five graves, made within the last two months. Here begins what is called the Black Hills : they are high bluffs, covered with pitch pine ; the river at this place is easily forded, in common stages of water. August 28th-Traveled eighteen miles ; the day was very windy and dusty, the road tolerably good, though we had to encounter some high and rocky mountains : we took the river road; saw the head of a mountain sheep-its horns were very large. August 29th-In the morning killed a buffalo ; he came to the camp ; it then commenced raining and ended in snow. lasting until noon. In the afternoon, we traveled ten miles over mountains high as the clouds : saw, northwest of us, a mountain white with snow ; this is the first we ever saw in August. We came down on the Platte River bottom, and encamped at the month of a ravine ; here we saw fresh signs of plenty of elk and bear ; here Captain Taylor pushed us hard ; the country here is mountainous and never can be inhabited : but a small amount of vegetation grows here. August 30th-Traveled twenty miles and encamped on the river alone, for the first time since we left George. Charley and Taylor ; shot at and wounded a buffalo. driven across the road by some hunters : the roads were tolerably good ; the country is poor, with thin sandy soil, producing but little, except in patches on the river ; we had frost every night since the the 27th. August 31st-Traveled eighteen miles ; came into

the road that leads over the hills, a little north of Laramie Peak ; here we commenced going down hill, until we came to Labonte River. Mr. Gray broke his wagon while here ; Captain Samuel Snider and myself had little quarrel : we are now on the Crow Indian Territory.

Sept. 1st-Left Sam. Snider, and joined George Snider's team and traveled eighteen and one-fourth miles, and encamped on a small stream. Found no grass. Here we covered the dead body of a buffalo with sand, to keep ourselves from being stunk out of camp. Sept. 2d-Traveled eight miles, and encamped on the Seboyn River, at 12 o'clock. In the afternoon, Mr. Barnet and myself made a hunting excursion, but found no game. In the evening, Mr. Campbell and two others returned from Geo. A. Smith's camp, with the express from Salt Lake, and drew on our party for horses and provisions. Sept. 3d-Traveled twelve miles and encamped on the river, where we had a beautiful camping-ground, and good feed. Here we found the remains of a number of wagons, which had been cut up, burnt and destroyed. together with the remnants of various other camping materials. Sept. 4th-Traveled fifteen miles ; had good roads, but very windy and dusty. Encamped on the river. Passed one good wagon. The wagons above alluded to were left by gold diggers. In the evening the Express returned, and stopped with us over night. Had a religious meeting in the evening. Sept. 5th-Returned back and met Capt. Alred's Fifty. Our party stayed with Capt. Taylor over night. Sept. 6th-Came back ; forded Platte River-knee deep ; overtook the wagons in a dry place, without wood or water. In the evening, joined with some others to go to the river for water for supper. We traveled about five miles to the river, and encamped over night, and returned in the morning with the water for breakfast. This is a dry, sandy, barren country, hilly and mountainous, and grows little else than wild sage. Sept. 7th-Stopped on the Plains until Capt. Thomas came up. We stopped over night, and then traveled seventeen miles over

hills and hot sand, and encamped three miles west of Willow Springs. At these Springs we found the remains of some ten or twelve wagons, which clearly evinced a vast destruction of property. Sunday, Sept. 9th-Traveled.sixteen and a half miles over some very sandy roads. Here we passed the Saleratus Heads, presumed to be one hundred acres, as white as snow. It was a windy day, and the saleratus would drift like snow before the wind. We gathered all we wanted : went on, and encamped ncar Independence Rock. This Rock is notorious for size and is a great curiosity. I presume the names of more than three thousand people are recorded on it. Here we struck the Sweet Water River-a pretty, gravelly stream, which abounds with fine trout. It empties into Platte River. Sept. 10th-Traveled five miles to the Devil's Gate. This is an opening through the mountain, for the Sweet Water River to pass. The channel is one hundred feet wide, and the rock, each side, is four hundred feet high, perpendicular. In the afternoon, Mr. Shaw and myself made a hunting excursion ; saw many antelope, but killed none. Sept. 11th-Lay in camp all day. Had a hunt ; made two shots at a buffalo, but did not kill him. Saw between fifty and one hundred antelope ; killed one antelope and twenty wolves. At this place I found a log chain, eighteen feet long. Scpt. 12th-Traveled eleven miles, over sandy roads. Had a shot at an antelope ; missed him, but killed some rattlesnakes, and encamped on the river Sweet Water. Sept. 13th and 14th-Traveled fourteen and fifteen miles ; nothing but a continual scene of rocky mountains, sandy barren plains, destruction of cattle, wagons, and other prop. erty. Here the Rattlesnake has taken up his abode. This is a section of country usually coursed by herds of buffalo, but we found none ; supposed to have been driven back by the Indians. Sept. 15th-Traveled sixteen miles over good roads, and encamped on the river ; went on a hunting excursion ; saw hundreds of antelope but killed none. At night, old Zabriskie and his wife had a tremendeous fight. Sept. 16th-Traveled eight miles, and encamped

