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Green text indicates insertion in original diary.
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Extraneous indicates material that appears to be extraneous to the dated entry.

Letters and Diary, 1849-1850 Spooner, Elijah Allen, 1811-1879

Vault MSS 662 [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#)

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Letter 1-March 11, 1849

[\[3\]](#) Adrian March 11th 1849

My Dearest Friend

It is now eleven days since you left Adrian and I am still here. I know that your patience will be severely tried when you learn this. & in addition that it will be three or four days more before we shall get off. But I could not sufficiently fouser the time of our departur to find time to visit you, which I most anxiously wished to do We have been constantly expecting to start in two or thee days all the time. We are now waiting for Howard and Averys compainers who have appointed Wednesday next as the day to leave It is now expected that we shall go by way of Cincinnati, It is probably the quickest route but I think more expensiv & does not meet my views -- (I enclose you Forty Dollars (\$40..) in this letter & shall enclose you some more in another if I get that at Tecumseh which I have not been to see about yet. I have been more successful in obtaining means than I was fearful I should be when you left But it will leave a small sum to be collected hereafter, sa'y from one Hundred & fifty to two Hund Dolls for your use You therefore will be obliged to practice economy in expenditures to make it last till my return, of this however I doubt not your willingness

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There has been quite an excitement in the village dering the last week in consequence of the exhumation of a recently interred body from the old graveyard by unlawful hands the grand jury were in session at the time and the case was carried before them & so much evidence produced that young "Kimball" who has been studying medicine with Spalding & Barnard was indicted & arrested The case at this crisis presented so grave an affect that the perpetrators thought it

best to return the body, which they did clandestinely on
Thursday night last & it was again burried
Suspensions are strong against Doct. Barnard as a
party concerned in the transaction & if the ca[-]
is pursued may find himself to nearly allied in the
affair for his interest or pleasure --
Today is sabbath, but I have not been to church
I have read some. I [^]have talked som, & I have reflected
much, but the heart is sad & gloomy, like this
External face of nature. Fain would I seek
repose on that heaving bosom of thine But the
privilege is denied! A different course is marked out
and hope must be the buoy to raise our sinking
spirits & keep us from despondency & inactivity
It must penetrate the present darkness & illumine
the future with good Faith, Hope, and
their kindred virtues can raise us above the
petty considerations of time & their gloomy

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apprehensions, to a fountain of love & happiness
that faileth not Thither my Dear Partner may
we meet & seek & find [^]that consolation which a Saviour
has furnished us, and which is an anchor to the soul,
and a present help in all the trying circumstances
of life! Yes and a hope when all others fade
I am conscious that I shall need to draw
consolation from all these sources for there is
a sympathetic chord that must bind the heart
to the object of its affection wherever I go & under
whatever variety of circumstances I may be placed --
I shall write you again before we leave
give my love to all the Family and beleiv me
Yours Most Affectionately
E. A. Spooner

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Mrs Nancy J. Spooner

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Letter 2-March 13, 1849

[5] Adrian March 13th 1849 (Evening)

My Dear Wife

This I suppose will be my last dispatch
to you before Starting that long long journey. We shall
start tomorrow if the weather is suitable

I enclose you in this a ten dollar bill (\$10..) which with that sent you before will make fifty Dollars Also I enclose you P. Raymond & Co. Rect for our Hundred Dollars which I have deposited with them & which will be paid on presentation of the rect. to them Also my order on R. H. Whitney for amt. of Judgment in my favour on his docket, when collected, of about twenty five dollars. This judgment is stayed by Doct. Cadman, & the stay expires on the 4th of April when Execution may be issued on it & collected in sixty days. Whitney may forget to issue the execution and Father had better call in and see how the matter stands when he comes to Adrian I went to Tecumseh today and got fifty dollars (\$50..) left by Mr Osburn by Fathers directions Ten dollars I was informed was endorsed on the note I have paid the balance of Fathers acct of Wilcox's amtg to \$2..38 This together with the balance due me on the notes which the fifty dollars does not pay will make Father indebted to me (or you) some nine or ten dollars. He can probably tell you exactly The receipt for obligations left with D.B Demins for collection amtg to som two hundred & fifty dollars over

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I will leave in the letter trunk here at the Docs shall probably leave it locked These demands left with Dennis will probably be rathr slow of collectin many will not pay till fall & some later than that & some not at all It will be well however when you or Father comes this way to take the receipt & make enquiries of Mr D. in reference to them: It may enhance the collection of them

If Father should have use for som or all this many it could probably be best to have him take it (I mean such as you do not want for present uses His advise on reference to it, you no doubt will find useful The cash in Raymonds hands may be drawn at any time, as it draws no interest

I found Doct Hamilton sick today. has not been out of the house for a week or more. He is now improving Mills' old brewery buildings close by the bridge in the Village was nearly all burnt up on Sunday night last between 10 & 12 o'clock It was occupied by a Dutchman as a residence & for brewing beer You may be curious to know whether I have cash enough to bring me back provided my efforts prove a failure? I answer No! For if life & health is spared I do not believe it will be a failure, and I choose to leave all I think I can spare with you I have invested it paid out for the Company about \$185.. and have cash on hand \$146.. I have yet to purchase for myself som side arms & som india rubber clothing which take some

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25 or 30 Dolls If we are fortunate in getting through
I think I shall have some \$75.. left Ba! here tis
past eleven o clock & I must go to my cold, lonesome
bed, so good night --

Thursday morning -- all riged for a start --
checker'd Shirt, tall boots over the pants, & white
hat, complete the peculiar appearance of your friend
for the tramp Shall Start probably between nine
& ten o clock this morning Shall go via Maumee
to Belv[-], thence by Rail Road to Springfield Ohio
from whence shall follow the national road to
St. Louis My health is first rate --
Should you wish a reply from me in relation to any thing
you can address a letter to me at St. Louis immediately
& it will probably arrive there before I do & shall
have more time to reply Do not fail to write me when
ever there is an opportunity. as your communications
will be to me like rain from Heaven on the dry
& parched earth, or a green spot in the dreary desert
waste: And I shall also believe that than are your
feelings & will act accordingly
Remember me to Father & Mother, & to Adelpha &
Lucy also to our little Edward, and believe me
as ever Your devoted & Affectionate Husband
E. A. Spooner

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[6] 2 Mrs. S.

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Letter 3-March 22, 1849

[8] Tiffin Ohio March 22d 1849

Dearest Friend

Having a little leisure I

again call my pen into requisition for the
purpose of informing you of my progress, where-
abouts &c. And although it may be dull and
uninteresting to you, having nothing of importance
to communicate, yet I doubt not you will
give my scrawl one perusal before you commit
it to the flames. We left Adrian as I
informed you we should in my last of the 15th
inst. That day we travelled 12 miles which carried
us 2 miles beyond Blissfield. I called on Miss R.
& exchanged good wishes, informed her of Mr. Harwoods
matrimonial prospects, & thus quieted her fears, & bade
her farewell for California The next day we
travelled 10 miles only, it being through the cotten-wood
Swamp & very muddy, which brought us to Sylvania
From S. we made 12 ms & crossed the Maumee
river to Perrysburg where we remained over the Sabbath
The bridge across the Maumee was swept away about

a week before we left Adrian Consequently we had to cross the river, which now is quite rapid, in an old swing scow boat This is done by fastening the boat to a long rope which is made fast in the middle of the river, in this case on an island It is then hauled up to the side & loaded & then by giving it a right direction over

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and working the rudder, the current carries it across the river and thus it is carried back & forth as long as there is a strong current of water. I had formed a very good opinion of Perrysburg and expected to find a very tidy thriving town But in this I was much disappointed. Indeed it seems almost the reverse of this. The houses, fences & other buildings are dilapidated & neglected, and to me its general appearance was repulsive Not a Sabbath bell was heard in that town, to invite the stranger to the house of God on that day; nor to relieve the monotony of the idler, or to mark the passage of time! Monday morning Started for Lower Sanduskey over the black swamp turnpike; and a beautiful road it is, Straight & level, high & Dry! Traveled 31 miles -- The next day Tuesday came to this place, 18 miles and had a hard days work of it, being very muddy having rained the night previous Messrs Hance & Ramsdell have gone on to Springfield with the horses, & I am remaining here to get [-]ur wagon on board the Cars for the same place Messrs Avery & Howards Companies are waiting here for the same object It is near 100 miles to Springfield We are in hopes to get off tomorrow Tiffin is the County seat of Seneca Co. In size it is a little larger than Adrian: In churches & brick buildings it is decidedly in advance It must be a devotional town if we judge from the number of

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its churches. of these I have noticed six, and they are all of brick, & of respectable size & appearance The other buildings I should judge a fourth part at least are brick, & many of them very fine. But there is a strange contrast between these & their neighbours, which are not unfrequently of logs The variety among the inhabitants is about the same: nearly half being dutch -- My health is first rate & has been since I saw you last I feel very anxious to know how you are situated & how your health is, & how you like the people in Novi & Vicinity &c. &c. Do not fail to write freely & fully -- I wish I could hear from you before I get to St. Louis, but probably it will be impossible. But I doubt not you will favour me with a letter there as well as at Independence -- I shall write to you as often as I can find an opportunity

I have slept several nights in the wagon & find no inconvenience from it. So also have the others
We have not fully decided which way we shall go from Springfield Whether on to Cincinnati & thence by water, or from S. west to St Louis on the national road
If by the latter way it ^{will} take us from two to three weeks
By the former perhaps not more than 10 days
Give my love to all the Family & believe me
Yours as ever
E. A. Spooner

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Letter 4-April 1, 1849

[10] Sunday Cincinnati April 1st 1849

My Dear Wife

According to my promise to you in my last, and the promptings of affectionate regard, I again take my pen in hand to write you a few lines My health is first rate, and I hope you & the other members of the family are enjoying the same great blessing. Mr Hance has not been very well during the past week, though I trust nothing serious. Also one of Avery's men has taken cold & has a severe cough. With this exception our company here are in good health My last I think was dated from Tiffin From that place proceeded by Rail Road to Springfield a distance of 95 miles, passing through Kenton, West Liberty Bellefontain, Urbanna &c From Springfield we took our teams again, there being a good road from there to C. a distance of 72 miles. This road leads through Dayton. I had no opportunity however to know much about the place, as we passed directly through it without stopping, but should think it a very beautiful inland town I noticed many elegant buildings both public and private that would do honour to any city. It is situated on the canal from Cincinnati to Toledo & is 50 miles from C -- We arrived at this noted Queen-City-of-the-West on Wednesday last We have been engaged in disposing of our horses, purchasing provisions and other necessaries and over

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are now nearly ready for a start to Independence
Horses we found quite low here & consequently had to

loose heavily on ours We are intending to ship tomorrow
on the Steam Boat Webster for I. The expense to
that point will be \$8.. for a wagon; 50 cents a hund for frieght
& six dolls each for deck passage, & find ourselves I suppose.
Shall probably be from 8 to 10 days on the way. About
4 days will take us to St Louis. There I expect to find
a letter right from the hands of my beloved Wife, warm
with the overflowings of the heart. I enquired at the P. office
here to see if any one had remembered me, but was not
much disappointed to find that I was a total stranger there
But I want to hear all about you, how get along? Whether
you have a room that is agreeable? whether you enjoy yourself?
or whethr you are disconsolate: for I just took a view of
your face, and I could not discover a smile on it, or a
single expression that betokens that speaking soul that is wont
to welcome me to your bosom. But I know that is not so, whether
you call this picture a libel or not. For I know there is a
heart whose pulsations are quick & warm with anxious solicitude
for my ~~solicitude~~ welfare, however unworthy I may be of
such affection But is not that love reciprocated?
Does it not meet with corresponding emotions in this
heart, that shall glow for this chosen, worthy object of
affection as long a life lasts? I trust it does. And if a
Heavenly Fathers care is vouchsafed to us, I trust we shall
yet meet to enjoy much of each others society ~
Does our little Edward walk yet? And how much can he talk?
Remember me to all. Yours as ever E.A. Spooner

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PS There has been some six or seven alarms of fire
today -- Dont know whether they have been false
ones or not There may be som April fool
about it

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Letter 5-1849

[12] Kansas River, 80 miles from Independence
My Dear Wife
Thinking there may be an opportunity
to send this to Independence I improve the passing
moments while waiting our turn to cross the ferry
just to inform you that I am well
Yours of the 8th of April was received just as
we were passing through Independence for this place-
I rejoice that there is one heart at least that follows

me with her sympathies and her prayers, For who needs
the guidance of an over ruling Providence & the sympathies
of kind friends, more than the houseless and homeless trav-
eller, among the wandering savages
And may you find an Arm high above, on which you
may lean and find support & consolation midst all
the vicissitudes of life -- Is it not joyous to know that
there is One in whom we [^]may put our trust, ~~and~~ who is ever
near to us, and who has promised to be more to us than
Father & Mother or the kindest friends
Think not my dearest Friend, that the scenes that are passing
here are estranging me from home, or its endearments, that
of a beloved family; for as you remark not [^]an hour passes but
the recollections of home & companion are brot vividly
to view Selkirks thoughts are often ~~brot~~ called up when
reflecting on this subject, when he says
"When I think of my own native land (home) (wife)

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In a moment I seem to be there
But alas! recollection at hand
Soon hurries me back to despair"
But we must look upward & onward & press forward;
trust in God, and hope for the best
Mr Fifield who I mentioned in my last as being sick
is now quite well again. Mr Howard, a brother
of the Adrian, Howards, Also of Chas Howard of
Detroit, who started with us from Adrian, died
to day & was burried about three miles South East
of the lower crossing of the Kansas river -- Mr H. was
an intemperate man, as you probably have heard me
remark He was taken ill last Sunday night with
diarhoea, & after recovering somewhat from that, the
delirium tremens took hold of him -- Yesterday he was
entirely idiotic. new nothing nor cared for any thing that
was passing, except at intervals when he would arouse in
a wild state -- His nephew Mr Fairman gave him laudanum
& brandy by direction of a physician last evening, which
soon quieted him to sleep, from which he never awoke --
He breathed his last about nine o clock this morning
We have seen but a very few Indians yet. probably not
more than a dozen: they were friendly -- There is no danger
anticipated from them except from their stealing propen-
sities especially by those with ox teams -- mules & horses
are objects with them sufficient to tempt them to commit
depredations to obtain them: while oxen are no
better than buffaloes We have purchased another
yoke of oxen since we sarterd from Independence

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So that now we have 5 Yoke The 4 yok would
have drawn the load in ordinary cases, but seemed rather
heavy for so long a journey We intend to purchase a
pony as soon as we can find one to suit, which will
make it some easier for us. Your request in relation to

returning as soon a possible I can assure you will be most cheerfully complied with, when the object is accomplished For there is no place, or thing, or person to which I would speed my steps with so much joy as to the arms of my beloved companion
Perhaps I may have an opportunity to write you from fort Laramy If so I shall do it. I doubt not you will write me at Salt Lake as directed in one of my letters Remember me to all the Family and enquirng friends and believe me yours as ever
E. A. Spooner

PS Say not when Howards friends will hear it that he died of the tremens

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Mrs N. J. Spooner
Novi
Oakland Co
Mich.

