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AN OVERLAND JOURNEY. XXVI

From Salt Lake to Carson Valley. PLACERVILLE, July 21, 1859.

directly south-west of Camp Floyd.

through regions like this.

There are too emigrant trails from Salt Lake City to Carson Valley and the pass thence into California-the older and more favored starts porth west from the Mormon Zion, passes north and west of Salt Lake, crossing Weber and Bear Rivers near their mouths, with several small creeks, and gradually veering west and south-west so as to strike the head springs more than three hundred miles to its "sink," within a hundred miles of the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada. The other route leaves the Mormon capital in a southwesterly direction, touches Lake Utab on the north, passes west of that Lake through Provo, and thence southerly through Fillmore, the nominal capital of the Territory, and so down by Sevier river and lake nearly to the southern boundary of Utah, whence it stretches west, nearly upon the southern rim of the Great Basin, on which are the "Mountan Meadows," where a large emigrant party from Arkansas was so atrociously ma-sacred in 1857. Thence this trail turns northwest to hit the sink of Carson River. (1 can get no tolerable map of Utah, and the above may not be entirely correct, but is nearly so.) It will be seen that each of these routes must necessarily be very cirenitous, and that almost, if not quite, half the Territory lies between them. So. last year, Major Charpening, the contrac tor for earrying the Sait Lake and California Mail, resolved to seek a shorter route midway between them, which he partially succeeded in establishing. This route passes Camp Floyd, 43 miles south of Salt Lake City, and thence strikes west south-west through "the Desert," so called, which it penetrates for 150 miles or more; thence turning north-west to reach and follow the original emigrant and mail-route down the Humboldt .-Even thus, it is somewhat shorter than any other traveled route from Salt Lake to Carson Valley, but still very tortuous, and at least 150 miles longer than it should be. Capt. Simpson of the U. S. Topographical Corps, has made his way quite through the desert, on a route which makes the distance only 560 miles from Camp Floyd to Carson Valley; whereas it is 670 by the present mail-route, and further by any other. Capt Simpson is now engaged in further surveys, whereby he hopes to shorten the distance from Salt Lake City to Genoa, near the head

I left Camp Floyd in the mail-wagon from Salt Lake City, on the morning of Thursday, July 21st, pursuing a southwest course over a low mountain pass .-Twenty miles on, we found a small brook, making from the mountains south of us across a thirsty plain, which, I pre-ume, soon drank it up. The vegetation was that same eternal Sagebbsh and Greasewood (Artemisia, I think, is a more widely recognized designation of the plant), which I am tired of mentioning, but, which, together or separately, cover twothirds of all the vast region betweeen the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada. In places, the Sagebush, for miles in extent, is dead and withering, seemingly parched up by the all pervading drouth; the Greasewood is either hardier, or chooses its ground more judiciously; for it is needed ablution, rarely found dead by acres. There is on one or more sides, like the Buttes fur- a hundredth part so freely as the muske- seems therefore irredeemable. at their bases. These plains appear from bread and coffee, which, when the flour, wooded; ty which I mean that wood is first a pure stream-or rather streams, and the water not deep a yard either way rejoined the other; "Pap's going to get a a distance to be level as so many tables; or the pork, or the coffee happens to be procurable on them at almost any point. for there are two main branches -- but is from the place of our misadventure. By mortgage on ours."

of Carson Valley, to about 550 miles;

and two of Major Charpening's superin-

tendents are now examining the new por

tion of this route, intending to recommend

a transfer of the Mail to it should they

deem it practicable for wagons, and not

hopelessly destitute of grass and water.

I trust they will find it passable; mean-

time, let me give some account of so much

of it as I have travelled, as I am not a-

ware that any is yet extant.

but, on attempting to cross them in a out, as it sometimes does, renders the diet This wood is for the most part Cedar, six soon corrupted by its alkaline surround. a little past midnight we were at the balf-