on the river ; met the teams from the valley, going to meet Geo. Smith. They numbered twenty-one wagons. September 17th-Traveled five miles, and encamped on Sweet River. Mr. Brown killed one antelope in the morning, and I killed a duck, and found a log chain. Sept. 18th-Traveled ten miles : left the Sweet Water to the left, passing over high mountains and rocky roads, and encamped with Capt. Egbert, on a branch of the Sweet Water Had poor feed and little wood. Sept. 19th-Traveled seven miles, and encamped on the Sweet Water, at the upper fording ;-last place of crossing. No feed far cattle. Sept. 20th-Traveled twelve and a half miles, going through the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains, and encamped at the Pacific Springs. This was the first water we came across that empties into the Pacific Ocean. It is a nice little run, large enough to run a mill. Here we found some feed-the first good feed in several days travel This morning we found two of our cattle dead, and the balance of them looking as if they had nothing in them. Sept. 21st-The passed night we were unusually troubled with wolves ; we had to drive them off several times. In the morning we found another dead ox. This day we traveled twenty-four miles, without feed or water, and encamped on Little Sandy, two hours after dark. Sept. 22d-In the morning another cow dead : traveled twelve miles, and encamped on Big Sandy. The general appearance of the country, thus far west of the Pass, more level, but remains sandy and barren. Little or no grass to be found, except on the streams. For the last ten days we have been traveling in sight of a mountain of snow. We were, at one time, within ten miles of it ; yet the weather was so warm that we experienced no inconvenience in traveling in our shirt sleeves. We have been in the Oregon Territory since we came through the Pass, and in the Snake Indian country : now two hundred miles from Salt Lake Sept. 23d-Traveled seventeen miles ; passed a Government train of thirty wagons, loaded with corn, and bound for Bear River, under the command of Capt. Reed, and encamped on Big Sandy.

Sept. 24th-Traveled twelve miles, and encamped on Green River. This is a beautiful river, from ten to twelve rods wide, and from two to three feet deep :-- sand, gravel and round-stone bottom. Good camping ground ; plenty of wood, water and grass. Sept. 25th-Lay in camp ; rested our cattle and ourselves. Went on a hunting excursion, and killed eight ducks. Pacific Spring empties nto Little Sandy, Little Sandy into Big Sandy, Big Sandy into Green River, and Green River into the Colorado River. Sept. 26th-Traveled eight miles, and encamped on Green River. The weather is warm and pleasant. The roads good, and grass more plentiful. From this place (Green River) we took our departure "for the West." Sept. 27th-Traveled fifteen miles, and encamped on Black's Fork ; poor feed. Sept. 28th-In the morning found Old Zabriskie's cow dead, and Joe Okany found an ox. We traveled five and a half miles, and encamped on Black's Fork. Found good grass. Here Capt. Geo. Hancock got the big head, went on, and left all the company behind. Sept. 29th-Traveled fifteen miles, and encamped on Black's Fork. This day I quit Old Zabriskie to make a hunting excursion through the Valley. We overtook Capt. Geo. Snider. He had killed an antelope. Sept. 30th-Traveled fifteen miles, and encamped on Black's Fork, one mile from Fort Bridger. The nights here were very cold, but the middle of the days quite warm and pleasant. We discovered another mountain of snow to the south of us.