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Letter 6-June 12, 1849

[14]. June 12th 1849

My Dearest Friend

Hoping once more to have an opportunity to send a line to you I hasten to improve it. We expect to be at Fort Laramie tomorrow, and think there is a mail from there to the States by which this will go
My health is good & has been, since I left Independence I have abundant reason to bless God for his preserving care over me during all the continual & exposed scenes through which I have passed For the first 150 miles we had a great many streams to cross which were difficult and dangerous And I often had my feet wet, sometimes two or three days in succession, nearly all the time, and yet I have not from that or any other cause had any cold or suffered any inconvenien ~~from it~~ These streams are for the most part narrow & not very deep, but deep in ravines, and either the descent or ascent very steep, often more so than the roof to a house, and requiring man power to let them down, when the steep side was the descent, which was more often the case, & then then there was many dry ravines that were very sharp sometimes throwing the whole weight of the load onto one wheel and in a variety of ways exposing our wagon & team and ourselves and yet Gods merciful overruling Hand has constantly been over us for good. Ramsdell it is true was sick some two weeks so that he was not

[15] so mail to be depended upon at Fort Laramie, shall send this by some Mormon which we expect to meet Dont know yet whether we shall go by the Salt Lake

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able to walk or labor, but it did not detain us & he is now well again We have not been detained a single day or hour by any accident whatever during this travel of over 600 miles -- Others who started with just as good prospects as we, have som been cut down by disease & others beset by casualties The second day after starting from Independence I assisted in digging a grave for two men who had died of cholera in one camp & afterwards learned that a third one died the same day from their number There was an ocasional case of cholera & death from it for about 100 miles out, since which have heard nothing of it There has been many cattle lost by travelers: A company from Columbus Ohio & Bloomington Ill. who had united for traveling lost between 60 & 70 head of cattle one night that broke away & strayed off beyond recovery. This I think was during a storm. Others have lost in less numbers Som have overloaded their teams, and have been obliged to sacrifice property by throwing it away Beans, bacon, flour, bread & tools have been throw away & destroyed in large quantities on the trip, to lighten the loads. One Co from Cincinnati said they had thrown away \$500.. worth on the road We had an occurrence last Sabbath which I did hope would cause som serious reflection, but fear my hopes were vain We are traveling with Averys Co. of which A. J. Comstock, of Adrian is a proprietor, Mr A. does not regard one day above another & several of his men are of a similar stamp, they traveled on the sabbath and we felt obliged

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to do so too, or be left alone, well we all traveled on till the usual time & turned out our teams There was a slight cloud arising & som lightning at the time, but before the oxen had been out half an hour the cloud thickened up, and a thunderbolt decscended & struck two ^2 of Mr A.s oxen dead They were about 50 rods from our camp where we were cooking our suppers. I could not but regard it as an exhibition of the displeasure of the Almighty for the violation of His holy day We have had som of the most terrific thunder storms since we have been traveling on Platt that I have ever witnessed. They last longer & are more violent then evat If we are favoured as we have been shall be at the South pass by the 4th of July -- It is about 300 miles from Ft. Laramie And what would I not give to enjoy your sweet society on that day. And so I thought last sabbath, it was a lovely day, could I be with you & attend the sanctuary of God, & enjoy

that little family for one day as we used to do,
instead of trudging along far away from civilization
violating the commandments of God, it would be
a happiness that tongue could not tell
But hope on & hope ever, trusting in God is the
motto But methinks in reference to the scenes of home
"Had I the wings of a dove, How soon would I taste you again"
June 13th Arrived at Fort Laramie Am much dis-
appointed in the place The Fort is situated pleasantly on
the laramie fork of the Platt and every thing is contained
in the fort which is some 25 yds square the walls some

[16] I enclose two or three flowers, dont know their language but please
construe it favourably

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10 or 15 feet high made of adobes or unburnt brick
No business going on except buying flour of the em-
igrants at \$1..50 pr hund & selling it to others at from \$5..
to \$10.. pr hund; and shoeing oxen at \$12.. pr yoke
They had no goods of any kind to Sell. Their buffalo
robes were all sent off to St. Louis for sale -- Not an Indian
was to be seen any where about there It is said & no
doubt true that they had been frightened away from this
place by the traders telling them that the small pox
was raging among the emigrants. We have seen but
very few Indians on our rout We passed through som
settlements of the Pottawattemies west of the Kansas, after
which did not see an Indian till we crossed the south
fork of the Platt, where we encamped near some 30
or 40 lodges of the Sioux, Since, we have seen 3 or
4 lodges of half breeds, This is all we seen to this date
and are now nearly through the country of the Sioux
We are now, (June 21st) something over one hundred
miles above Fort Laramie Since leaving that place
our march has been rather slower than formerly, in
consequence of the hilliness of road, and the sharp sand
which has made our cattles feet som tender, and the
hard fare for our cattle all over this sterile soil
expect soon to find better food. (Our manner of driving
at present [^]when the grass will warrant it is to turn our cattle loose at 3 o'clock
in
the morning, at 4 o'clock all hands are up & breakfast
prepared & eat, our cattle driven in, yoked & on our way
at 6 o'clock. at 11 o'clock turn out for two hours, when
we again hitch up, & drive till between 4 & 5 o'clock PM)

[17] Yours truly

E. A. Spooner

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[19] The floral beauty of the country does not quite meet
my expectations, though there are places where it truly looks
like a flower garden And there are patches of the

"Wild rose, all the air perfuming" the fragrance of which is most lovely There are many varieties of the cactus or prickly pear, which are now in bloom, that ~~are~~ are quite pretty, particularly one of a cone or globe shape with a red flower that is handsome I will endeavour to save you some of the seeds of some of the flowers when they ripen
(Have had quite a sprinkling of Buffalo meat for the last 3 or 4 weeks, also Antelope. Our Co have killed three of the former I have written you two letters since leaving Independence one of which chronicled Mr Howards death who left Adrian with us and died near the Kansas river & was dated May 11th The other was a week or two after you have probably recd them 'ere this, if you ever do

Mormon Ferry 150 miles this side of
South Pass June 22d 1849
We arrived here
this morning, and are waiting our turn to ferry over the Platt This will be probably in the morning
This Scrauling letter as usual, I shall leave here with a Morman to taken to the states by a Morman Mail Carrier who will pass down in two or three weeks
We are all well & are getting along very well
Our traveling will be less rapid as we go on the road are

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more ragged & the grass poorer. Shall no doubt be at South Pass by the 4th which is about 950 miles from Independence From south pass to Salt Lake 230 miles, from thence to Sutters fort on the Sacramento 600 miles Are in hopes to reach there by the first of September -- Have just learned that Mr. Bard of Hillsdale, belonging to Howards Co. died ~~about~~ about two week after we left them as noticed previous He died of inflammation on the lungs. Was burried near the ~~Republican fork of the Blue~~ ~~little Vermillion~~ River -- He was taken sick

the day that Howard was burried
I can hardly realize that I am so far from you yet it seems a long! long! time since I have heard from you Wish I could know how you are & how you enjoy yourself. (rather gloomy I fear) and how our little Edward is; Yes & Father & Mother, and Adelpa & Lucy too; Remember me affectionately to them all Thanks to God that there is a Throne of Grace where we can mingle our prayers in thanksgivings for favours recd, and plead for His blessings and protecting care to rest on those whom we love however far distant they may be from us
I remain yours, as ever, most Affectionately
E. A. Spooner

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[20] 9. [-]

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Letter 7-July 19, 1849

[21] Mormon City July 19th 1849

Affectionate Companion

Again I embrace the

opportunity of writing to you to let you know of our whereabouts circumstances &c as I doubt not you have much anxiety, based on the reports that probably have reached you from the emigrants route Our Company are all enjoying good health. The Co. consists of Averys Co. of nine men, and our own of four Frank Park, who started with D. Woodburys Co. & who used to clerk for Geo. L. Bidwell, being now with us We have much reason to thank God that his blessings have been thus far favourably extended to us There has been considerable mortality among the cattle since leaving the morman ferry on the Platt, where I wrote you last, which has so may cause some sufferings to the loosers. The earth seems to be saturated with alkali for a 150 miles east of the Pass. and the water settlig into pools in hollows, is so strongly impregnated with it that it will destroy cattle if they drink it, which they do quite freely. It also shoots up among the grass when it becomes dry in the form [^]of crystals & the cattle eat it in that way, & they inhale it in the dust of the road, all of which makes it destructive to cattle. We think that we passed more than 150 dead cattle, mostly oxen between the Platt & where we turned onto the Mor mon road, a distance of som 170 miles. And I

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doubt not that ~~those~~ those behind ~~us~~ will loose a far greater proportion of their stock than those who have succeeded them, as the dry weather & the shortness of the feed increasses this causers of diseases, and I should not be surprised if 1000 cattle should die on the distance above discribed this season. I also learn here, that there is still greater destruction with the cattle with those who have taken the more northern routes from the Pass, by fort Hall & the cut-off as our route [^]is designated. Report says that many wagons have lost all their teams, and som of them are emigrants with families. If this is true there must be much sufferings in consequence The Mormans, or some fort is thire only rendez vous. It is thought that there are hundreds of teams behind that started for California that will never reach so far as this point We have found much better feed since we turned onto the mormon road, as three fourths of the travelers have probably gone the other routes -- We lost one ox -- Averys Co two, before we arrived at the Pass, And we upset our wagon once since, but did little damage which is all the damage we have sustained. We are told that the distance to the gold regions from here is 860 miles. The first part, of 600 miles, is said to be good The balance over the mountains I guess is rather scaley . It will probably take us about

eight weeks more to accomplish the journey
The mormons say there is no trouble in finding all the
gold we want. Hope it's true, & can get it quick, & then
for home, home, sweet home again

But for this great City of the Mormans The streets
are eight rods wide, the lots are laid out into 1 1/4 acres,
eight of these lots make a block, twelve blocks a ward

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and 20 wards constitute the city, when it is
built up. The houses are mostly made of adobes and
are very small, & being so scattering, has not much of a
city appearance although this is the main one. Their
settlements extend some 30 or 40 miles up & down the valley,
and it is a beautiful location, barring the absence of
timber, of which ther[-] is none in sight, although they say
there is plenty in the gorges of the mountains The land is
very rich & will watered The river Jordan which runs
from the Utah to the Salt Lake passes nearly through the
centre of the valley; and then there is numerous springs
flowing from the base of the mountains on the East, both
cold & warm. I took a bath in one this morning when
the water was as warm as I could endure it: and was
told there is another where the water is boiling hot, at no
great distance

There is gold to be found within 250 miles of this place \wedge (on goose creek

but we could not avail ourselves of it if we wished, as we
could not obtain supplies of provisions, the Mormons having
none to spare But I do not wish to retrace this long, long
road when I get ready to go home, therefore choose to go at
once to the valley of the Sacramento -- Flour is worth h[-]
1/- pr lb Dried apples 15¢ Coffee 2/- Butter 2/- & other things in
proportion. Can hardly buy any thing for money here; prefer
to exchange for something to eat Many of them have had no bread
since last winter. Meat and milk is their chief subsistence
One strange peculiarity prevails here for modern times. every
man is allowed as many wives as he can support. Bah!
rather have the undivided affections of my one than share it \wedge (with more

[page 4]

I have not yet been to the Post Office to enquire
for that letter, for I do not expect it is there The U.S.
mail is expected in about two weeks, which will just be
in time to leave me without one solitary word of in-
formation from you until I get away through to Cal-
ifornia. But I hope there to find enough to compensate
for all. And all I can do is to wish you \heartsuit the
cheerful enjoyment of Heavens richest blessings
Remember me to all the Family, & enquiring Friends
And believe me your devoted & Affectionate
Husband

E. A. Spooner

[22] 10.10

[23]

P.S. Lost my gold pen & have to write
with a crow quill, alias Turkey Buzzards

[page 1]

Letter 8-October 20, 1849

[24] California Oct. 20th 1849

Beloved Companion

Once more after a long space
of time I sit down to address a line to you -- But I
scarcely know how to write you, so long a time having
elapsed since I have heard the [^]first word from you

The date of your last that I have received is the 8th of
April, which is more than six months since: Sufficient
time for most important changes to transpire
I have written you three letters since leaving Independence
previous to my arrival here, and I doubt not but you
have written me as many, and you may have been as
unfortunate in receiving as I am The reason we have
missed them here is this: Som of our company packed
on ahead of the train & arrived here som weeks before us, and
having an opportunity they sent down to Sanfrancisco ~~for~~
for our letters, with directions to be left ~~where~~ at a Ranche
where they supposed we should go on our arrival But we
taking a more left hand road on leaving the sink of the Humbolt
river, struck the Carson river & followed it up to the mountain
where we crossed some hundred miles farther south than they
anticipated; hence our letters (if we had any), are away yonder
and we in suspense & ignorance in relation to those who are
most near & dear to us We could send for them, but it
is no easy matter when provisions for both man & beast and
also the bed has to be carried along & compelled to sleep
in the open air & perhaps alone

[25] My health never has been better than during the past summer
and still continues so

[page 2]

We arrived here on the 29th of Sept. which was a month
longer than we had hoped to have been on the journey
Our teams got worn down & weak & the grass became very
scarce on the latter part of the rout, which obliged us to advance
very slow, averaging probably not more than 8 or 10 miles
per day for the last two or three weeks For the last 4 days
we we were obliged to cut down oak trees for them to browse
on, as there was no grass at all But we were all heartily
rejoiced when we came to a stopping place & the toils & vexations
of traveling were partially closed It had been extremely tedious
traveling for the last five or six hundred miles on account of the
dust, there having been no rain since the last of June, & then
the tardiness of our movements, and all the vexations arising
from the most horrible roads that cattle ever traveled over,
made our anxieties intolerable, and we wanted relief & rest,

But we all arrived safely & in very good health
The prospects for obtaining gold are not as good as we had
been [^]led to anticipate, though it may appear better when the rain
begins to fall We have dug but very little as yet having
been prospecting & looking after our cattle & building some log
shanties for the winter &c. &c. This is one of the poorest rich
countries that I ever heard of -- So far as I have seen there
is scarce an acre of land that is tillable. The summers
drouth is alone sufficient to prevent almost every thing from
growing (no water falling between the months of March & November)
but there is but little that would be called good
were this objection obviated -- Prices of all kinds of
provisions & labor are very high Fresh beef 25 to 35 cts pr lb
^[26] Henry French of Adrian, died on the 5th of July some 50 miles west of the
(South pass

[page 3]

Flour 25 ¢ lb, Sugar 25 ¢, Hams \$1.00 to 1.25¢ lb, Cheese \$1.00 lb
Pork (Salt) 50¢ lb, Potatoes 40¢ lb, (seen none) Onions \$1.50 lb
Molasses \$3.00 pr gall, Vinegar \$1.00 pr gall, Saleratus \$1.50 pr lb
Coffee 15¢, Bro. Sugar 15 to 18¢ & washing 2/- to 4/- a piece
Mechanics get for their labor from 10 to 20 dollars pr day --
Mr Gleason from Adrian I understand is clerking in
Sacramento City (formerly Sutters Fort) for two hundred dolls
pr month, this is considered rather low wages
The above quotations are mostly for a village near where
we are, which is some 50 miles north east of Sacramento
We have some idea of going into the gardening business
another season if we can find a suitable piece of land,
and can make other arrangements to suit -- Think
it would be a [^]more healthy employment than digging gold
and probably as certainly profitable, as all kinds of vegeta-
bles are extremely high, their cultivation having been almost
entirely neglected Gold digging is becoming a more
laborious business than formerly and though there is an abun-
dance of it here, the country has been so overrun & the rich
deposits worked out, that it is more precarious business than
formerly & requires much harder toil. Indeed old miners say
that ounces are as hard to be obtained now as pounds were
a year ago -- But I think we will manage to get hold
of some of it before another year rolls round, if we are
blessed with health & strength --
Well my Dear Wife I can but hope & wish that you
with our little one are in the enjoyment of as many earthly
blessings a your circumstances will permit But I fear the
imagination has been too keenly sensitive to permit much
joy