slope is apt to be intensely dry, sterile, There is some coarse grass here. miles across, though they seem in the mules are turned out to feed and rest, by sould be made to answer. clear, dry atmo-phere of Utah, not half the side of a sink or depression in the so much. These plains have an imper- plain, which is covered with coarse grass Valley we turned north west up a broad ceptible slope to some point near their and reeds or bulrushes. By digging in ravine, and thence-forth beld that generespective centers, where a wider water- the side of this sink, water has been casi- ral course to reach the Humbolt, instead course runs toward some adjacent valley; ly obtained, but so sulphurous and gener. of still making west south-west directly in some cases, a marsh or naked space ally bad as to be barely drinkable. Even toward Carson Valley, as it is proposed near the centre indicates that the surplus the mules, I think, practice great mod- hereafter to do if that be found practicawater from the surrounding mountains eration in the use of it. At 1, we har- ble. For the next 140 miles or thereforms here in Spring a petty, shallow nessed up and soon were rising over a abouts, our trail led us mainly up one lake, which the hot suns soon evaporate long mountain pass, hardly less than ten side of a mountain range and down the or the thirsty soil absorbs. The moun- miles from the level plain to its summit, other, thence across a valley of some ten tains are thinly belted or dotted with low where a light thunder-shower-that is a miles in width to the foot of another chain. scrubby Cedar, seldom ten feet high and light rain with heavy thunder--overtook and so on. As the trail naturally runs often nearly as far across the green top us. We drove rapidly down its western up the deepest canons and over the lowformed by three or four stalks or stems declivity, and, a little after 5 p. m., reach- est passes, the ascent and descent are starting from a common root. The moun- ed our next station in "Pleasant Valley," rarely abrupt for any con-iderable distairs seem to have no particular, or rath. a broad ravine which descends to the tance, and we seldom lacked water, but er, no general direction; some of the val- south-west. Here we found water -- our route was the most devious imaginalevs being nearly or quite surrounded by bright, sweet, pure, sparkling, lesping ble-ranging from north-east on one them. Even in the wettest seasons, I water-the first water fit to drink that hand to south on the other. Sometimes cannot perceive that this region sends off we had reached in a hundred miles; if two or three hundred square miles were of the Humbolt, which stream it follows any surplus water to Salt lake or any oth- Simpson's Spring ever dries up, the dis- visible at a glance—the mountain-sides er general reservoir. Such is the region tance will be at least a bundred and twen- half covered with Cedar and Pine, with ty. We were now across what is here with some dwarf Willows and Rose bush--We found a station, a change of bor- technically known as "the desert"--that es, often fringing their slender rivulets; ses, and something that was called din- is to say we had crossed the north-east but not a tree other than Evergreen in

> the next station-Simpson's Spring, near-swindle the purchaser outrageously. by 50 miles from Camp Floyd, where we Let me endeavor, on quitting it to give tween a thornbush and an untrimmed aphalted for the night. I fear the hot suns a clear idea of this desert, and thus of ple-tree, but nothing else deciduous above of August will dry up this spring, and about half the land inclosed between the there is no other fit to to drink for a wea- Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada Sagebush and Greasewood appear to be ry distance south and west of this point -- the other half being mainly covered by evergreens. Grass is here not abundant The station keeper here gave me an mountains and the narrow ravines or can- but unfailing, as it must be where water

mountain pass and a far rougher road to that tract for one cent per acre, be will

incident which illustrates the character of ons which separate them. the country. Some few days before, he The plains or valleys of Utsh, then, The plains or valleys remain as further ascertained that his oxen, eight in num- have generally a soil of white clay, some- east, save that they are smaller, and, beber, had gone off, two or three nights be- times rocky, at others streaked by sand or cause of the less scanty supply of water, fore, taking a southerly course; so he gravel; but usually pure clay, save as it is more susceptible of improvement. At mounted a horse and followed their trail, impregnated by some alkaline substance Shell Creek, 45 miles from Pleasant Val-He rode upon it 100 miles without reach | -usually saleratus, but in places niter, lev, where we spent our next night, there ing water, or overtaking the cattle, which in others, salt or sulphur. Sometimes is a little garden-the first since Camp had lain down but once since they start but rarely, considerable areas of this al- Floyd-and at Ruby Valley, 50 miles or ed, and were still a day's journey ahead kali in a nearly pure state are exposed of him. If he continued the pursuit, his on the surface; in many places, it covers horse must die of thirst, and then be too the beds of shallow, dried-up lakes, and must perish; so he turned about and left even streams, with a whitish incrustation; boring Indians. The mail-station also his oxen to die in the desert or be found but it is more generally diffused through and eaten by savages. There was not a the soil, and thus impregnates the springs shadow of hope that he would ever see and streams. Irrigating a piece of ground strongly imbued with alkali will often miles or more in distance to Carson Val-We had to drive the same team (mules bring an incrustation of it to the surface, ley, will be made, so soon as those now of course), all next day, making 50 miles; after which no trouble from it is experi- scrutinizing it shall have pronounced it but we stopped to rest and feed at sub- enced in that place. I think the greater practicable. station, only 20 miles from our starting proportion of these plains or valleyspoint. It was about the forlornest spot which could easily be cleared of their the night; but we had been six days maever saw. Though at the foot of a low Greasewood and plowed-would produce king rather less than 300 miles, and bemountain, there was no water near it; large crops of Wheat, and of almosty any gan to grow impatient. The driver had that which had been given our mules had thing else, if they could be irrigated .been carted in a barrel from Simpson's But they can never be. But little rain so, over a road partly mountainous, rough Spring aforesaid, and so it must be. An falls to Summer, and that little is speedi- and sideling; but, starting at 8 p. m., we attempt to sink a well at this point had ly evaporated from the hot earth, leaving had reached the next (Pine Valley) sta-