October 1st—We lay in camp all day. In the morning, with some others, I visited the Fort, found Capt. Bridger in good spirtics, a frank, open-hearted mountaincer. He is a Virginian by birth, has lived in the mountains for the last twenty-eight years ; has visited the States but twice, and sixteen years of this time he assures us that he never tasted bread. He has a squaw, or several of them, for his wife. We then went to an Indian camp, one mile off. Here we found six or eight Frenchmen, who have lived with the Indians many years, following hunting and trading. Through the day we exchanged corn, flower, and other rations, for dressed skins, ready made antelope and elk pants and moccasins. Here we overtook a government-train, out of provisions. One of our men sold them five hundred pounds of flour, for seventy-five dollars. Flour frequently sells here for twenty-five dollars per one hundred pounds. Oct. 2d-Traveled fifteen miles, and encamped at Soda Springs ; found poor water, little food ; cold, windy day John Chany lost an ox on the road. Oct. 3d-In the morning. we found ourselves shoe deep in the snow ; snowed all day. Mr. Hawk and myself went on alone ; traveled ten miles and encamped on Bear River. This river is about three rods wide and one foot deep, in a common stage of water. It runs north, then west, then south, and empties into Salt Lake. Oct. 4th-Lay in camp all day. In the afternoon, Capt. George came up ; here we left Mr. Hammon. Oct. 5th-Traveled fifteen miles, and encamped on the head of Echo Creek. Had good feed and water, but little wood. In the evening, we met some teams from the valley. We encamped one mile a head of the rest. Oct. 6th-Traveled fifteen miles, and encamped on Echo Creek. Had plenty of wood, water, and feed. The country, since we left Fort Bridger, begins to assume a more productive appearance. Bear River Valley is a rich soil. and increases in richness as we travel west. Oct. 7th-Traveled fifteen miles, and encamped on Weber River. This river is three or four rods wide, two feet deep, runs north-west, and empties into Salt Lake. Found plenty of bear signs, but saw none. Oct. 8th -Lay in camp, waiting for Capt. Taylor to come up, but they did not come. Oct. 9th-Mr. Reeves found a bull that the wolves were about to kill ; and old Mr. Brown came from the valley, to meet his children. In the morning, we found one ox mired and one missing, which detained all but Mr. Hawk and myself. We traveled twelve miles, and encamped on Carrion Creek ; had had roads. We encamped with Capt. Corbet's train. Oct. 10th-Encamped on Carrion Creek, at the foot of the four-mile Hill. Here Capt. Hancock came up with us. Had very bad roads. Oct. 11th -Crossed over the last mountain, and encamped at the foot of the Canion, leading to the valley. Oct. 12th-The long looked for time arrived. We landed in the valley of the Salt Lake.

April 22d, 1850-Left Great Salt Lake City ; traveled ten miles, and encamped on North Mill Canion, on the road to California, in company with J. N. Spalding and Wm. Prouse. April 23d-Took in pork at Neil's; traveled eighteen miles, and encamped on a fine run of water. Had good food here. I. Green, Long and Martin came up, and encamped with us. April 24th-Lay in camp all day. April 25th-Traveled seventeen miles ; crossed Weber River, and encamped on the Ogden, where the bridge was taken up. Roads sandy and muddy. April 26th-In the morning, Mr. Long fell from the Ogden bridge, and was drowned. His body was not found. The bridge was repaired, and we crossed over in the afternoon, and encamped at Mr. Chase's April 27th-Bought some potatoes and butter, and traveled sixteen miles. Some part of the way the road was very muddy; passed some hot springs ; overtook some wagons, and encamped on a beautiful run of water. Several Indians encamped here-Sunday, April 28th-Traveled eight miles, and encamped on Box. Elder. Good roads, good food, and plenty of wood. Here we overtook Barnes, Perkins, Smith, and others ; also, a grizzly bear, but did not kill him. April 29th-Stayed in camp all day, on Box Elder. April 30th-Traveled twenty miles, and encamped on Bear. River, at the Ferry. Good roads, but little wood.



May lat—Grossed over Bear River; good ferry. The river, at this place, is about twenty rods wide. We then traveled three miles and came to the Malad. This stream is about fitteen feet wide, nine feet deep, and the bottom is about twenty rods across; and in crossing, takes the wheels of a wagon out of sight in mud and water; decidedly the worst place I ever saw to cross with a team. We traveled seven miles, and encamped at the point of the mountain. Here we joined Capt. Ork's company, and Barnes, Perkins, Smith, and myself traveled with him. May 2d-Lay in camp all day. May 3d-We took up our line of march ; traveled eighteen miles, and encamped in Salt Spring Valley. Our course from the city was north, eighty-four miles, to Bear River ; from thence west, or north of west. The water at this place was warm and impregnated with salt. Some Indians came into camp to trade dressed skins, for powder and lead. May 4th-Traveled thirteen miles, and encamped at Baisin Spring. Good water ; hilly roads. From 9 o'clock in the morning to sunset, a man is comfortable in shirt and pants ; but the nights are as cold as January in the States. Sunday, May 5th-Traveled fifteen miles, and encamped on Deep Creek, in a valley, some twenty-five miles across. This valley lies northwest from Salt Lake, and the mountains are covered with snow at this time ; roads good ; weather fine, but poor feed for the cattle. May 6th-Traveled eighteen miles, over a good road, across the valley, and encamped at the foot of the mountain, by a spring, in the Cedars. Here we have the last view of Salt Lake. This valley is principally covered with large brush. May 7th-Traveled thirteen miles, over hilly and rocky roads, and encamped at the head of a large valley, on a good run of water. that came from the mountain; wood and water eight miles east of the little mounds where the Indians killed three men last fall. May 8th-Traveled twelve miles, over good roads, and encamped on Raft Creek ; found the stream too high to cross. Here vies at topo Messrs. Foot and Barnard overtook us. We had some difficulty in our course and six wagons and men left us and went on. At night, it rained hard, and lasted till late in the morning. We, at last, voked up, and took the back track for one mile, and then turned to the right, around a small mountain. Had a good road, Struck the old road above the second crossing ; then came on and crossed at the third crossing ; followed up Raft Creek, and encamped, making two miles travel. May 10th-In the morning,