[page 4]

for I doubt not that dark & fearful tidings must have
reached you from our line of travel which has caused many
a heart to bleed, & which [^]may have wrought many gloomy forebodings
in yours -- I allude to the sickness & deaths in the first half
of the journey -- We probably did not see more than 25 or 30

graves on our whole route, but have since learned that two or three weeks later a thousand might be counted between the starting points & Fort Laramie, and many of them containing several tenants -- Much of this mortality was only four or five days travel in our rear, yet we knew nothing of it at the time -- And has not the overruling hand of God been kind to us, or rather towards me, and shall we not still cling to Him, and rest our hopes on his Almighty arm, trusting that He who notices even the "little sparrows" will take care of us in all our separations & trials, and restore us to the enjoyment of each others society again Yes I commit our cause & interests into His hands and doubt not that all will be right --
Please direct your next letters to "Sacramento City Calafornia" and I hope I shall get hold of them Remember me affectionately to Father & Mother, and to Adelphe & Lucy
I remain my Dearest One
Yours as ever
E. A. Spooner
[27] [28] Sacramento City 26th Oct
I send a specimen of my digging in the shape of gold dust ---
The weather is most beautiful durig the days, but rathr cool in our bedroom for two or three nights [^](past

[page 1]

Letter 9-November 18, 1849

[29] Nov. 18th , 1849 ~

My Dear Wife

Today is the Sabbath; but no church-going-bell is heard in these valleys to summon us to the Sanctuary of God, and no inviting voice to congregate for the Honour & Glory of His great name But yet I trust there are those here who are not unmindful of the obligations they owe to the Sovereign Lord of Heaven & earth. And whether solitary & alone as I am at this time, or surrounded by those who care not for sacred things, ~~we~~[^]His children are oft reminded of the presence of One who knoweth all the secret things of the human heart, and taketh cognizance of all th[---] actions for good or evil But though we can meet in no sanctuary, or unite with no outdoor congregation, yet we can lift our single hearts to the Throne of Grace, & if done in the purity of Spirit, can there mingle our prayers & praises with the thousands who are congregated this day in the Temples of God and engaged in His service, under more favourable circumstances -- To me this is a day of much reflection, for I make it a day of rest, though there is much secular business transpiring for a valley of half a dozen log cabins. But the thoughts on this day more particularly dwell on the scenes of Home & their associations I can almost see your movements during the whole day, if you are in the enjoyment of

usual health

[page 2]

The preparation for church after the morning repast & the devout duties of the Family circle are o'er; thence to the sanctuary, the friendly greetings, the seat in the choir, the song of Zion, the prayer & the sermon, are all traced as often as this day returns, until the close of day or of the services, when I fancy you seated at home in some remote corner, perhaps with little Edward on your lap in cheerful glee, but with a countenance that betokens the mind anxiously wandering far, far away -- But I trust melancholly is not suffered long to becloud that countenance, or disturb the usual cheerfulness of that heart. True there is much of anxiety, especially where the imaginations are suffered to range, in our circumstances, as my own feelings will attest, but hope that dispeller of these fictitious intruders, must be bro't to do her work, which with the higher & holier trust in the overruling Hand, should keep our minds calm even under more adverse circumstances
December 24th 1849-- I had pretty much concluded not to write another letter until I had received one, but not desiring to tax your anxieties any more than I can possibly prevent, I have concluded to send this along as an apology for one. We are located for the winter in the same place from whence I wrote you last, 40 miles N.E. of Sacramento It is a deep valley or ravine among the mountain hills running north & south, and where the sun does not rise to us until it is 1 ½ or 2 hours high, & sets about the same time before night

[page 3]

We have a very comfortable log House 12 by 16 feet inside, occupied by five of us when all are here. The climate is much milder than in the States Have not seen any ice yet half an inch thick -- There probably has been three weeks of rain since the first of November The ground consequently is so soft it is very difficult for cattle to get about, and utterly impossible for a team to draw a load Transportation from ~~the~~ Sacramento here is now worth \$50.. pr hund pounds Flour is worth there \$45.. pr [---] making it worth here at present prices \$145.. pr [---]. rather dear eating, but this & hard bread & molasses, with pork & some venison, and coffee & tea constitutes our diet -- We mourn for the vegetables but they are beyond our reach, indeed our health demand them, as their absence is what causes the scurvy, which has troubled many of the emigrants though our company have not felt any of its effects yet -- Potatoes onions & cabbage would be a great treat to us; things I have not tasted since I left the States Yes and a little milk now & then to go with our mush which we occasionally have would add much to its relish: and a little nice sweet butter , O what a luxury!!! would melt away before us, like snow before the summer sun; Expect we shall be perfect pigs among these articles when we return -- I had quite a severe attack of rheumatism in one foot & ankle while yet in the city after mailing my last letter, that

nearly paralyzed its use for a week or so; it is now ~~nearly~~ well except being a little weak. My health otherwise has been very good We are doing but very little in the way of obtaining gold this winter -- The rains & the floods make it almost impossible to do much ~~I wish you would purchase & send me in your next letter a gold pen & case I think it will come secure in that way & perhaps you may get some more letters by~~
No, you need not send it, have just bught one

[page 4]

These rainy days & long solitary evenings cause me to feel severely the absence of home and its beloved society, but I doubt not I am remembered there as sincerely as I could wish

Remember me to all the Family affectionately
And believe me your most devoted Friend & Husband
E.A. Spooner

[30] P.S. Eight months since I have had any tidings from home

[31] 12.
12

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Letter 10-February 22, 1850

[32] California February 22d 1850

My Dear Wife

I have delayed writing to you till this late date in the month, with the hope that I might receive something from your hand before being compelled to write you again: But I find this to be a delusive hope, for nothing, nothing, nothing, has been the answer to all my enquiries & messages from Sanfrancisco, Sacramento & Weaver since I have been in the country. And I know not now whether I have a friend on Earth; for I have not received a solitary line from any person since leaving Independence The last letter recd was from yourself, and is now before me It is dated April 8th 1849. And can it be possible that I have a Dearly Beloved Friend, and that almost a year has past away without receiving any tidings from Her? What may be Her condition now is a question of painful anxiety. A year is destined to perform many changes, and especially where that fell disease the cholera has raged as I learn it has in the States during the past year, its changes are often those of the most saddening and gloomy character But I hope & trust that the merciful hand of God has spared that life on which depends so much of my earthly happiness, and that health & all the blessings of which your peculiar condition is capable of enjoying are continued to you And also that the confidence of a Saviour on whom we are invited to repose all our cares, and trust as we can no earthly friend, is still enjoyed by you; And such is my daily prayer at the Mercy Seat My own health has been very good since I recovered from my lameness in December

[page 2]

We had supposed our winter was pretty much past, the weather having been very fine & pleasant since this month came in until today which is quite stormy Very many of the miners have left their winter quarters & are working their way up the rivers and among the mountain I returned yesterday from a trip among the mountains of six days which when I left I knew not but might last as many weeks or months But our course was obstructed by high water and were obliged to return and I think it fortunate that it was so, as we are now in comfortable quarters which we could not have had in the mountains But I feel extremely anxious to be out in the mines where I can labor to advantage. My lot thus far has not been very fortunate in the acquisition of gold -- I have now only about the amount on hand that I had when I left Adrian nearly a year since Yet I do not despair for I know there is gold here, and there is a long season favourable for working ahead, and my health & spirits are good: And if these last are continued to me I think success must ensue. Our winter I think is nearly over such as we have had. It has been very mild compared with eastern winters Since I have taken notice which is since the 20th of Dec. last the thermometer has not been lower than 22° above 0 or zero. Have had only two snows that could be so called. One was about 2 inches deep on the 21st of Jany: the other was the 23^d of Jan'y and was about 6 inches deep, but both were among the missing the next day. Rain fell quite abundant during the month of Jany. as also it did the latter part of Nov. and fore part of Dec. The above description is for our vicinity But north of us only 30 miles, where it is higher ground there is a "heap" of snow yet. This on the forks of the Rio Americano and where the grand rush is for mining at present

[page 3]

Once more in relation to letters and I will close I hope you have not been as unfortunate in the nonreceit of letters as I have been, for experience has taught me something what must be your feelings in such a case If you have not recd, it is certainly not my fault, for I have written you often, and I shall continue to write you monthly if I have an opportunity while absent, and I ask of you to do the same I cannot conjecture the reason why I have recd none while nearly every person of my acquaintance have recd from two to six letters from the States In searching for reasons [^]for this, every possible thing, & many that is not probable suggests themselves, and I doubt not I do you much injustice by these wandering imaginations But when I reflect on the constancy and devotion of your heart to me, and the affectionate sympathy that has & I trust still exists between us, I cannot think for a moment that you are the delinquent Yet there is a cause somewhere But I hope & trust the next mail will unfold it all If I go far into the mountains the coming season, I may not have the facilities or opportunity of writing every month, but will write [^]as often as possible -- I could ask you many questions in relation to Father, & Mother and Sisters, as well as yourself and little Edward, but I doubt not they will all suggest themselves to you, so that their history will be again revived to me Remember me affectionately to Them All, and may I

still be remembered by You all at the Throne of Grace
Believe [^]me my Dearest One Your most devoted and
Affectionate Friend
E. A. Spooner

NB Please direct all communications for me
to Sacramento City, California

[page 4]

Have you recd any thing on those demands left for
collection? Are you in want of money?
I inadvertently omitted to mention in my last the death
of Doct Albert Graham. He was drowned in the Loup
Fork of the Platt River. A stream that empties into the P
on the north side some 200 miles or more from the Missouri
and nearly opposite ~~the~~ New Fort Kearney & Grand Island
The Adrian Boys so far as I know are all well, that
are in hearing E A S ^[33]
I send you four little specimens of gold, the value of about
\$1..75

^[34] 13.

[page 1]

Letter 11-March 24, 1850

California March 24th 1850

Well my Dear Wife, here I am still at the old winter
quarters, hauled up in my homemade arm chair before a
little table that swings from the side of the house to have a
little sociable time with Your Dear Self. On this table there
is a variety of things; in a little tin box about the size of one for
keeping jewels, is some six or eight oz of gold dust, the labors of myself
& partner for the last few days: There is a picture of a certain
young Lady that seems to occupy a very prominent position
here, that seems to call up many pleasing recollections of the
past It looks interesting & thoughtful as though ready to speak,
but the language if any is transmitted by the look, in this manner
it speaks volumes, and far exceeds the reality, who to me is
mute in every particular; indeed I know not but this
shadow is all I possess of what I once prized so highly. But
I hope not, and I know [^]it is ^[35] not if life is spared; for that cord which
has bound us so closely & so affectionately is not easily severed. No!
time nor distance can never sunder hearts that have known
& felt that perfect mutual confidence in each other that we
have known
There is also on the table an almanac containing some pieces of
~~pieces of~~ music which Mr. H. G. Crittenden [^]of Adrian (my partner) & myself
have
just been singing as we frequently do One is "Oh! come, come away"
Another is "Days of Absence" sad and dreary" which are quite appro-
priate to our case with a little variation -- Home, sweet Home is
thought of, and every sentiment duly appreciated, though we cannot

sing it.

[page 2]

[36] And "Oft in the stilly night, ere slumbers chains hath bound me,
Fond memory brings the thot of happier days around me."
Yes And while the body, is still by sleep entwined,
Far oe'r hill and dale, in kindred union, is the mind,
Well I trust that more than half the space of time that was to
separate us, is passed; and if a kind Providence shall overrule & bless,
the balance of [^]it these tedious days & months will soon roll over
When I shall have accomplished the object of my journey, I know
of no circumstance or desire of my heart, that will hinder [^]me from using
every
effort to return to you with the utmost despach
Since the waters have somewhat subsided we are beginning to be a
little more successful. Crittenden & myself have struck onto
a patch in a creek about a mile from our cabin that promises to pay
us a reasonable sum daily, for three or four weeks, and no trust
Yesterday we obtained from it 39 Dollars, and the day before
38 Dolls between us. This we call a good compensation, though
the work is hard, and shall not leave it as long as it will con-
tinue to discount thus freely It is but small compared
with [^]what some obtain, and it is much more than many others get
I do not expect to obtain so large a pile to return with, as som do,
as I am not of that fortunate class; for it is said here as elsewhere "a
fool for luck" I therefore have concluded that I am a very
wise, sensible sort of a man Therefore have done looking
for those 50 thousand dollar strikes
But it is rather a tedious business, taking it all round: for we
have to be a man of all sorts of work, and a house maid besides
Have to cook, wash dishes, make beds, wash our clothes, darn old
stockings, patch the old pants, cut & bring wood, and then rock
the cradle all day. And aint this tuff now?

[page 3]

But shant we be adepts at this "rocking business"? But perhaps
the location of the cradle would not suit you, neithr our process of
operation. We must have it beside a stream of water, and we treat
the little treasure hydropathically, with copious, cold applications
of the transparent fluid, and divers & sundry hard jerks
But after all it is quite an exciting business, when an ounce or
more can be collected in a day pr man There is scarce any but
what will work early & late, and apply themselves closely where they
can see the precious metal coming in a good quantity -- But it
is generally pretty hard stony digging, and heavy wet business
Every pail full of dirt washed, as all has to be, it requires as much
as two pails of water. And we usually have to stand in water
more or less, both in digging & washing, and if not protected by perfectly
tight boots our feet are wet as well as the hands, & sleeves, & pants
Well, I will draw this disjointed letter to a close, for I
cannot write any thing further that will be interesting
But I must remind you once more, that the last ray of
intelligence, and the last glow of affection that has been trans-
mitted ~~from~~ to me, was contained in your letter dated April

8th 1849

Remember me affectionately to our Mutual Friends
And believe me Your Most Anxious & devoted Friend
E. A. Spooner

[37]

[page 4]

[38] 14.

Mrs Nancy J. Spooner
Novi
Michigan
U.S.A.