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we started by daylight, came to City Rock, eight miles, then turned out and took breakfast. Here the Salt Lake road comes into the Emigrant road, by way of Fort Hall, to California. Six miles just took us across the second valley. Here we had to leave the road several times, to pass around snow banks. May 11th-In the morning, we commenced climbing the mountains ; the assent was gradual, but the descent almost up and down, from the summit. We had a splendid view of Goose Creek Valley, which is quite a valley, filled with little mountains. It is quite romantic in appearance. This valley, like the rest, produces little else than sage brush ; some grass near the Rock. Goose Creek rises in the mountains, and is supposed to sink in some valley, like all other rivers that rise in the mountains. The direction of this stream is northwest ; traveled up this stream nine miles, and encamped ; making in all, nineteen miles. Sunday, May 12th-Continued up Goose Creek a southwest course, twelve miles ; then struck up Canion Creek ; followed up three miles and encamped. The last three were very stony and rough roads ; plenty of cedar and good water. May 13th-In the morning the roads were rough, but, in the latter part of the day, very good. We traveled ten miles, and encamped on Sage Run ; poor wood and poor water. May 14th-The first two miles were rather rough. We passed a large spring on the west side of the road ; then struck a narrow valley ; followed it twelve miles, then turned to the right ; traveled over a small mountain ; struck another valley; followed it six miles to a large spring, and encamped-making, in all, twenty-three miles. The general appearance of the country is much the same as that we have passed-mountains not quite so high, and cedar more plenty. May 15-Traveled seven miles ; came to warm Spring Creek. This creek forms three rivers, at the crossing, and is very deep ; here a number of Indians came to us, apparently rather fearful at first, but, finding us friendly, came into camp and exchanged dressed skins for powder, balls, &c. May 16th-Traveled ten miles up a branch of Warm Spring Creek, 17

to a river in the monntain. Here we found good grass ; took a "nooning," and proceeded on over the mountains ; found good roads, and feed growing better ; traveled six miles in the afternoon, and encamped in the valley-making, in all, sixteen miles. This mountain divides the waters of Goose Creek and St. Mary's River. The waters of the first run northeast, and of the second southwest. May 17th-Followed down Crane Creek, southwest. to a pass in the mountain. The mountain, on the south side of the pass, is high, and covered with snow. We passed through the mountain and encamped-making, in all, eighteen miles. This brought us to St. Mary's River, east branch. May 18th-In the morning traveleled ten miles ; came to the east branch of St. Mary's River ; two sloughs, deep, and had to cross them. Six miles farther brought us to the main branch of St. Mary's River, where we encamped. The first company had just crossed the river. May 19th-We crossed the river in a boat arranged for the purpose, by unloading our wagons and hauling them over by hand. The river being over the banks, we had three deep sloughs to cross, before we got to the west side of the valley. I carried such things across them as would not be injured by wetting ; wading in mud and water to my arm pits ; worked hard all day, and gained one mile. This river is two rods wide, and, at this time, ten feet deep; but in the fall, affords little or no water. May 20th-Lay in camp ; rested, washed, and dried such things as got wet. May 21st-Traveled twenty miles down St. Mary's River, and encamped ; had good roads. May 22d .- Two miles after we started, we came to the west branch of Saleratus Creek ; we had to boat over our goods, and swim our cattle with the wagons ; we had much difficulty in crossing ; had a fight in the company ; traveled three miles further and encamped ; it commenced raining in the evening and rained all night ; in the morning we observed that the mountains around had a new coat of snow ; it was quite cold. May 24th-Traveled twenty-two miles; had good roads ; this brought us to a narrow pass, barely room

enough for the river, in high water. May 25th-In common stages of water this road runs through the pass, but at present is full of water, so we took a narrow passage into the mountains ; had one hard hill, and then a gradual rise very crooked, but smooth road. When on the tops of the mountains we could see the river, both ways ; about ten miles over this road we came to Willow Creek-followed this down two miles and crossed with much difficulty ; traveled three miles further and encamped on Baisin Creek, thirty-six feet wide, eight feet deep and has to be ferried. May 26th-In the morning, (Sunday,) we commenced ferrying, and by one o'clock were all over; we then took up to Spring Creek Canion, a new road, eight miles ; struck the old road two miles ahead and encamped ; had plenty of sage grass and water. May 27th-Traveled twenty miles, over mountains and down Rincon's rough roads, and encamped, once more, on Mary's River. May 28th-Traveled fifteen miles west, over a valley, to Bluff Creek, and encamped; some had ferried over, when we found good fording eighty rods above. This Creek is thirty-six feet wide, seven feet deep, but in dry weather is nearly dry. May 29th-Traveled twenty-two miles; crossed the points of some mountains to avoid the overflow of the river ; found it very sidelong, rocky and difficult to pass, and encamped on the slough. May 30th-Traveled eighteen miles of a new road, somewhat sandy, and encamped on the river at Matrimonial Bend. Here Wm. Prouse and Roberts got married. May 31st-Traveled twenty miles northeast, and encamped on the river.

June 1st—Traveled twenty-five miles, roads mostly good, and encamped at the bend of the river, opposite the White Sandy Bluff; good feed, but no wood. June 2d—Traveled sixteen miles over a heavy, sandy road, in a southwest direction. June 3d—Traveled fourteen miles, over a heavy, sandy road, and encamped on a bottom near the river, where the road runs across the point of a mountain westward, when it comes to the river acain. June 4th—Traveled twenty-two miles over good roads :

passed the Oregon road at a large bend of the river. This road leaves the river here and runs northwest; went down the river three miles and encamped. ; had no feed but sage brush. June 5th-Traveled twenty miles, without feed or water on the road, until we encamped on the river. Here we overtook Captain Demont's company. June 6th-Compelled to travel twenty-five miles to the sloughs ; one watering place on the road, but no feed. Soon after we encamped we found our cattle nearly all sick ; water salty ; good roads Here we saw some of the Pawnee Indians ; they appeared friendly. June 7th-In the morning our cattle were better ; lay in camp and rested ; here the river begins to spread into sloughs. June 8th-Lay in camp and rested. Sunday, June 9th-Traveled twenty-five miles, and encamped on the edge of the desert, three miles below Humboldt Lake, or the main sink of Mary's River; fine grass, but water salty. The most of the country, during this day's travel, was nearly entirely clear of vegetation of any kind; the mountains, also, are as clear of it as the roof of a house. The lake is about twenty miles across; we past it on the west side. June 10th-This morning we entered the desert ; traveled thirty miles and encamped at half-past nine o'clock in the evening. June 11th-In the morning, at four o'clock, we started-came to Salmon Trout . River, ten miles, without water ; our course through the desert was south. This river rises in the mountains-runs east to the desert, then bears southeast, and is said to form a lake. This river is four rods wide, six feet deep, and has some timber on its banks ; the balance of the day we rested. June 12th-Traveled eight miles and encamped on the river ; poor feed and poor wood; roads sandy, hilly and rough. June 13th-Traveled twelve miles and encamped on the river ; roads sandy, hilly and rough ; poor feed. June 14th-Traveled twenty miles ; reached a mountain over a rough, heavy road, and encamped on the river; good feed and good wood. June 15th--Traveled eighteen miles ; roads sandy, hilly and stony and encamped on the river. About seven

miles back from this place, Wm. Prouse discovered gold in a Canion that came in from the north. Sunday, June 16th-Lay in camp ; some men went back to examine the gold and reported favorably. Four Indians came into camp, apparently more fierce than any we had seen on the route. June 17th-Traveled seven miles ; Mrs. Sparks got hurt, and we encamped on a branch bottom ; good feed and good roads. June 18th-Lay in camp. June 19th-Traveled twenty-two miles ; went down the west side of the valley, near the foot of the mountain : this valley commences at the river and runs north, thirty miles long and ten miles wide t beautiful valley; grass in abundance; the mountain covered with pine timber. June 20th-Lay in camp, waiting for the snow to thaw off the mountain. Six men came from the other side of the mountain, prospecting for gold. June 21st-Lay in camp ; five men from our camp went back to examine the mine we had found. June 22d-Lay in camp. Sunday, June 23d-Lay in camp. June 24th-Lay in camp. June 25th-Oliver Norton and myself came to mouth of the Canion, eight miles, and encamped. June 26th-Came up the Canion seven miles, and encamped in the first little valley ; crossed the river three times ; swam the cattle by putting a lariat on to keep them from being carried away by the current. Five miles of this road is the worst I ever saw ; rocks and stones beyond description ; mountains on each side, thousands of feet high, almost perpendicular. June 27th-Traveled six miles and came over the first mountain : snow from 1 to 20 feet deep ; we had to drive almost straight up over snow banks and big rocks. June 28th-Traveled four miles over a very rough road and encamped at the Monntain Lake. Sunday, June 29th-Traveled eight miles and encamped on the top of the second mountain. June 30th-Traveled eighteen miles over mountains of snow and encamped on the mountain ; had to melt snow for 1186