[page 1]

Letter 12-March 24, 1850

[39] California March 24th 1850

My Dear Father

I take the liberty of addressing this letter to you, with the hope that it may reach its destination, and receive an answer I have been in California near six months, and have written five letters, which I have directed to Nancy during this time, and as yet have received nothing from Her, or from any of the Family. And I think there must be something wrong about it, for other letters put in the post office at the same time with mine, have been answered from Adrian & elsewhere some time ago And I think if any circumstance, as sickness or death had prevented her from writing, You would not so long have been silent And I therefore conclude that my letters, from some cause, have not reached their destination, and perhaps not knowi[-] where to write Consequently this will be directed to you in a different hand writing: And I would recommend that my letters be mailed at a different office than formally --
For although your kindness was extended to receiving *a promise of & administering* to the wants and happiness of my Family during my absence; and although my Wife has assured me since, that every want and necessity would be scrupulously cared for by Yourself & Family, whether in sickness or health; yet beyond all this I cannot but feel an intense anxiety for them. For there are numerous circumstances where human aid, however kindly disposed, is of no avail in the alleviation of our woes. And I know too that there are cases where information is deemed properly withheld from friends for a time; but there are limits beyond which it is cruelty to extend it for the over wrought anxiety is more painful

[page 2]

than the intelligence of the facts could be
I can but hope that a kind Providence has preserved all your

lives, and that you are still in the enjoyment of each others society,
and the blessings of life, yet the long space of time that has inter-
vened since ~~the~~ receiving the last intelligence from you, and that,
a season of much mortality with you, I can but have many fears
lest the intruder may have broken that happy circle where dwells
my Beloved Family But I will endeavour to banish those fears
and trust that all is well, or at least that Gods dealings towards
us are all just & proper

With the kindest regards for Yourself & Family I am

Yours Affectionately

E. A. Spooner

[40] Rev. E. Hodge

[page 1]

Letter 13-April 21, 1850

[41] California April 21st 1850

My Dear Wife

Once more seated at the little table where

I have domiciled for the last six months. I propose to occupy
a brief space of time in writing to you Not brief because you
are less affectionately thought of, or because there is less enjoyment in
communing with you; but because I have received nothing from
you, not even a kind word or wish, for a long, long year; therefore
have nothing to answer and but little to say

But I hope & pray that a kind Providence still showers His
blessings down upon you, and that life & health and all those
blessings which make it desirable & happy, are still in your possession
and enjoyed by you, as also by all the members of the family
My own health is Providentially good

I have had some success in mining during the past month,
though small from what I anticipated when I last wrote you
In fact this gold digging is all a lottery business, except the labor
part of it. We thought we had some eight or ten hundred dolls
secured at the last writing, but we have worked it out, and got
only about half that amount. And now the next thing ^{is} pro-
specting for another place, in the bottom of every creek far & near for days,
and perhaps for weeks, until a promising location is found

The labor as I have previously observed is enormously hard. And I am
satisfied that none but iron constitutions can endure it without in-
jury Every years hard labor here in the mines, I believe will increase
the apparent age of men generally, from five to ten years. This fact
is seen in almost every mans countenance: and my own feelings
bear witness to it

[page 2]

And there are thousands here now, to say nothing of thousands on
the way, that will not earn enough ^{above} their expenses to carry themselves
home, during
a years residence. For a man must eat, whether he lays up any thing
or not My own expenses in my own cabin, and doing my own
cooking, are equal to the expense at a first class hotel in the States
It averages about 1 ½ dollars pr day. And up on the Rivers, where

the mines are mostly congregated now, the expense must range much higher; as all the provisions there, have to be packed, at least a part of the way, on mules Crittenden & myself think of leaving here soon for the north, in company with others. The Trinity River is the place to which we now think of going It is about three hundred miles north of ~~here~~ Sacramento It rises in the coast range of mountains, and empties into the Pacific. It is said to be good diggings, and I think it will not be so much thronged as the lower diggings are on the other rivers ~~are~~: and hence its particular advantage This movement may make a difference in my writing to you hereafter; but I "reckon" it can make but little in the receipt of letters from you, unless a change turns up soon: for I have pretty much done looking for any thing like intelligence from you I did however offer Mr Crittenden, who went for the letters last month, five dollars if he would obtain one for me, but he returned without one, and I have some doubt about renewing the offer

The Season is coming on very fine & pleasant The weather & the general appearance of vegetation is that of June in the States We occasionally have some rain, but the storms have been diminishing in numbers & quantity since the middle of March, and are now very light Have heard thunder in two instances only in California

[page 3]

I never saw such myriads of flowers as California produces, ~~before~~ The face of the Earth is literally covered with them In fact two thirds of the whole verdure that covers the ground, are flowers And some of the valleys thus covered, with various coloured flow predominating here & there, afford one of the most pleasing views that you can well imagine. And O that you could just be here one short week to enjoy them with me !!!

April 28th Having had no opportunity to send this letter to the Post office during the past week, I fear it will be to late for the May mail But I have been very busy the past week; and it has been the most fortunate one for me since I have been in the country. Monday last, Crit. & I went a prospecting, & found a place where we thought it would pay. So on Tuesday we shouldered our tools & tramped off near five miles and did a days work & returned again at night This we thought most to much like labor, and we found a place near the "diggings" where we could board at two dollars a day each with the privilege of sleeping on the ground, provided we found our own blankets -- This was accepted Well, we find the labor of the five days amounts to \$188..00 each, or something over thirty seven dollars pr day, pr man If this success would continue, I would be with you in time to hold a hearty thanks giving next fall, at its annual occurrence Remember me affectionately to Father & Mother, and Sisters And believe me truly thine own
E. A. Spooner

[page 4]

[42] 15.

Mrs. N. J. Spooner
Novi
Mich.

[page 1]

Letter 14-August 25, 1850

[43] Sacramento City Augt 25th 1850

My Dear Wife

Yours of the 16th of June was recd on the 10th of the present month. It affords me satisfaction and pleasure to learn that yourself and the Family generally are in the enjoyment of so much of health Mother seems to be an exception to this, and has a hard time with the fever & ague But I hope & trust that her visit, and the eastern atmosphere will again reinstate her health. But I regret that your condition, or the prospects of the Family are such as to cause you anxiety or unhappiness: for I feel that your solicitude aside from that, is sufficiently grievous for you to bear It certainly is extremely unpleasant to be so unsettled and scattered abroad as we are; but I hope it may be all for the best, though I sometimes fear it will not so terminate Our only refuge under the circumstances seem to be in an overruling Providence: His blessing can make us happy: and without it our best efforts are totally unavailing

I did not write you the last month, for I was roaming and had no opportunity I left the City the next day after writing you the last of June, and went to the forks of the north Yuba, a distance of some 150 miles. These are among the most celebrated rich diggings We purchased a claim, worked about a week on it, and then sold out, leaving us minus over \$30.. a piece besides time & board After satisfying our curiosity here in seeing others dig out a pound or two ^{of} gold a day pr man, and being satisfied that popular

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rich diggings were not the place for us, we set our faces for the City where we arrived on the 10th inst. And I find myself minus of a sufficient sum of gold in consequence of this trip to have carried me home I was more unfortunate in this than my comrades, for I lost my horse in the mountains, which cost upwards of a hundred dollars But in these losses I am not alone, for thousands here have experienced the same fate, so that you see I have an abundance of miserable consolation My health was also very poor -- nearly all this time, or during the month of July I had a slight cold at first and a general debility & lassitude followed, that well nigh laid me up But I am now, thanks to an overruling Providence, in excellent health I am doing nothing of consequence now, and am at a loss to know what to do, to accomplish any thing and nearly all our Adrian boys are in the same predicament- Gleason, Crittendon, Avery, Fifield, Maddocks, and

Hagball, are all here, and in good health
I have some idea when I return home, of going round
the horn It is not idle curiosity that prompts the
thought of this, you may depends, for my views about
returning with speed, are the same as formerly But this
hope of increasing, instead of diminishing the small amount
of funds, is the only reason that makes me think of it --
if I should conclude to take this course, I shall
unite with others in the purchase of a vessel, and freight
her round. Vessels can be bought in Sanfrancisco, for
less than one fourth of their value in the States
In this case I should not be at home short of three
or four months from the time of starting, which would probably be
in November

[page 3]

I shall write you furthr about it before the time arrives--
The emigrants are arriving in droves They are generally about
a month earlier than last year They started earlier, and
loaded lighter, and travelled some faster. And nearly all
failed in taking a sufficient quantity of provisions to last them
through, consequently there has been much suffering from hunger
A larger proportion of animals are broken down on the last half
of the journey than last year: and those that come through are
poor & feeble Large amounts of provisions have been taken
out to meet the emigrants Some for gratuitous distribution, but
mostly on speculation. Flour has sold a short distance east
of the Nevada Mountains to the emigrants at \$2..50 pr lb
I have heard of a number of cases where they have been obliged
to cut flesh from the animals that have died ~~from~~by the road-
side to appease the gnawings of hunger The Adrian Boys
I learn are nearly all through. Andrew Clement (the Blacksmith)
is the only one I have seen. He looks hearty & tough
There has been considerable excitement and contention in
this City, between the Land holders, and the squatters as they
are termed, though I think they are all squatters. One party
pretend to hold their titles from Mr. Sutter, which the other
party deny his having any right or title to it The belligerents
met in the streets ten days since, with fire-arms, and from words
they proceeded to action, and one of each party was killed on
the spot, also one neutral, an emigrant, besides wounding sev-
eral others, among whom was the Mayor of the City
Two days after the above in attempting to arrest a squatter the
Sheriff was shot dead and then his possy shot two of the squatters
Thus the matter stands

[page 4]

I have just been to the Post office and found
a letter there of May 18th, in answer to mine of
March 24th, by Yourself & Father. It speaks for itself. It
shows a kindness & anxiety which I never doubted, and if so
expressed I hope you will forgive We see in this letter when
the delinquency is. It was mailed a month before your
June letter, and received two months afterwards~
I shall direct this letter to Novi as usual though I

presum you will be on the farm before it reaches there
But you will probably have left directions for forwarding
You speak of Fathers going "back " onto the farm". What
farm can it be? The Dover farm was sold the last that
I knew of it, yet I think that must be the one refered
too, as he has never lived on the ~~other~~ one in Fairfield
Remember me affectionately to all the Family
and believe me Truly Yours

E. A. Spooner

[44]

P.S. Mr Fairman is trading in partnership with a
Mr Finney from Hudson Mich. The former is in good health
as also is Mr Burke, his Uncle, who is now with them.

Mr Finneys health is rather poor

I have just recd your letter pr Mr. Roberts, though

I have not seen him. I learn that he is at work

at negro bar on the Rio Americano. Some 30 ms distant

S [45]

[46]. 18 18

~~19~~

[page 1]

1849

March 1849

March 15, 1849

[47] Thursday March 15th 1849.

Left Adrian for California via Ohio

Traveled 12 miles. 7 of which was very muddy
& hard for our teams. The parting with friends
at Adrian produced on me but a slight impressin
the severest parting having taken place a fortnight
previous with my Family. Consisting of a Wife
dearer to me than all else the world possesses &
[-]or whom I would cheerfully toil the livelong day &
a little innocent Boy just old enough to begin
to reciprocate a Parents fondness, these are separation
which tries the hardest heart, and causes the more
sympthetic one ~~to~~ writhe in anguish which can only be

known by experience But I trust of our parting
will be for our mutual good, or benefit, at least
so far as property is concerned, this being the object
sought Could I be assured that my life with
that of my wife & little one would be spared so that
we should all meet again in our little family
group, all the hardships & toils ~~and~~ privations of a one or two
years camp life away from home & friends
would be most cheerfully endured But the
uncertainty of this notwithstanding our high
hopes sometimes fills the hea[re] [48]

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March 16, 1849

March 16 Travelled 10 miles to Sylvania

March 17, 1849

" 17 Traveled 12 miles & crossed the Mann river in a swing ferry boat over into Perrysburg This is rather a hard dilapidated looking place was much disappointed in its appearance

March 18, 1849

Mch 18. Sabbath. Remained in P.
Mr Howards Squad came up with us today Our companies now consist ourselves viz. Hance, Ramsdell & Myself with our wagon. Mr Averys squad with eig ^[49] men & two teams. Howards, four men & two teams Making in all 5 teams & fifteen men.

March 19, 1849

March 19 Travelled 31 miles over a fine McAdamized road to Lower Sandusky. This is the levellest road for the distance that I ever recollect to have traveled. It passes through the black swamp, is graded high & covered with stone & there is not a hill which can be so called on the route The land here though cut low for some kinds of grain is extremely rich & is settled nearly all the distance

March 20, 1849

20th Made 18 miles up the Sandusky river to Tiffin. This is quite a rapid stream ^[50] ^[51] [-]nks & affords much good water [-]

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The whole country through here appears to be based on limestone showing itself on the banks of the river as well as occasionally in some other places I should judge it to be one of the best of wheat growing countries. This has been a day of sad reflection to me Last night my repose was disturbed by a vision which seemed to me like that of a sable coffin containing the last remains of my beloved companion. And although but a dream I could not help thinking & feeling that it might be a warning voice to me to prepare to meet just such a sad reality. And who can tell the anguish that such an event would produce on the heart of a doating husband, save Him that

knoweth the secret workings of all hearts. Should I be permitted to go forward & accomplish the object of my arduous desires, and return after ~~return after~~ a long absence, & many hardships privations & dangers, and find her for whom I had hazarded all, and whose sympathies had ever beat in perfect unison with min, whose happiness was as dear to her as her own, laid low in the solitary grave & no tears of joy to [---] [\[52\]](#)

[page 4]

me home to her bosom, or caress me for all my toils, how insignificant would Earth & its glittering wealth appear & how heart-sickening would be the realities of that scene But I pray that God in his mercy would spare us from any such realities. And that His providence may surround us in all our wanderings, and return us safe to each others arms, and to many years of enjoyment in a quiet happy home

Tiffin is the county seat of Seneca Co. and contains between two & three thousand inhabitants, one half of whom at least are dutch The numbr of the churches in this town particularly attracted my attention There are six in numbr, and are all of respectable size and appearance, all being built of brick Hence I conclude it must be a very pious church-loving, church-going community Many of the Stores, the Court-house & a good proportion of the dwellings are of brick, & are of a good style of architecture & finish But there is a singular contrast between these

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substantial buildings & the numerous log houses that are interspersed throughout the City The Lake Erie & Mad River Rail Road passes through this place to Springfield, passing through Cory, Kenton, West Liberty, Belle fountain, Urbanna to S. a distance of about 95 miles. Here I arrived Saturday the 24th, having remained in Tiffin two days before we could get a passage for our wagons on board the cars for Springfield This last namd town appears to be quite an important place for business &c. Noticed many large Stores & Stately mansions during the brief hour which I remaned there. It is the Shire town of Clark Co Left S. between three & four o'clock PM & traveled 10 miles & put up with one Mr Woodward in Mad River Township, for the Sabbath The landlord is somewhat advanced in years, but it seems has improvid his day & generation in such a manner

that his name will live after him He has
been married twice, & has had eleven chil-
dren by each wife, 19 of whom are living
Ten of the sons the old man affirms will

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average six feet each in height

April 1849

April 26, 1849

Monday April 26th Resumed our
journey, traveled 25 miles through a fine
country of land & som flourishing vilages
& towns. Among the latter which stands
preeminant for beauty & thriftiness is Dayton
Its general appearance for an inland town
is second to none in Ohio that I have seen

April 27, 1849

Tuesday made som 28 miles

April 28, 1849

Wednesday 28th some 14 miles brot us
into Cincinnati the great Queen City
of the West Have had a beautifu road
from Springfield to C. It is a turnpike or
toll road & is McAdamized & perfectly dry
Remained in Cin. until Monday April 2d
making preparatons for our jorney

April 2, 1849

April 2d shipped on board the Steam Boat
Webste[--] for Independence. Having our
bedding, cooking utensils & provisions on hand
concluded to take a deck passage, it being
about a third of the amount of Cabin
passage. But it seems to much like
lowering one self with the brute
thus to congregate with men, women

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children & animals The latter
however seem to have taken the preference
on ~~on~~ one of the boats at least, on which
we were unfortunately placed; the mules
horses & oxen occupying the upper seat
arrived at St Louis on Saturday the 7th
being five day from Cin. a distance of
about 700 miles Here were obliged to
tranship ourselves & luggage on board anoth

boat the "St. Ange" to go up the Missouri river alleging that the webster could not get up, on account of the shallowness of the water, which was all false

April 15, 1849

Sunday April 15th arrived at Independence 5 days from St Louis, being about 400 miles our party all in good health notwithstanding the ill accommodations we have had on board the boats on the trip up. Two of the passengers died on ~~boat died~~ board the boat on the passage up & were burried on the banks of the river

April 16, 1849

Monday the 16th encamped about 2 ½ miles from the landing & 1 ½ from the town, on road between the two

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Independence is situated on high ground about three miles from the Missouri River. It has a populatin of about two thousand souls, though at this time ~~than~~ the numbers are very much increased. The town is nearly all built of brick which gives it a very substantial appearance. And the crowd of emigrants that are congregated here, finishing up their outfit, gives it the air of a great business emporium, In fact their trade this spring must be extremely heavy, not only in goods & provisions, but in oxen & mules: thus affording an outlet, at high prices, for the surplus products of the country which they have never before seen

The land in the vicinity of I. is of the finest character It is ^a rich & alluvial soil, so rolling as to be drained in every direction, and yet not hilly, and the little ravines between the swells affording springs, or little rivulets that furnish a sufficiency of water for stock or other agricultural purpurposes for every ten acre lot, and yet producing no waste land Water power in the vicinity is scarce and timbr suitable for lumber is also scarce Good lumber sells here at \$50.. pr thousand Hence buildings are of brick which are worth \$5.. pr thousand and a cheaper building material

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May 1849

May 3, 1849

May 3d, 1849 Left Independence on the route for California. Travelled 8 Miles this day

May 4, 1849

May 4th Rainy day, consequently did not travel

May 5, 1849

May 5th Travelled 12 miles today, to the Blue River
Here were called upon to dig a grave for
two men who had died of the cholera, in a
camp near by us, and a third one was not
expected to survive long, and would probably be
interred in the same grave. They were Virginians

May 6, 1849

May 6th Travelled about 8 miles. The road was
muddy & hilly & the teams unaccustomed to labor.