June 1st-Traveled sixteen miles ; this carried us through the snow. The last five days we traveled through or over snow, from one to one hundred feet deep. July 2d—Traveled fifteen miles; roads hilly and rough. These mountains are covered with white pine, yellow pine, pitch pine, fir, red and live oak; woods very tall. July 3d—Traveled twelve miles; this brought us into the diggings in Pleasant Valley. July 4th—Lay in Pleasant Valley, and enjoyed ourselves as well as we could, after a long journey.

NOTES OF A VOYAGE TO CALIFORNIA,

BY WAY OF PANAMA.

NEW YORK, Thursday, 1st day, 5th Jan., 1854.

At two o'clock, on Thursday alternoon, we started off in the Steamship "Ohio," Capt. Fox, and proceeded down the bay of New York in charge of a pilot. When fairly outside we discharged our pilot, and sent back with him one man who had lost his ticket and four others who were stowed away, hoping to get to the land of gold by working their passage. Weather is clear and cold; sun shining brightly. Quite a number felt no inclination to eat suppor, and retired early to their berths.

Friday, 2d day, 6th Jan.—Very little breakfast eaten; rather foggy and thick weather; fog cleared away before noon, and then the weather was very fine; saw a large shoal of porpoises. I watched their gambols for some time; nothing of any importance occured all day.

Saturday, 3d day, 7th Jan.—Morning broke cold, cloudy and very disagreeable; rained in the afternoon; saw a sail in the distance; did not speak, however.

Sunday, 4th day, 8th Jan.—Rainy all morning, and at intervals all day; ship rocking badly; no comfort on board; numbers sick; thunder and lightening, with rain, all the afternoon.

Monday, 5th day, 9th Jan.—Morning broke fine, sun shining and sky beautiful and clear; saw a vessel in the distance; rainy and rather squally toward night. Tuesday, 6th day, 10th Jan.-Morning broke fine again, and sun quite warm. Overcoate not needed; land in sight; west, saw a sail; in afternoon slight gust of rain; weather quite hot at night.

Wednesday, 7th day, 11th Jan.-Sky beautiful and clear; sun very hot; awnings over the decks; weather feels very much like July or August weather in the States. Evening very cool and pleasant.

Thursday, 8th day, 12th Jan .- The weather is becoming very hot indeed. I expect we feel it more in consequence of coming from a colder climate ; expect to arrive in Kingston, Jamaica, tonight; ship's crew cleaning and scouring up everything that can be cleaned; in the afternoon some of the machinery gave way, causing a delay of about an hour or so; we then started on our way as brisk as ever; judging from appearances, a great many stayed up all night, watching for Kingston ; about three o'clock, the Captain thought it prudent to lay-too and signal a pilot, which signal was answered, about five o'clock, by a boat coming alongside, and a voice asked if we wanted a pilot. We, of course, an, swered yes, and he came aboard, and the first thing he asked for was a piece of bread and meat. He was the most singular looking mortal I ever saw, being as black as a dark night, and dressed with numerous colors, and his head tied up in a large handkerchief of many colors.

Friday, 9th day, 13th Jan. - Early in the morning, we are going into the harbor of Kingston; long lines of mountains on our right, and abcad little buts are to be seen from here. At eight o'clock we passed the British menof-war stationed here, and exchanged signals, and stopped to allow the doctor and another person to come aboard; half-past eight at the wharf, and then commenced a seene which beggars all description: fruit in plenty; oranges fifty cents per handred, fresh from the trees; negroes in profusion. The houses are all built with insumerable windows, to afford a free circulation of air. The Island of Jamaica has gone down very much since the slaves we has their freedom. The manner in which we coaled up here is quite singular; this is done by negro women, who carry large tubs of coal on their heads, and follow each other in long rows, singing and making a most terribe noise and confusion.

Saturday, 10th day, 14th Jan.--This morning we set sail for Aspinwall, about nine o'clock. The weather is fine : three o'clock, land all out of sight; once more on the broad ocean.

Sunday, 11th day, 15th Jan.-Fine morning, weather much the same as yesterday; nothing of importance occurred all day.

Monday, 12th day, 16th Jaa.—Fine day and wind blowing fresh from the west. About two o'clock the cry of fire spread throughout the ship, causing a thrill of horros to pass through the body of every passenger; we soon found, however, that it was only a slight burning in the galley, and had it speedly extinguished.

Tuesday, 13th day, 17th Jan .- Arrived in Aspinwall about seven o'clock; went on shore and took our tickets for the Railroad : and about nine o'clock we went off, in fine style, for Cruces. We stopped on the river Chagres, and went up in boats to Cruces. where we arrived about four o'clock ; and immediately took supper, as we were very hungry, and then looked about the town. This is a miserable place; all the houses nearly being thatched with straw, and the natives extort all they can from travelers. We soon retired, and found we had to sleep in a room with about seventy-five other beds in it; however, we managed to sleep a little, and got up early next morning and took our breakfasts, when we started off for Panama, and such a road I never saw in my life ; sometimes we almost touched the oliffs with our knees as we hung over the mules, at others we were perched on the summit of a high precipice; we got to Panama, however, without any difficulty, and took board at the American Hotel, and such board ! Tough meat, no butter, old rye coffee and no milk ; I was glad we were not going to stop long in the place. Panama is an old style spanish town, with cathedrals that look as if they might have been built in the year one.

Thursday, 15th day, 19th Jan.—Got our tickets and had to pay a tax of \$2.00 for hospital fees; we had to be lifted from the shore to the boats, as there are no wharves here; some of the ladies were very much opposed to being carried in this manner; they had to do it, however, and consequently submitted. We go on board, and sailed about six o'clock; no one more on the ocean.

Friday, 16th day, 20th Jan.—Sea smooth and sun shining brightly; nothing of importance doing; very hot.

Saturday, 17th day, 21st Jan.-Same old tune; card playing; nothing of importance.

Sunday, 18th day, 22d Jan.—Morning broke with a very high sea, and very disagreeable all day; had Church service in evening.

Monday, 19th day, 23d Jan.-Morning fine ; gut up rather late ; nothing but the old routine all day; nothing to break the monotony.

Tuesday, 20th day, 24th Jan .-- The morning broke with rough weather, wind blowing and sea running very high ; a number of times the decks were washed by the sea coming clean over them.

Wednesday, 21st day, 25th Jan.--Morning broke fine in a calm; no wind of any account. We are now (twelve o'clock) one hundred and thirty-eight miles from Acapulco, Mexico.

Thursday, 22d day, 26th Jan.—We arrived in Acapulco early this morning ; numbers went on shore ; the town looks much like all the towns we have seen on our roate; nuontains surround it on three sides. Nine o'clock we fired a gan, for all boats to return from shore ; at twelve o'clock we are standing along the coast, going as fast as we can, from Acapulco to San Francisco.

Friday, 23d day, 27th Jan.—Morning fine : same old tune, nothing to do; traveled in the last twenty-four hours, up to twelve o'clock to-day, two hundred and thirty miles.

Saturday, 24th day, 28th Jan .- Nothing worth mentioning ; distance two hundred and five miles.

Sunday, 25th day, 29th Jan .- Weather fine ; had service this morning ; distance two hundred and twenty miles.

Monday, 26th day, 30th Jan .-- Nothing of importance occurred 4

all day, except, a little excitement in consequence of musty bread being given to the forward passengers ; distance two hundred and eighteen miles.

Tuesday, 27th day, 31st Jan.--Weather fine; spoke the whale ship "Marlow," of New Bedford, twenty months out; distance two hundred and twelve miles.

Wednesday, 28th day, 1st Feb.--Weather fine ; no rain as yet ; distance two hundred and twenty-two miles.

Thursday, 29th day, 2d Feb.—Weather foggy and looks like rain; cool weather; over-coats in requisition; distance two hundred and twenty miles.

Friday, 30th day, 3d Feb.—Weather still foggy ; half-past one, so near shore that we could see the green sides of the Mountains ; distance two hundred and forty-two miles. We expect to arrive in San Francisco, some time to-night, or to-morrow morning early.

Friday, April 14th .--- Occupied the house of Mr. J. Renfro, at twenty-five dollars per month.

SPIRITUAL SONGS, &c.

Come, all ye young people, of every nation, Come listen awhile, and to you I will tell How I was first called to seek for salvation,— Redemption from Jesus, who saved me from hell.

I was scarcely sixteen when I was first called To seek for salvation, and how I might live ; I saw myself standing a distance from Jesus.

Between me and Him was a mountain of sin.

The devil, perceiving that I was convicted, He strove to persuade me that I was too young ; That I would get weary, before my days ended, And wished I had never so early begun.