May 7, 1849

May 7th Travelled 18 miles over a beautiful rolling prairie[-]
It is beautiful, yet the sameness of the
scenery soon renders it tedious As far as the
eye can reach the scene presents an undulating
surface covered with nature's own carpet of
the richest green. Wood is scarce. A little
patch here & there is all

May 8, 1849

Tuesday May 8th Made 15 miles
The grass is good, and the range unbounded
Wood Scarce Purchased another yoke
of oxen which we found necessary as our load
dragged to heavy Paid \$50..

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crossed a branch of the Walkarusha River, ^{Bill creek} Rather
steep banks

May 9, 1849

Wednesday May 9th Travelled 15 miles
Had one of the most splendid views from
an eminence today, that I ever beheld. The whole
world as far as the eye could reach, was spread
out before us: and it was a landscape picture
that no artist can imitate

May 10, 1849

Thursday May 10th Made 18 miles. The prairie
still continues. Mr Howard one of our travelling
companions has been ailing several days back.
At first the disease appeared something like cholera,
but now, has more the indications of delirium tremens

and it is doubtful whether he survives it

May 11, 1849

Friday May 11th Came up to the Kansas River 3 miles, where we were obliged to remain all day awaiting our turns to the ferry Mr Howard died this morning at 9'o clock and was burried near our campground of the past night He was an old miner from Georgia, where was his Family & residence; and ^{his} death much regretted by us on account of this knowledge in particular

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He had been stopping with his brothers in Adrian during the past Winter, and started from there with us for this journey He was attacked on Sabbath evening last with cholera, and after partially recovering from that disease, was seized with delirium tremens which terminated his existence. Happy would it be for him, had he made due preparations for this great change. But we fear he was unprepared to stand the test of the great Refiners fire

May 12, 1849

Saturday May 12th Travelled 14 miles to the Turkey or Big Soldier Creek, after crossing the Kansas this morning. Mr Bard, of Hillsdale, and belonging to Mr Howards Co. was taken sick last night, and today he & his Co. have stopped behind

May 13, 1849

Sunday May 13th Travelled some 15 miles today although it was the Sabbath. The object of this was to overtake a train with which we wished to connect ourselves for travelling. Had a number of rather difficult streams to cross today on account of the banks being very steep

May 14, 1849

Monday May 14th Crossed the Hurricane Creek and travelled 10 miles. A heavy thunder shower delayed our starting some this morning. But the tardiness of crossing these streams where they are much difficult ocasions considerable delay, especial[-]

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where there is such a rush of teams as there is here at this time Ropes & man labor is necessary in some cases to ease the wagons down the banks into the stream

May 17, 1849

Thursday May 17th Have made about 16 miles pr day for the last three days The road has been over high rolling prairie with many deep ravines. Grass is tolerable good -- Wood is rather scarce We usually carry along enough to cook one meal Ramsdell is sick & I have no time to write

May 20, 1849

Sunday May 20th
Laid over today for the first sabbath. Our teams require rest: So also did the men, but divers little chores that had accumulated kept them busy all day. Friday & Saturday made about 16 miles each

May 21, 1849

Monday May 21st Travelled 18 miles
Saw some antelope today for the first time

May 24, 1849

Thursday May 24th
Have averaged about 17 miles for the last three days The road has been more wet & harder wheeling than usual It follows

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up the Republican Fork of the Big Blue some 40 or 50 miles We are in the Buffalo range as appears from the old heads & horns that are scattered about, but have seen ~~none~~ none of the live animals yet. The weather for the last three days has been very cold & windy: overcoats & mittens are in requisition during the fore part of the day This night we encamped on the Nebraski or Platt River Had one of the severest thunder storms we have yet encountered The rain poured down in torrents, and the thunder kept up an almost incessant roaring from ten at night till three o'clock in the morning The ground not being well selected for such a contingency, presented a sorry appearance when daylight again opened on us; some of the tents being entirely drownded out, and it was quite cold as well as wet, and no wood to be had except from an island in the river Hence we thought our condition anything but pleasant
Grass Poor

May 25, 1849

Friday May 25th Travelled only som 6 or 8 miles
The road on account of the rains are in a most wretched condition for travelling the wheels often

Sink nearly to the hubs

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May 26, 1849

Saturday May 26th Travelled 13 miles
Passed new Fort Kerney, which stands nearly at the head of grand island, on the south bank of the river. The buildings are all made of mud or turf, and thatched. Preparations are in progress for erecting them in a more substantial manner Considerable overhauling & repacking is being done by the Californians here Woodbury, Crittendon, Gleason & Park, were disposing of their wagon and heavy articles and preparing to pack their effects on mules Large amounts of provisions & other property have been thrown away to lighten the loads, which have generally been found too heavy for the teams. Grass tolerable good

May 27, 1849

Sunday May 27th Did not yoke our teams
It seemed perplexing to some of our men to rest on the sabbath But one division of the train were dividing their effects & dissolving Copartnership and required all the day to do it Hence some enjoyed a cheerful day of rest, while [^]others mourned the loss of time

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May 28, 1849

Monday May 28th 17 miles up the Platt today
Grass very good. But no wood on the shore plenty of it on the islands in the river
Buffalo chips were in requisition here for fuel
The water is rather poor, the platt waters being very turbid as they always are, make them objectionable and even repulsive for use, though there is nothing offensive in the taste. We are occasionally obliged to make use [^]of it for the lack of better
Met a company of two wagons of Californians on their return home today. They were Missourians
One of the teams had ran away & broken the Capt. of the Cos thigh, who being chief proprietor of the concern, obliged all to return
The weather is very fine

May 29, 1849

Tuesday May 29th Travelled 18 miles
Had one of those cold, severe thunder storms for
which this country is noted, and which continued
nearly all night It seemed as though some of
Heavens' heaviest artillery were at work. At a camp
less than half a mile from ours, a wagon was struck
by the lightning, when three men were sleeping

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and a rifle & pistol discharged and some
other damage done, but the men, though badly
frightened were unharmed
Our camp ground being submerged this morning,
and having no wood, we started off as soon as
daylight appeared without our breakfast

May 30, 1849

Wednesday May 30th About 14 miles was all we
made today, as the rain had made the roads wet
and heavy Parted company with the
Ohio train with whom we have been travelling for
the last week or two When together we were 17
wagons strong, but now we were only four
At first we thought it necessary to band together in
large companies for mutual protection ~~from~~ against the Indians
But having seen but a very few, and they appearing
friendly, and the emigrants being so numerous, we
think it totally unnecessary. We can also obtain better
grazing for our teams in small parties, besides enjoying a
little more independence. We have passed through a
number of tribes of Indians, among which are the Shawnees,
the Kaws, the Pottawattimies, and the Pawnees.
The latter however we saw none of; the others we saw
but few of, but those were friendly

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June 1849

June 3, 1849

Sunday June 3d Ten miles brot us to the
crossing of the south fork of the Platt, which we crossed over &
encamped a mile or two beyond, near a village of Sioux Indians
They are a fine noble looking tribe of Indians generally. There were some 30
or
40 lodges or tents, made of skins in this village They gave us
to understand by signs that they were hungry: and they would
sell almost any thing they possessed for bread. I tried to
swap a rifle for a poney, but they seemed to know nothing
of its use, or else had no taste for fire arms: Their arms
are bows & arrows, with knives & hatchets. Their clothing

is of skins, mostly of the antelope The female dresses were mostly ornamented with beads, and otherwise tastefully arranged so that their exterior has a very tidy appearance Showed no symptoms of hostility.

Two Buffalo's made their appearance this morning, being the first we had seen A number of camps were near by, and as soon as it was known they were the real animals, every hunter was on the alert, and soon in hot pursuit. One was soon brought to the ground by one of our party. The other was chased some two miles before he was captured, one of our party was accessory to his death also. A third one was killed an hour or two afterwards. They were all bulls, but they afforded very good meat, being sweet & tolerable tender on the whole it was quite an exciting scene

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The Platt was something over one fourth of a mile wide, and from one to three feet deep, with a sandy bottom. Plenty of grass, but no wood

June 4, 1849

Monday June 4th Travelled 18 miles

Crossed over the bluffs from the south to the north fork of the Platt 1 ½ miles and continued up the fork Grass abundant, but no wood

June 5, 1849

Tuesday May 5th Travelled 16 miles

About 12 miles of our travel ~~over the~~ was on top of the bluffs, and was a very fine road; but the descent to the river again, was rather difficult, being steep & rocky. On the bottom we found it very hard traveling on account of loose sand

Buffalo chips are about the only fuel we have now days. Grass & Water plenty

The flats or bottoms of the river are now much narrower than they were on the main Platt. There they were from one to four or five miles wide, gently undulating, with occasional little streams or springs of water, and good grazing; but with scarcely any wood or tinder on the main bank. Now the bottom do not average half a mile in width and frequently the bluffs crowd clear down to the river, where we are obliged to turn up over them

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June 6, 1849

Wednesday June 6th Travelled 20 miles

Passing through Cedar grove, Cedar & Ash grove, then over the bluffs three or four miles, and down through Ash hollow to the river again. At the

upper end of the hollow comes in a road over the bluffs from an upper crossing, which some of the emigrants travelled Much of the road was sandy & hard for the teams. The high bluffs and deep ravines of today have stamped the scenery with more wildness than I have before observed The former are frequently from 2 to 400 feet in height, and often with nearly perpendicular fronts

June 7, 1849

Thursday June 7th Made 14 miles
Our cattle did not like the selection of our camp and strayed of some two or three miles They seemed to have settled the matter before hand for immediately on being loosed at 3 'o clock [^]this morning , they took a bee line in search of better grass, and they found it. Did not blame them much
Road very sandy today

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June 8, 1849

Friday June 8th Road good. 20 miles
Encampd 2 miles beyond spring creek at a cold, nice spring of crystatin water
Grass first rate, but no wood Had a continuous serenade all night from wolves & mosquitoes

June 9, 1849

Saturday June 9th 18 Miles
At 9 'o clock came in sight of the Solitary Tower. alias Court-House Rock. It stands east of the road, and apparently about a mile distant. Hance & Ramsdell started for it at 10 'o clock and it cost them two hours of industrious travelling to reach it: And hence infer it could not have been less than six miles distant. It is very difficult to judge of distances here where the ground is generally level, except the undulation, especially where there is no knowledge of the size of [^]the object of attention This rock is of a soft clayey formation easily cut with a knife And appears at a distance like som ancient structure going to decay Fourteen miles beyond this is Chimney Rock, another noted landmark near which we encampd for the night no wood

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The chimney rock I visited. It is of the same material as the former. It stands just in front of some bluffs of about its own height, and might have once been one of them though it is now disconnected. The elements no doubt have been the agents in shaping it as at present. The top has been worn off perpendicularly all round till the centre appears like a great chimney rising from the base which is some 15 or 20 rods in diameter & ^{the whole} some 200 feet high. The whole height as given by travellers some years since is some 200 feet higher. Just after our encampment tonight we were visited by one of the most violent thunder storms that I ever witnessed. The Heavens seemed to be in a continuous blaze of the most vivid lightning for an hour or two, and the successive peals of thunder were of the most startling character, and each discharge of the mighty element, seemed to vie with ^{its} predecessor in ^{the} startling & sublime tones which reverberated long in its aerial circuit. We judged that near a dozen of the flashes must have struck the ground within less than half a mile of us.

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June 10, 1849

Sunday June 10th 1849

Today we travelled about 14 miles. It was not our wish to travel today, but to keep with our company were obliged to do so. It was a beautiful day, and I longed to be away in the enjoyment of the scenes of the sabbath with my beloved Companion, where the voice of the church going bell should tell of civilization, and invite to the sanctuary of God there to hold sweet communion with the Father of Mercies, and to offer up our thanksgivings for the blessings we are constantly receiving. And also to enjoy those sweets which are known only in the Family Circle. But we paced along sluggishly till near the close of day, and then liberated our tired animals & turned them out for the night. A cloud was seen rising from the west and soon thunder was heard in the distance. The storm advanced rapidly and before the oxen had grazed half an hour, a thunderbolt descended & struck two of Col. Averys oxen dead -- I could not but think it was an exhibition of the displeasure of the Almighty

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for the violation of His holy day. They were

only about 60 rods from the camp, where we were preparing supper, when struck down

June 11, 1849

Monday June 11th Travelled 18 miles
Today are in sight of Scotts Buffs They present a picturesque appearance, resembling old castles & fortifications, & other points, like a stale Houn or some ancient building going to decay
Located near these bluffs, is a small French trading post and Blacksmith Shop. Some of the emigrants were having their cattle shod here
Price of Shoeing is \$12..00 pr yoke

June 12, 1849

Tuesday June 12th Made 14 miles
Halted sooner than usual on account of the rain Found excellent grass, but no wood save what we brot along

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June 13, 1849

Wednesday June 13th 1849
Twelve miles brought us to the ford of the Laramie where we laid over one day
I improved this opportunity to visit the fort of the same name The material of this fort is mud or adobes, and is a square enclosure of about 130 feet each way & 15 feet high, for **trading** protection and trading purposes, & belonging to the North American Fur Company. The shops & dwellings are all within this enclosure It is pleasantly situated beside the laramie river, a clear rapid stream but its appearance is very dull at present
They would pay at the Fort \$1..50 pr hund for flour, and would sell from 5 to \$10.. pr hund
Bacon was worthless, and much was thrown away here by the emigrants, having brot it thus far with the hope of selling it. But little accomodat[---] could be found here for emigrants
The walls of old Fort John are seen on the right about a mile N.E. of Laramie
We had expected to see many Indians at this trading post; but there was not one here save what belong to the establishment

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June 14, 1849

Thursday June 14th 1849

At 2 o'clock PM left our encampment and crossed the Laramie fork. A large collection of teams delayed us sometime The stream is 4 or 5 rods wide and from one to 3 ½ feet deep with a very stiff current Had to raise our wagon [53] boxes some 8 inches on blocks to keep them out of the water We encamped about 5 miles beyond the Fort in a valley where was very good ~~good~~ grass The camp to night seemed more like a village at home, than a camp among the hills far in the western wilds the playful glee of children, vocal & instrumental music; the herdsman's bell, the loosing of cattle reminds us strongly of our Village home Have noticed more destruction of property since passing the Fort, than on any part of the road previous Nearly every team was overloaded at the starting point and one thing after another has been thrown overboard that could be spared best & would lighten up most all along the road Beans, tools, boxes & trunks have been left to a large extent But bacon, hardbread, flour, Coffee &c have mostly been reserved with the expectation of finding a ready market at Laramie. In this particular all have been disappointed and now

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there seems a disposition to lighten up their loads at an entire sacrifice Hence the past five miles appears like a half deserted camp, or where its occupants were obliged to leave in tremendous haste without time to gather up. Bacon, Hardbread, flour, Coffee, Sugar, boxes, trunks, Stoves, tools & wagons were strewed all along.

The floral beauty of the valleys has much improved during the last few days. In many places it looks truly beautiful, almost like a flower garden

June 15, 1849

Friday June 15th

Made 20 miles today passing up the Bitter Cotton Wood Creek about 4 miles from first striking it We are now in the region of the Black Hills, The traveling is hilly & the road is hard for the cattle's feet. Larimies peak has been in view for the last two days: some white banks near its top appear like snow even when examined with the aid of the glass

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June 16, 1849

Saturday June 16th 1849

About 14 miles made our days work
Roads all up & down hill, and some part
quite rough. The sharp layer of grit or sand
is seriously affecting our oxens feet which are
fast growing tender.