Sometimes he persuades me that Jesus is partial, While he was a setting of poor sinners free; That I was forgotten and quite reprobated, And their was no mercy at all for poor me.

But, glory to Jesus ! His love is not confined To princes, or men of a noble degree ; His love is unbounded to all human creatures,— He died for poor sinners, when nailed to the tree.

FREE WILL.

There is a school on earth begun, Supported by the Holy One ; He sends his students for to prove The principles of perfect love. So, come, my friends, where'er you be ; Say, will you go to school with me? Christ Jesus is my Master's name, To-day and vesterday the same. His law demands attention bright ; He teaches well both day and night. His government is meek and mild Toward the aged and the child. My Master learns the blind to see ; Come, then, ye blind, the school is free. My Master learns the lame to walk : Likewise he learns the dumb to talk ! He learns the swearing man to pray : Come, then, have faith without delay, And tune your hearts to praise his name, And shed abroad your Saviour's fame. My Master learns the deaf to hear-Come, then, yea deaf and lend an ear, And hear your Master's pleasant voice ; He'll make your mourning hearts rejoice. The Bible and our schools books too, Their lessons are for ever new ; The scholars all may learn to read,-It is a glorious school indeed.

Know, then, that every soul is free, To chose his life, and what he 'll be ! For this eternal truth is given, That God will force no man to heaven ; He 'll call, persande, direct him right, Bless him with wisdom, love and light, In nameless ways, be good and kind Jut never force the human mind. Freedom and reason makes us mon,— Take these away what are we then? Mere animals, and juts as well. The feast may think of heaven or hell. May we no more our powers abrass, But vays of truth and goodness choose. Dur Godi spleased when we improve ling races, and seek his perfect love. But if we take the downward road, And maks in held our last abode, Our God is clear, and we shall know, We plunged curvelyse in anollase woos.

TO MRS. M ON HER BRIDAL DAY.

Oh! no, I'll not join in your gladness, Though voices familiar are there; You but call up feelings of sadness, That plunged me in hopeless despair.

You remind me of hours, now passed. When the song was enlivened by me; When I dreamed the bright morning would last, And my spirit was happy and free.

Oh! could I forget the bright spell Of hope's sweet, insidious tale, I could learn to love others as well, And cease bitter fate to assail.

But, alas ! 'tis in vain that I try To shut out her form from my view ; For each breeze as it passes me by, Whispers still, "She 's praying for you."

AWAKE, YE SAINTS.

Awake ! ye saints of God, awake ! Call on his name, in secret prayer, For he will virtue's shackles break, And bring to nanght the foulest snare.

He will regard his children's cries, The widow's tears and orphan's moan; The blood of him who slanghtered lies, Pleads not in vain before his throne.

The father is gone; I can't recall him, From that world of heavenly bliss, Where no evil can befall him In his paradise of peace.

THOUGHTS IN SORROW.

Oh! that I was some bird or beast, Was I a stork or owl, I 'd seek some lonely cliff to build my nest-Or o'er the desert prowl.

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Oh! that I had some bosom friend To tell my sorrows to,

But though, for choice, I'd soar away, And bid this world adieu.

Alas! alas! what shall I do? My companion he is gone— I am a child of grief and woe, Forever more undone.

My loss is great, it doth create, Much grief as all may see : His children cry, no father by To dandle on the knee-

In vain I cry, in vain I mourn, In vain I seek for rest, But that lost hope can ne'er return To my poor troubled breast.

MRS. M. M. MORGAN.

THE MATERIALIST'S PRAYER.

Oh | Nature, true sovereign of all we behold, Inspire us with wisdom-thy mantle unfold ! Let the flambeau of truth illuminate the way, And the ensign of reason change night into day. Bid virtue thy beautiful daughter unite, With reason and truth, thy battles to fight. Dispel every phantom, we earnestly pray .---Those seducing chimeras which lead us astray, Consigning, at once, to oblivion's cell The dogma that taught the belief of a hell. And over all nations, oppressed to despair, The banner of freedom unfurl in the air, To cover thy virtuous, orthodox sons, From the incessant firing of Church and State guns ! The fatal empire of delusion pull down. Annihilate forever the crosier and crown. Bid the Pope and the Bishop give heed to thy call, For thou alone meritest the homage of all.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH OF JESSE MORGAN, OF OHIO.

SAGRAMENTO CITY, CALIFORMA. I hereby certify that Jesser and Forgan, late of Ohio, was killed in this city, on the corner of J and Fourth streets, at or near two o'clock, on Wednesday, Angust 14th, 1850, having two wounds, one through the neck, and the other being a slight wound through the left hip. I superintended the interring of the body, which was done in a respectable manner—his age being near 45 years. Morean WCMARAR.