Parts of wagons are frequently noticed along
the road since leaving the Fort: many of them
no doubt have been left whole by those who have
packed, while others have been left by some part
having given way But they are soon demolished
by travellers who each take such parts as they
think useful to themselves; though many parts
are no doubt wantonly destroyed

Water for our team is becoming scarce in
some places Yesterday & the day previous
had to drive from 12 to 15 miles to find water
Pine wood is plenty on the hills for our use
On the creeks what timber there is, is all
cotton wood. Grass is generally poor.
Our camp is on the Horse Shoe Creek

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June 17, 1849

Sunday June 17th 1849

Do not travel today, So our oxen have a
little rest

Col. Averys Co. are busily engaged in shoeing
their oxen except two of their men who have
gone to the mountains to hunt

Found an ox frame ready made

Shall probably have some of our oxen Shod in the morning

How sad are the moments that pass with me
this day. Although it is one of those sunny beau-
tiful days that seem made for ~~the~~ enjoyment, yet
it is not to be found here except in the Solitary
communion with our God

Those dear friends which go to make up our
existence and with whom we would share all our
joys and which constitutes their chief source are
far far away

Go where you will, seek happiness in whatever way
or place it may be found, yet there is no place
like home ; provided always it is such a place
as it should and may be, where all is confidence
and devotion to each others joys

Where it is the object & desire of the one as well

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as the other to contribute to the general fund
of happiness, Where you can unbosom the whole
heart and find a receptacle to confide it, and a
lively sympathy for every change that awaits us, and
a willing hand to assist at all times & places where

necessary, whether in sickness or health, prosperity or adversity, Have they not the elements of a cheerful, happy home? Add to this your plight[-] faith & affections to one you esteem above all others and there is a bond of truthfulness & trustfulness & affection that far outweighs all [^]other earthly ties

Here then the mind loves to dwell: And howevr far away from the beloved object of our affections the heart loves to linger there, and longs to enjoy that blissful peace which has been our priviledge to enjoy, with the partner of our affections in the family circle

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June 18, 1849

Monday June 18th 1849

At 11 o'clock, often shoeing two pair of our oxen forward, Started on our journey, and travelled on to the Labont river or creek where we encamped. A Sorry looking place it was for our teams, wild sage being the chief prodict of the soil. Distance of travel 17 miles Very hilly and winding road, though quite smooth surface It is said there is a large quantity of coals near this river

June 19, 1849

Tuesday June 19th Travel 18 miles.

There being nothing for the cattle to eat at the nights camp, we moved on 4 miles before breakfast, but they fared bad notwithstanding. The hills & in fact the whole earth, particularly in the fore part of the day, through which we passed was about the colour of Red Ocre, or oxide of Iron Wild Sage in abundance and grass consequently poor

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June 20, 1849

Wednesday June 20th

Travelled about 16 miles and encamped again on the Platt River, near the mouth of the Deer Creek This last named stream is a beautiful clear creek -- is about 2 rods wide and some 2 feet or more deep with a hard bottom and plenty of wood on its banks & fish in its waters of the latter we had a very fair sample caught by Collins & Hance with a net A bed of Coal which was here discovered, afforded

ready fuel for the blacksmiths forge of which some were taking advantage

June 21, 1849

Thursday June 21st

Travelled about 16 miles Our encampment is on the Platt where is plenty of wood, water & grass. But it is said there are poisonous springs or pools of water here that have destroyed some stock-; we are consequently on the lookout. Have passed several places today where the emigrants were crossing the Platt for the last time It is a deeper & much more rapid stream here, than it was below where we followed it up so far and requires some kind of a ferry to cross the wagons on Some were using rafts & others dugouts &c &c

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June 22, 1849

Friday June 22^d

Six miles today brot in to the Morman ferry, so called because kept by a Morman. where we laid over the remainder of the day The float is composed of two old boats ~~or~~ ~~of~~ skiffs lashed together, and some old slabs thrown on them The charge is three dollars pr wagon, and they will cross over about 50 in a day, requiring on their part the labor of about three men The cattle are swum over They also have a blacksmith shop here which is crowded with work Ox shoeing ten dollars pr yoke & other things in proportion So that on the whole they drive quite a stiff business

June 23, 1849

Saturday June 23^d

Crossed the ferry & travelled about 12 miles The first six miles of the road was extremely hard for the cattle; being of a deep loose sand together with some steep hills At about this place we watered our cattle ~~and~~ filled our water cans at the Platt for the last time and turning off to the right bid it a final adieu

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We passed several ponds in the afternoon that had ~~white~~ saline ~~or~~ alkaline incrustations around their margins Our encampment tonight is rather a barren one no water, but little grass & no wood except the

everlasting wild sage Many varieties of the cactus are here seen in full bloom, and they are truly beautiful, varying in hue from the pale yellow to the deep orange & scarlet red with intermedeate variegations & all of a most silky richness

June 24, 1849

Sunday June 24th

We travelled about 20 miles today
Our situation seemed to warrant this course at this time We are on a desert without water or grass for our cattle and this hard drive has only brought us to a meager stopping place late in the afternoon Numbers of cattle have given out during this days drive & have been left to die either from drinking alkaline water or over exertion. Crittendon, Gleason, Park & Woodbury from Adrian, passed us today on their pack mules

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June 25, 1849

Monday June 25th

Travelled only 9 miles today, then laid over to rest & refresh our teams

June 26, 1849

Tuesday June 26th

Made some 12 miles only today. Col. Avery's teams in particular seem to be in a bad condition. One ox he has already left to die, and others are in a following condition Dead cattle by the road side are becoming frequent Our team as yet seem to be all hearty. Our camp tonight is on the Sweet Water River, about two miles east of Independence Rock. A shower was prevailing when we halted for the night

June 27, 1849

Wednesday June 27th

Rested till 2 o'clock P.M. when we hitched up our teams and drove some 6 or 7 miles This bro't our encampment near the Devils Gate or Gap as it is called, where the Sweet Water cuts through a mountain of rock the distance of about one fourth of a mile The mountain is said to be about 500 feet high, and in some places it rises nearly perpendicular from the river to the top on each side The mountains that border this river are

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nearly all rock, with a few dwarfish cedars growing out of the crevices & small ravines
Avery left another ox behind today. Proofs of the increasing mortality among them are witnessed hourly by the road side

June 28, 1849

Thursday June 28th Travel 15 miles
Road much of the way sandy. Grass poor except a narrow bottom on the river. No fuel but the wild sage. A sandy waste is the prevailing character of the country since leaving Fort Laramie, and wild sage its chief product
On the margin of streams there is however sometim a skirt of timber, and at others good grass: But on the sweet water, thus far, there is no timber at all
The bottoms along this stream vary in width from 5 to 50 rods, and the grass is tolerable fair
The Rattle Snake mountains, a range of naked rocks, are near by on our right. To the south some ten miles is another range of high hills or mountains apparently covered with timber
The water for the last 60 miles except in running streams is dangerous for cattle to drink on account of its alkaline character

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In many places as it stands in pools, is has the appearance of strong lye from ashes: But notwithstanding its poisonous qualities, the stock are fond of it

June 29, 1849

Friday June 29th 16 Ms
Sixteen miles to day bro't us into the narrows as it is called, where the river and one road passes among the mountains some two or three miles. Another road runs to the left around the mountain & away from the river We took the right hand road & followed the river, crossing it three times within half a mile Some of the crossings are difficult & the water deep, consequently had to raise the wagon boxes One of Averys wagons was cap-sized in the river, but did no great damage
Our camp this night is in the narrows where there is but little grass, but much alkali --
Here we came up with Frank Park who had passed us a few days back as noticed, in a ^ΛPack mule train with Crittendon & Co. One of his animals had become injured by alkaline water, and the other so worn down that he was unable

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longer to keep pace with company, consequently had fallen back awaiting our arrival to make some different arrangements for pursuing his journey He has joined our squad for the accomplishment of this object

June 30, 1849

Saturday June 30th

Travelled only about 8 miles today the remainder laid by for the benefit of our teams, some of which are in a bad condition One of our best oxen is very stupid, and fear we shall loose him The Wind River Mountains are in view; covered with their eternal snows

July 1849

July 1, 1849

July 1st 16 Miles

Camp on the sweet water; Grass poor & sage for fuel

July 2, 1849

Monday July 2^d Travelled 16 miles

Today I have been quite sick with a headache Road has been very hard with hills & valleys & rocks Our best ox died this mor. The loss of his labor at this time, is more than his real value

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July 3, 1849

Tuesday July 3^d Travelled 16 miles

This morning was extremely cold, so that great coats & mittens were in requisition during the forenoon The wind blew hard from the west direct from the snow capped mountains, some 15 or 20 miles distant. In fact we passed ~~several~~ ~~some~~ banks of snow close beside the road some of which we handled & tasted. Our encampment is about ten miles from the south pass

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July 4, 1849

Wednesday July 4th 1849 --

Travelled about 18 miles today

Our camp tonight is in Oregon
The south pass is passed, and so gradual was
it that had we not kept a close lookout, should
not have known it Our nooning was at
the Pacific Springs which is considered about the
summit though the water from them flows westerly
as their name denotes. Here we took a glass
of lemon punch, which we drank to the
Health & Happiness of those Dearly Beloved ones
that we had left far behind
Last night was a curiosity to us for the season of the

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year Water was frozen in pails & other vessels
a fourth of an inch in thickness this morning; and
water exposed was immediately frozen over, even after
sunrise Every mile still bears witness
to the destruction of stock. We have passed
hundreds of them dead by the wayside, since
leaving the Patt River

July 18, 1849

Wednesday July 18th

Arrived at the City of the

Great Salt Lake: having been 14 days from the south
pass; a distance of about 230 miles We have found the
grass on this route very good, and generally a good
supply of water, and a sufficient wood A greater
proportion of the road is very good, but there is
some very rugged passes to overcome, particularly for
the last 50 miles There are many difficult crossings
of little streams, also heavy ascents & descents of
of mountains & rocky canyons. Weber & Bear
Rivers were difficult to ford, on account of high water
But little timber on this route, And in fact
but little thus far on the whole route Have not
passed a half mile of timber since leaving the States

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The Streams generally have some wood on
their banks, but it is often a mere skirt; and on
the larger streams seldom exceeds a fourth of a mile
in width At Fort Bridger there is some timber
The Fort is built of squared logs, though of rather small
size The houses are so arranged as to form
a hollow square except a space on one side for a gateway. The openings from
the
houses all being into this square On the mountains
a mile or two west of Bridger, noticed some dwarf
cedars that were from one to three feet in diameter, and
none of them exceeding fifteen feet in height
The valley of the great Salt Lake is a beautiful rich
fertile vale of land It is some 90 miles in length

& about 30 in breadth: And produces all kinds of grain that have been tried, in great abundance The Jorden is the principal river that flows lengthwise the valley, This runs northerly and empties into the Salt lake The numerous mountain streams & springs that every where prevail afford ample water for all purposes The mountain streams afford the best of mill powers, and they are also used for irrigating the land during the dry season There are also warm & hot springs strongly impregnated with

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mineral, that afford splendid baths. One in particular about a half mile north of the City, I tried a number of times & found it excellent The Great Morman City is located about midway north & south of the Valley on the ^{East} [56] side of the Jordon It is laid out into lots of 1 ¼ acres each, eight of these lots make one block, twelve blocks make one ward, and twenty wards compose the City as at present The streets are eight rods wide running at right angles. Those wishing more land, locate out of the City This City is the largest & main settlement though there are other settlements both up & down the valley some thirty or forty miles distant either way But the great inland Salt Lake is the most singular feature of the Valley It is fed by numerous fresh water streams of respectable size, that pour forth floods of water into it, and yet it has no outlet Its waters are so saline that immense quantities of the purest salt is deposited on its shores in the dry part of the season The inhabitants have only to shovel it up & cart it off, to supply their utmost demand

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[57] of respectable size that pour forth floods of water & yet this lake has no outlet, and its waters are so saline that it deposits immense quantities of the purest salt on its shores in the dry part of the season, when the inhabitants have only to shovel it up and cart it off to supply all their demands The absence of timber here seems to be all that is wanting to make it a little paradise & to be desired provided it was with the comforts & delicacies of life could be obtained at any time

July 22, 1849

July 22d Left the great City on our destination The route is

on the east side of the valley & Lake
directly north until we cross the
Bear River where our course is westerly

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August 1849

August 11, 1849

August 11th Arrived on the
Humbolt River, a point to which
we have been arriving since leaving the
Lake It is a small stream here but its
waters are clear, & the camping is good with
with willows on its banks
The Road since leaving the salt lake
has been of the usual variety, ups & downs,
sidling, rocky & sandy &c -- No timber of
any amount -- The Hot Springs are the
most interesting object I have noticed
There were several in the great valley, one
was 126°, one 132°, one 128°, & one 134°
and not two rods from the latter was a cold
spring of 60° At another place was one
of 148° and about 20 rods from it was a
cold one of 48° We have in one or two
instances been obliged to drink the water of
springs that were 80°

August 12, 1849

Aug. 12th Traveled 17 miles this day
The road was good & the grass is most
abundant, in many places waist high

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August 13, 1849

Aug 13th 17 miles
Feed poorer, bottoms narrow --
Eleven head of cattle stolen by the Indians
last night, at a camp near where we now
are -- They were followed & overtaken, but the
Indians were too numerous & the cattle were
a total loss

August 14, 1849

Aug 14th 18 miles today
The last half of the route turned off
of the river up over the hills where we
encamped with but little grass & no
water for our stock -- Hills heavy to

climb -- The dust is the greatest annoyance from which we suffer at present. It is ankle deep in the road, & as fine & dry as ashes; and we are constantly enveloped in a cloud of it, whether windy or not which is almost insufferable for man & beast

August 15, 1849

Augt 15th Traveled from our last nights encampment in the hills to the river 10 mites where we laid over for the benefit of our animals -- We have more reports of Indians depredations -- They are becoming [^]bold & saucy

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They are supposed to be the Navijoes, fro[-] the prowess which [^]they exhibit -- Grass very poor

August 16, 1849

August 16th About 17 miles made our days work -- The road is good, but the grass is very poor -- The river here is about two rods wide & 1 ½ feet deep -- More horses & oxen stolen by the Indians last night some of them near our camp They are now said to be the Shoshonas or Snakes

August 17, 1849

17th & 18th 17 miles each day

August 19, 1849

Sunday Augt 19th Again we pursue our wearisome way although it is the sabbath These vallys know not the Lords appointments or ever heard the soul inspiring sound of a church going bell -- But why should man forget or neglect his obligations to his God. although far away from the abode of humanity & civilization? Needs he less of Heavenly aid or protection, here ~~away~~ in the midst of prowling savages, and away from human ~~aid~~ support? or is he reckless of every thing? No but he is away from moral

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institutions & that moral atmosphere which sometims makes men externally moral, that are not truly so at heart But when shall we again hear that sweet

sound of the church calling bell & be permittid
to enter its [^]Sacred courts, to join in the praises of our
God -- Near four months have now pased away
since ~~we~~ I have [^]had an opportunity of enjoying these pleasures
But the scenes of home, and the beloved ones
there, seem to press closely & constantly on the mind --
And [^]th journey grows more tedious & every one
is becoming hartily sick of it & wishes himself in some quiet
resting place Then home comes up as the place above
all for enjoyment & in vain wishis ourselves beside
our anxious & devoted companions, though it were
but to enjoy our sabbath & thn away again
15 miles to day

August 20, 1849

Monday Aug. 20th 16 miles today
Feed rather poor

August 21, 1849

Augt 21st -- 20 miles -- apart of
the way over a heavy barren sand hill
to the river

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August 22, 1849

Wednesday Augt 22d
15 miles today Feed poor except
the night camp when it was excellent
Dust, Dust, all the while! O when shall
we get to the end of our journey,
Pitty the sorrows of a poor prarie traveller

August 23, 1849

Thursday Augt 23d
Fifteen miles made our day journey
The afternoon travel was very heavy sand

August 24, 1849

Friday Augt 24th
Laid over today in consequence of Mess
Fairman & Co's team failing, which obliged them
to overhaul & repack their load & leave one
of their wagons

August 25, 1849

Saturday Augt 25th

Traveled 15 miles -- Some part of the way heavy sand Met a train of 13 wagons of Mormans returning from the gold mines -- Their information generally good -- Grass today very poor

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August 26, 1849

Augt 26th 10 miles today

August 27, 1849

27th -- 15 miles --

Willows for the cattles breakfast -- a little grass for dinner & less for supper Hance, Park & Fifield packed on ahead

August 28, 1849

Tuesday Augt. 28th -- 18 miles --

The most dreary desert that we have seen, have passed today -- Nothing but willows for our cattle. They fare miserably The day too has been a smoky & gloomy one which has added much to the melancholly forebodings for our cattle & ourselves, as we understand ~~there~~ it is some 40 or 50 miles yet to grass Dust, Dust, Dust, all the while

August 29, 1849

Augt. 29th -- 14 miles --

Over a sandy desert where nothing grows but the wild sage, and nothing on the river bottom but willows, for the cattle

August 30, 1849

Augt 30th Twenty miles today brot us to the slough of the river where

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is plenty of grass -- are rejoiced that our stock can live again, as they are much exhausted from the want of suitable food

August 31, 1849

Augt 31st Travelled only four miles

today & made some preparations for taking in hay for a desert that is ahead & also to [---] us them

September 1849

September 1, 1849

Sept 1st Travelled about 5 miles today after finishing our haying

September 2, 1849

Sept 2d Travelled about 10 miles & encamped at what we supposed was the sink of the Humbolt But afterwards found we were about 8 miles short of it

September 3, 1849

Monday Sept 3d Started at 5 o'clock P.M and travelled [^](except 3 hours stoppage till seven next morning making about 25 miles when we campd on the desert for the day -- no grass & no good water We however gave our team some water from a well near by which was considerable salt, but Col Avery would not[--] suffer his to taste it

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But I think ours were benefitted by it, as they endured the best of any team in the company

September 4, 1849

Tuesday Sept 4 At 5 o'clock PM started on our train & travelled till about 7 o'clock next morning except an hour to rest & feed -- This brot us to Carson River probably 25 miles or more & our cattle nearly exhausted; indeed some of them entirely so, so that they had to be left behind -- Two wagons were also left behind some six miles, the teams becoming too weak to draw them through Dead cattle were strewed all the way over the desert, and probably som 50 to 75 wagons were left & destroyed on this miserable desert of some 40 miles It was the hardest drive our teams have had on the whole route There is no grass & no good water from the sink of the Humbolt to the Carson River a distance of about 40 miles There are howevr wells along in several places but they are either salt or alkaline

water and half the way at least

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is the deadest kind of a sandy road that
can be imagined

September 16, 1849

Sept 16th Since the last date have
been travelling up the Carson River at a
very moderate pace, probably not more
than 10 or 12 miles per day thus giving our
teams an opportunity to recruit before
crossing the mountain Our travel for the
last ~~five~~^{two} days has been quite pleasant --
close to the east base of the Nevada
mountains covered with stately pines, (a
rarity with us,) and a beautiful rich
valley of grass of many thousands of acres
with the stream meandering through it
& numerous mountain streams gurgling
along to meet it, which with the wild
romantic scenery of the towering peaks
make it an interesting spot
Our camp is one of much grandour
this morning situated in the gorges of
the mountain with a rushing stream on
one side & the towering heights of the
over

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mounten on the othr Before us
on our way is a Kanyon walled up on
either side almost as high as the eye can
reach Our hopes are now buoyant
as we are now thus nearing the consumat
of our ardent toils -- One week more
we trust will realize our golden dream

September 17, 1849

17th Yesterday was a hard days
toil both for man & beast in passing
through the Kanyon It is only about
six miles through and yet it took us all
day of constant labour to accomplish it
and after sunset to our astonishment
found ourselves all safe through -- I will
not attempt a description but simply say
it was the most horrible place that I
ever saw a team driven through & had
I not known that others had been through
should not believed the thing possible

And probably more than 20 wagons
had reeked on the way in the attempt
We are now encamped in a basin
or opening in the mountain; it is elevated

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and hence quite cold during the night
though warm in the daytime The thermometer
stood this morning at 18°

September 19, 1849

Sept 19th Crossed the first range
of the Sierra Nevada mountains, and it
was a hard days work -- The ascent is
very steep, & in many places very crooked &
rough We were half the day at least in
getting our waggons the two miles over the
mountains, using eight yoke of oxen to do it

September 21, 1849

Sept 21st Eight miles today brot us
to the top of the highest mountain
and a rocky, sidling, steep hard road
it was. We capsized our wagon
once, though without much injury

September 28, 1849

Friday Sept 28th 1849
Arrived at the gold diggings on weaver
creek about noon today -- and heartily
do I rejoice that this long & tedious journey
is accomplished Never do I wish to

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recross those plains & mountains & kanyon
& deserts again The recompense of
all these toils looks rather dubious, and
I am somewhat disappointed in the prospects
before us, but hope they may open more
propitious than present appearances indicate

October 1849

October 10, 1849

Oct. 10th Last night & the night
before had a light drizzling rain the
first this season

Being on a pedestrian tramp to the
Ranch for our cattle, some 40 miles distant,
I received the showering benefits of the
last night's rain. This perhaps should be
attributed to the size of our California bedroom; it
is somewhat larger than Noe's Ark & contained
more than two & two of every living thing
But I had rather be a little more retired
although the air may be more confined
On the Makosmy River found an abundance
of the little frost grape which we devoured
in great quantities it being the first grape-
fruit we had seen this season & therefore
a great luxury

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November 1849

November 3, 1849

Saturday Nov. 3d

Last Monday while at Sacramento I
was suddenly & violently attacked with in
one foot & ankle with rheumatism -- It was
so severe as nearly to paralyze its use -- It is
now a little better, though I fear for the
consequences it being so subtle a disease, & my
system being somewhat predisposed to it -- The
prospects at least fill my mind with gloomy
apprehensions for the future, not on my
own account alone, but for those whom
I love more tenderly than my own life,
for on my health must depend much
of my success

November 11, 1849

Monday Nov 11th The rains seem
to have commenced: It has showered
down about half the time for the last
week

November 13, 1849

Nov. 13 The last two days or three days
have been quite pleasant

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November 27, 1849

Nov. 27th Much rain has fallen

during the last two weeks, and the roads are almost impassible, and the transportation on provisions &c has advanced to enormous rates; as high as one dollar a pound pr ~~mile~~ hundred miles or at that rate for less distances has been paid & but few teams to be had at that

December 1849

December 11, 1849

Tuesday Dec 11th For the last two weeks, the weather has been mild & pleasant & the roads have become tolerable again

December 12, 1849

Wednesday Dec 12th --

Again it rains

Have been hunting (but in vain) for our oxen with the view of going to the City but the rain will probably prevent it even if we could have found our team

December 19, 1849

Wednesday 19th Dec The storm continues more than half the time. It is not as cold as in the States but more

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confining to the house And in our business rendering it impossible to accomplish any thing, on account of the superabundance of water Last week we turned the chimney out doors which relieves us of much smoke & repaired the roof a little which is about the sum total of our weeks work & probably a sample of what it may be for the next two months. But the time wears heavily we feel the want of our friends & companions & also of books & reading matter with which to employ our idle hours -- O that I could spend these long, tedious days in the bosom of my little Family giving & receiving the joys which that domestic circle is capable of imparting where the sympathetic chore is never out of tune

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December 24, 1849

Monday Dec 24th 1849

Despatched a messenger

to the City to make another effort to obtain some information from home It is now more than eight months since we have received any intelligence from our friends & homes.

Our anxiety for those whom we hold most dear has become painful, and would cheerfully give any price for letters from them now, though we should have had them long ago

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1850

January 1850

January 1, 1850

Tuesday Jany 1st 1850 A happy new year is the general greeting today But it sounds heavily on my ears, for all is gloomy & cheerless around The Heavens are overcast, and the descending rain compells us to remain in our dark shanties I could wish the whole world a happy new Year but especially is this wish bestowed on those who are particularly ~~those~~ dear to us by the ties of affection And oh, that I could gladden their hearts as well as my own, by my presence with them on this anniversary of the year

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But this joy is denied us for the present, and I fear the next new year, if permitted to see it, will find me still far from each other, and from the joys which the union of kindred minds produce

January 27, 1850

January 27th 1850

The most important & anxious wish of my heart at present, is, to receive some tidings from home & my beloved family. More than three fourths of a year has passed away since I have received any intelligence whatever from them. During this period I have made a journey of more than two thousand miles through a wild savage land, of vast naked plains & rugged mountains, where desolation was the reigning feature of the earth & destruction that of the traveller Emerging from these tired, anxious debilitating, tedious scenes, the retrospect of which seems to carry me back to some past era. the question arises where are the Friends of my former days? where are those I used to love? Where my wife , -my beloved

Family ? But echo only answers. where? I had hoped after emerging from this ocean of earth to have found som tidings in waiting for me here, but

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disappointment thus far has filled the space
Months have rolled away in rapid succession, and messengers been despatched, the express solicited, journeys made, and enquiries extended at every probable point, and to all these copies the same repulsive, blighting answer, -- nothing! Then I learn that, that fearful epidemick, the cholera has been stalking abroad throughout the leangth & breadth of our land, entering Cities, towns, hamlets & families, and sweeping away, without respect to personal rank or intrinsick worth the brightest ornaments of society, and the most affectionately devoted in the domestic circle
And perhaps that scourge of human life & happiness may have entered that little circle where dwells my earthly joys, my Wife & little one; and they have fallen a prey to the subtle foe, and they hesitate to tell me the sad story. But amid all these casualties & this anxious, & painful solicitude, there is one source of joy & satisfaction. It is found in the redeeming love of a Saviour. He liveth and reigneth forever: and we trust that His blood which has flowed so freely for the remission of sins, and the exaltation of all mankind, has not flowed in vain for that

[page 61]

beloved Family: and under whatever circumstances the grim messenger shall present himself, they shall be found ready, with their lamps trimmed & burning to meet the Bridegroom: and leaving the corruptible of earth behind, shall be clothed with incorruption, and be ushered into the presence of the "Lamb that was slain but liveth again to join in the song of redeeming love forever & ever. To those prepared for this exchange of worlds how glorious and how happy the change: "Leaving all that sin hath blighted," the trials the sorrows & griefs, the anxieties & disappointments, to dwell with our "Saviour who hath bought us with his own blood and redeemed us from sin & pollution" and enjoy His holy presence and the Society of Heaven: "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest" Prepare us all O God for this great event, through Thy Son our Saviour, "who givith life freely to all that believe on his Name" "Then shall death be robed of his sting and the grave of its victory" But while we sojourn on the earth may we ~~have~~ be submissive to [^]the will of Heaven doing our duty as Christians & Citizens, knowing that God will do [60] all things right towards us: and thus wait in preparation for the coming of the Son Man

[page 62]

February 1850

February 21, 1850

Thursday February 21st 1850

Just returned from a trip in the mountains of one week on a prospecting tour. We did not accomplish our object in full, it being to cross the head waters of the Macosmy River and pass to the south some 80 miles to some reputed rich diggings But the waters were too high, and the Kanyons too precipitous & rugged for our mules We found one little rich ravine from which we obtained about thirty dollars pr man

March 1850

March 10, 1850

Sunday March 10th 1850

Spring seems to be creeping on rather slow. The grass however is becoming quite green, and the flowers are showing there blossoms The rains have not all subsided Last week we had quite a storm, and the present appearances indicate another one at hand We are told however that they are nearly all past. I am anxious to be out among the mountains where I can obtain better pay for my labours than at present I am anxious also so that I can accomplish the object sought, and thus be getting in some

[page 63]

preparation to return home The time seems to drag heavily; and ~~the time~~ it seems an age since I left my Family and no pen can describe the feelings that ~~have~~ pervaded the heart in reference to them during this bitter separation

March 17, 1850

Sunday March 17th

Have had one of the most severe storms of the winter, during the past week, it being cold & windy with a heavy fall of rain & some sleet But it is now again, beautifully pleasant

April 1850

April 7, 1850

Sunday April 7th [\[61\]](#)

This is a lonesome Sabbath to me. It is cloudy with some rain falling consequently confined within doors. And I am not very well either And my house mates have [^]been dropping off one after another, until now for a few days, I am left entirely alone Crittendon has gone to the City for letters &c, and will return in a few days. I have offered him five dollars if he would obtain one for me I suppose of course it will be from my wife over

[page 64]

It is now just a year since the date of her last letter that I have received, from her. And yet we are within forty days communication with each other. Why this is so, or why I am thus in ignorance of a companion whose whole heart is devoted to me by the strongest ties of reciprocal affection, is more than I can comprehend

The seasons in California are near two months earlier than in Michigan The forest trees are all leaving o[-] and the whole face of the earth is covered with h[--] & flowers. And such a profusion of flowers of every shade, shape, & hue, I never before saw. The grou[-] is literally covered with them, and the air is fragrant with them. They are generally of a small variety

April 11, 1850

April 11th

Mr Crittendon has returned from the City with letters for others, but with no tidings for me

The weather since last Tuesday, has been most beautiful. The thermometer in the morning stand[-] between 40° & 50°, And at noon between 70° & 80°

[page 65]

April 23, 1850

April 23

Shouldered our tools and traveled four miles, and dug eightytwo dollars of gold & returned again at night. Thus making each of us forty one dollars. A specimen of Calafornia labor

[\[62\]](#) E.A. Spooner's Diary

[\[63\]](#)

[page 67]

Little Sandy, 20 feet wide, 2 ½ ft deep
muddy water swift current plenty of willows
& wild sage abundance of grass down the stream
after this barren & sandy land
Big Sandy, 7 rods wide, 2 feet deep 8 ¼ miles
Good chance to camp few miles further will
find a short piece of rough road over rocks
& cobblestones No grass or water after
this for near 17 miles
Big Sandy ~~~~~ 17 ms
Good chance to camp, after this
barren, & sandy land & heavy road till
you arrive at green river
Green River ford 16 rods wide 10 ms
Good camping any where on the banks
& plenty of timber Not difficult to ford
in low water but if to high to ford, best
crossing is up stream 2 ms above
Good camping place on Green river 1 ½ ms
Plenty of grass here But no other very good
chance to camp on this side the river
Road leaves Green river 3 ½ ms
No grass nor water after this for 15 ½ Miles
Several steep places to pass

[page 68]

Blacks fork, 6 rods wide 2 ft deep 15 ½ Ms
Good chance to camp & a nice place
though not much timber

[64]

July 1850

July 10, 1850

July 10th

Night

Drive

[65]

Hams fork 3 rods wide 2 ft deep 3 ¾ ms
Rapid current, cold water plenty of
bunch grass & willows, & is a good camp
ground

Blacks fork again 1 ¾ Mis

Not much grass, but plenty of willows

You will now have some uneven ground

& ~~hard~~ many ravines

Small creek 2 ft wide 10 ¾ ms

No grass & probably no water

Blacks fork third time 2 ms

After crossing you will find a good
camping place & plenty of bunch grass & flax

Blacks fork, fourth time 2 ¼ ms

you ford again at a good camping place

Stream 2 rods wide 2 ft deep 2 ¾ ms

Very swift current, & plenty of bunch grass
road pretty rough after this

Stream -- Good camping place at
a bend -- 3 ½ ms

[page 69]

Do not cross the stream, but there is a good
camping place where the road passes a bend
of the creek

Fort Bridger Alt. 6,665 feet 8 ¼ ms

You cross 4 rushing creeks, within half a mile

[66]

July 11, 1850

July 11th

[67]

before you reach the fort, And by traveling half
a mile beyond the fort you cross 3 others & then
find a good camping place

The fort is composed of 4 log houses & a small
enclosure for horses -- Land exceeding rich -- water
cold & good & considerable timber

Cold Springs on the right side of road [-]¼ ms

Timber here, & is pretty good camping place

Small Creek & Springs 1 ¼ ms

No feed here & no place to camp

Summit of high ridge 1 mile

After this you travel several miles on tolerably
level land, then you descend to lower land

by a steep & tedious route

Muddy Fork 12 ft wide 4 ½ ms

Plenty of bunch grass & willows. water clear
& not bad tasted -- After this you will probably
find no good water for eleven miles

[68]

July 12, 1850

July 12

[page 70]

Copperas, or Soda Springs 3 ¾ Ms

Left of the road at the foot of a hill

The road now begins to ascend another
high ridge

Summit of Ridge Alt. 7315 ft 1 ¾ ms

the descent is lengthy & some tedious -- about
half way down you pass over rough rocks, & the
pass being narrow, makes it dangerous to wagons

Copperas, or Soda Spring -- 1 mile

Cattle will drink this water, & there is
plenty of grass around it -- A little farther
the road turns to the left & passes down a
narrow ravine

Spring of good water south side the road 4 ½ ms

This surrounded by high grass close to the
creek side. There is another spring a little
further, on the north side the road, which
will probably be the last water you will find

till you arrive at Sulphur creek
East foot of dividing ridge 1 mile
Dividing ridge between the waters of the
Colorado & the Great Basin -- Ascent very
steep & crooked -- narrow summit &
steep descending Alt. 7.700 feet

[page 71]

Sulphur Creek 10 ft wide 6 mis
Plenty of grass & some willows also small
cedars at foot of mountains (see Note 7)
Bear River 6 rods wide 2 feet deep 1 ¾ ms
Swift current -- clear cold water -- plenty of timbr
& grass

[69]

July 13, 1850

July 13

[70]

Summit Ridge 2 ¾ms
Half a mile further on you cross a small ridge
then descend into & travel down a nice narrow
bottom where is plenty of grass
Spring of clear, Cold, water 1 ¾ms
On the south side the creek, about 2 rods
from the road -- Spring deep, water clean & cold
Surrounded by high grass
Yellow Creek, Cross at foot of Rocky bluffs 4 ¾ms
will soon cross this again, & about a mile
further you ascend another long ridge, the
ascent pretty steep & tedious
Summit of Ridge 1 ¾ms
Descent pretty steep. about three fourths of
a mile down from the summit, is a spring of cold
water on the left of the road
Cache Cave and head of Echo creek
Alt. 6.070 ft --- 3 ¾ms

[page 72]

Cave in the bluffs north -- several springs
in the road before you arrive here, & one,
a quarter of a mile south from the cave -- Plenty
of grass & good place to camp
Cold Spring, on the right of road 2 ms
This is also a good place to camp, being
plenty of grass
Cold Spring South side of road 2 ¼ ms
at the foot of a high hill -- Good place to camp
After this you travel down a narrow ravine
between high mountains till you arrive at
wober river. Not much difficulty in
camping down it
Deep Ravine 1 ¼ms

[71]

July 14, 1850

July 14

[72]

Steep on both banks. After this you will cross Echo creek a number of times, but in no place very difficult
Red fork of Weber river 16 ms
There is a good camping place a mile before arriving here. Also almost any where on the banks of the river Plenty of timber -- Spotted trout abound in the stream

[73]

July 15, 1850

July 15

Weber River ford 4 rods wide 2 ft deep 4 ms
Good to ford Plenty of grass & timber on both sides

[page 73]

Pratts Pass, to avoid the Kanyon 1/2 mile
The kanyon is a few miles below where the river runs between high mountains of rocks - some emigrants have passed through but it is dangerous
East foot of long 1 mile
There is a small creek descends down the hollow up which the road is made Several springs near the road
Bridge (over the creek) 2 1/4 ms
Not a bad place to camp
Summit Ridge 2 1/2 ms
The country west looks rough & mountainous
The descent is not pleasant, being mostly on the side hill
~~Kanyon Creek~~ Small Creek left the road 1 3/4 ms
Good place to camp. Plenty of grass, water, & willows
The road here turns north a quarter of a mile, then west & ascends a steep hill
Kanyon Creek 1 rod wide 1 foot deep 2 3/4 ms
You have to cross this creek thirteen times, besides two bad swamps. The road is dangerous to wagons on account of dense high bushes, trees, & short turns in the road -- good place to camp
See note 9

[74]

[page 74]

Leave Kanyon Creek 8 ms
Here you turn to the right & begin to ascend the highest mountain you cross in the whole journey. You travel timber, some on side hill & cross the creek several times
Small Spring, left of the road 3 ms
You will probably find water in a number of places, but uncertain where as it runs but a little way in a place & then sinks in the earth
Summit of Mountain Alt. 7,245 ft 1 mile
The descent is steep, lengthy, & tedious, on

account of the stumps in the road
Bridge over a deep ravine 3/4 mile
This dangerous to cross, and a wagon may be
easily upset -- The road lays through a forest
of small timber & is unpleasant traveling
Browns Creek & Spring 3/4 mil
Not a bad place to camp, but there is a much
one half a mile lower down
Cold Spring on Browns Creek 2 3/4 ms
Within a rod of the road, on the east side
under a grove of black birch bushes -- Good
place to camp, but some mirey -- Good
camping any where for two miles below

[page 75]

Leave Browns Creek 1 3/4 ms
You now ascend another high mountain by
a steep amp; crooked road -- on both sides this moun-
tain there are many Serviceberry bushes
Summit of last ridge 1 mile
The descent is very steep all the way, till you
arrive on the banks of last creek
Last Creek 3/4 mile
You cross this creek nineteen times. Several
of the crossings are difficult There are several
side hills that require care in teamsters. Three
camping places on it, but the road is rough
Mouth of the Kanyan 5 miles
You now enter the valley of the Salt Lake
The road at the mouth of the ~~mouth~~ kanyon
bad, & rough with stumps, afterwards des-
cending & good
City of the Great Salt Lake 5 miles

[page 76]

Note 7 At the foot of the mountain on
the south side, & at the edge of the creek
there is a strong sulphur spring -- A little
above the spring, on the side of the mountain
is a bed of Stone Coal -- At the foot of the
bluff west of where you cross the creek, is
a noble spring of pure cold water: And
about a mile from this place in a southwest
course, is a "tar" or "Oil Spring" covering a
surface of Several rods of ground -- There is a
wagon trail runs within a short distance
of it. It is situated in a small hollow
on the left of the wagon trail, at a point
where the trail rises a higher bench of land

[page 77]

Extraneous

Guide to California

From Great Salt Lake City to Capt Browns
on the Weber 40 ms

Thence to Box Elder 20

" " Bear River 15

" " Malad No wood 3

" " First large warm Spring 6

" " Second " " " 14

" " Spring in the Mountain, good Camp 12

" " Deep Creek (cross at the bend) 6

" " Down Do (good Camp) 6

" " Spring in the Valley, (no grass) 10

" " Cajoux, good camping in sight

on the left in several places 26

" " Up Cajoux 9

" " To the Old road near the

Steeple Rock 6

" " To Goose Creek 10

Several camping places between

" " Up Goose Creek (good camps) 22

" " To Hot Spring Valley 13

" " " Second Spring, (good camp) 5

223

[page 78]

[75] 8 1/4

17 - 25'

10 - 35'

1 1/2 - 363

3 1/2 - 401

15 1/2 - 553

3 3/4 - 592

1 3/4 - 611

10 3/4 - 72

2 - 74

2 1/4 - 761

2 3/4 - 79

3 1/2 - 822

6' 8 1/4 - 902

6 1/4 - 963

1 1/4 - 98

1 - 99

4 1/2 - 1032

3 3/4 - 1071

882 1 3/4 - 109

25 1 - 110

113 4 1/2 1142

1 1152

6 1212

13 1231

23 126

13 128

43 1323

13 1342

33 1381

2 1401

21 1422

11 1432
16 1592
4 1632
2 164
1 165
21 1671
22 1693
13 1712
23 1741
8 1821
3 1851
1 1861
33 1873
23 1902
13 1921
1 194
53 199
5 204

[page 79]

[76] 223

Thence through the Valley 32
grass plenty, water not more 18
than 10 miles apart
" to a branch on Marys River
where is good grass 8
" through a kanyon crossing the branch
9 times Very Rocky 8
" to Marys River good camps all the way 19
" " Martins Fork, good camps all along 60
" ~~through~~ over a hill & through a Kanyon 20
Spring half way, & some grass
" to a pass in the hills 72
" where you cross the River
good camping all the way
" to next crossing 46
" without ~~wood~~ grass or water 15
" to the lower crossing 15
good Camping (Last grass) ~~26~~
" Lower camping on the river 26
" Slough, poor camp 15
" to Sink of Marys River 20
The best water at the further end of the
slough where it passes between narrow bluffs
209 579

[page 80]

579

Thence (if by old route) to boiling Spring 20
No grass
" to Trucky River good camp 25
There may be a new road by a shorter
cut over the above route by turning to
the left, intended to have been made by
Capt Child last fall

Here the road forks. The old road continues up the Truckee, crossing it 37 times, but probably too high to cross in the fore part of the season
" New route turns off to the left to Salmon Trout River (good camp) 25
" ~~across~~ to the right across a bend in the River, good camp 15
" Up the Rivers, good camps 8
" over a hill to the River again, (good camp) 12
" to pass creek kanyon 42
Good camping at short distances
" Through the kanyon, good camp 5
" to Red Lake or foot of dividing ridge California Mountains (good camping) 11
742

[page 81]

742
Thence to Lake Valley (good camp) 6
" " Rock Valley (good camp) 10
Highest Ridge
" " Leak Springs (good camp) 13
" " Camp Creek (poor camp) 10
" Down dividing ridge 16
Here turn your animals into a valley two miles to the left, grass plenty
" to Pleasant Valley gold mines 12
" " Capt Sutters55
864

By Ira I. Willis
of the Great Salt Lake City
[77] 325
15
209 8
163 12
117 42
[78] 16

Notes

- [1] It appears that Spooner numbered his letters later, as evidenced by the numbers in his handwriting on the last page of each letter.
- [2] All letters unless otherwise noted were written in black ink on one 10" by 15 1/2" piece of paper each, which was folded in half the long way to make four 8" x 10" pages (like a book).
- [3] This letter was written on white paper. Pages 1-3 are the text of the letter, and page 4 is what ended up being the outside after it was folded down.
- [4] This page looks like it was folded down to 3 1/2" by 5" to make an envelope-like outside. There were two vertical folds and two horizontal folds. All the letters were folded in a similar fashion unless otherwise noted. The text on this page was centered vertically in the center rectangle created by the four folds.
- [5] This letter was written on lined blue paper.
- [6] The following line was written vertically in the bottom right corner of the

center rectangle.

[7] The "2" in the above line was written upside-down.

[8] This letter was written on white unlined paper, like the first letter.

[9] The following line was written vertically in the top left corner of the center rectangle.

[10] This letter was written on lined blue paper.

[11] The following line was written in the upper right corner of the center rectangle (between the folds).

[12] This letter was written on unlined white paper.

[13] The following text was written vertically in the center rectangle of this page.

[14] Pages 1-4 of this letter were written on lined blue paper; pages 5-6 were written on unlined whitepaper.

[15] The following 2 lines were written vertically in the left margin.

[16] The following line was written vertically in the left margin.

[17] The following two lines were written across the text in the bottom right corner of this page. It was written twice as large as the other writing in this letter at a 45 degree angle.

[18] The following line was written in the left margin vertically downward.

[19] This page is not attached to the blue paper, and pages 5 through 6 are written on white piece of paper of the same kind as before, only torn in half where the fold is on the other letters. However, it seems that pages 5-6 are still with the same letter.

[20] The previous line was written upwards vertically in the left margin. The following line was written downward vertically in the bottom right margin.

[21] This letter was written on lined blue paper, returning to the same size and book-like folding of before.

[22] The following line is written vertically downward in the center rectangle in very light ink, centered vertically but nearest the rightmost fold horizontally.

[23] Horizontal text resumes.

[24] This letter was written on lined blue paper.

[25] The following 2 lines were written vertically in the left margin.

[26] The following 2 lines were written vertically in the left margin.

[27] There is a squiggle here underlining his signature.

[28] The rest of this page was written in pencil.

[29] This letter was written on blue lined paper.

[30] Loopy-squiggle here underlining his signature.

[31] The following two lines are written in pencil vertically downward in the center rectangle (between the folds).

[32] This letter was written on lined blue paper.

[33] Initials were written twice as large as the rest of the letter.

[34] The following line was written vertically downward in the center rectangle between the folds on this page.

[35] This line was added in pencil.

[36] Bolded words on this page were added in pencil.

[37] Signature is underlined with a decorative squiggle.

[38] The text on this page was written vertically in the center rectangle.

[39] This letter was written on lined blue paper. It is the same paper as the rest of the letters; however, it was torn in half at the fold, so it is only an 8" x 10" inch single sheet of paper. It was also folded differently than the rest of the letters: folded once, evenly, horizontally, and twice (in thirds) vertically.

[40] The following line was written vertically in a large hand, centered in the bottom half of the page.

[41] This letter was written on lined blue paper, returning to the regular size.

[42] The text on this page was written vertically in the center rectangle-the folding is the normal kind in this letter, as well.

[43] This letter was written on lined blue paper.

[44] Signature is underlined with a decorative squiggle.

[45] Initial was written twice as large as other handwriting.

[46] The following numbers were written in pencil vertically in the left

margin.

[47] Journal begins. Binding has completely worn away, and pages are worn, stained, and torn in places. Written in black ink. Pages are about 5" x 8".

[48] The rest of this line is torn away.

[49] The page is torn.

[50] The page is torn.

[51] The corner is torn off.

[52] The corner is torn.

[53] Ink blotch.

[54] written in pencil

[55] Black ink resumes.

[56] "East" was added in pencil.

[57] Pages 42-57 were written in pencil. The handwriting is very illegible in some cases.

[58] The following entry was originally written in pencil and then written over in black ink.

[59] Black ink resumes (without tracing).

[60] The word "right" was written very lightly beneath the word "do."

[61] A stain covers the text here, as well as some on the following page.

[62] The following line was written in pencil diagonally up the bottom half of the page.

[63] Page 66 is blank.

[64] The following 3 lines were written in pencil diagonally across the previous three lines.

[65] Horizontal text in black ink continues.

[66] The following line was written in pencil diagonally across the previous two lines.

[67] Horizontal text in black ink continues.

[68] The following line was written in pencil diagonally across the previous 3 lines.

[69] The following line was written diagonally in pencil across the previous 2 lines.

[70] Horizontal text in black ink resumes.

[71] The following line was written diagonally in pencil across the previous 7 lines.

[72] Horizontal text in black ink resumes.

[73] The following line was written diagonally in pencil across the previous 4 lines.

[74] "July 16th" is written in pencil diagonally across the bottom half of the text.

[75] This page was written in pencil in two columns that were divided by a vertical line.

[76] Bolded items on this page were written in pencil.

[77] The rest of the page was written in pencil. The following numbers were written at the bottom of the page.

[78] This part of the page was torn off.