newspapers; we could only give him one be not more than one to three thousand tract to run mails through such desolate snow; its springs are few and generally having recently passed, and torn the frail good reading matter? I am quite sure many are speedily combined, as to form

station, would save him more than \$1,000 seems here impossible. which are characteristic of this country, ant and more copious; the gradual melt- road-bed is often made of sharp-edged tion and by the thirsty sands which surand perhaps an equal distance from the and thus considerable brooks are formed The heat in this canon on a Summer afsurface of the surrounding earth to that and poured down upon the subjacent termoon is intense, the sun being able to ilar fate. of the water, which has a whitish-green plains, as we observe in and around Salt enter it while the wind is not. Two or aspect, is intensely salt, and said to be Lake City, and north and west of Lake three glorious springs afford partial conunfathomable, with a downward suction Utah. Thus are formed Bear and Web- solation to the weary, thirsty traveler which a man could hardly or not at all er Rivers; such, I believe, is the origin of I am confident no passenger ever rode resist. I had no desire to try, badly as I the Humboldt. But such instances are down this rocky ladder; I trust that none far too rare in Utah. From the Jordan will until a better road is made here; ly hot, dusty road. At 8, we were ready Fi-h Springs form quite a large pool at to the Humboldt is about 350 miles by though a good road in such a gluch is to pass "the Desert"-that is, the desosome Bunch grass on the sides of two or the north end of a low mountain range, the route I traveled, and in all that dis- scarcely possible. Fifteen miles further, late plain which seperates the Sink of the three mountains, but very little of aught and send off a copious stream to be drank tance the brooks and rills I crossed or across a plain and a lower range of bills, Humboldt from that of the Carson. But that can be relied on to sustain human or up in the course of three or four miles by saw, could they be collected into one chan- brought our mail-wagon at last, about 7 one of our fresh mules was sick and could animal life. The mountains and plains the thirsty clay of the plain. The water nel, would barely form a decent mill- p. m., of its seventh day from Salt Lake not be replaced, which made our first seem to divide the ground very fairly be- is brackish, and I think sulphurous, as stream. I thence traveled down the City, to tween them-the soil of both being main that of a spring in the adjacent marsh, south side of the Humboldt for 225 miles, ly a white clay, while the former have near the station clearly is. There are and in all that distance not more than that creased, gullied, washed away ap- many fish in the pool and stream, and two tributaries come in on that side, and pearance, which I have repeatedly noticed. they are said to be good. I should have their united currents would barely suffice trail, repeatedly written about already. to spend the night. Our lead-mules,

wagon, you find them creased and scoured unsatisfactory, even to those who would to ten feet high, and from a foot down ings, and its water, for at least the lower way station, where a well of decent brackby innumerable water courses, now dry, seem to have been seasoned to the like ward in diameter near the ground .- half of its course, is about the most de- ish water has been dug, and which a drove but showing that, in the wet season, water by a passage across the Plains and the White Pines of like size, and of equally testable I ever tasted. I choose to suffer of four or five hundred mules reached ais most abundant here. In most instan- Rocky Mountains. Fish Springs are just scrubt y character, are quite common in thirst rather than drink it. Though 350 bout the time we did. They stopped ces, a gradual slope of a mile or two in. 50 miles from living water on either sides, the western part of the mountains I trav- miles in length, it is never more than a here to rest, however, while we pushed tervenes between the foot of a mountain and the stages have to run at least ten ersed, and there is some Balsam Fir in decent will-stream; I presume it is the on with a fresh team-for ten miles of and the adjacent plain or valley; this miles out of their course to strike them. the deeper canons, which attains a diam- only river of equal length that never had the way, over as beavy a drag of sand eter of 15 to 20 inches, and a hight of even a cance launched upon its bosom .-- as I ever endured, where as most of this and covered with dead or dying Sage. JULY 23d .- We have traveled this 40 to 60 feet. Of this Fir, several of the Its narrow bottom or intervale produces desert is a hard, alkaline clay. By 5 a. bush. I judge these slopes to be com- forenoon over a plain nearly surrounded mail station cabins are constructed; in grass but so coarse in structure and so m., after riding five days and nights withposed of the rocky, gravelly material of by mountains. Said plain is very level Ruby Valley, they have one of Red or alkaline by impregnation that no sensible out rest, we drew up at the Station near the mountains, from which the lighter to the eye, but the rapid traveler's sense Indian Pine; but they are quite common- man would let his stock eat it if there the sink of the Carson. clay has been washed out and carried off. of feeling contradicts this, for he finds it ly built of stones and mud. One on the were any alternative. Here however, They often seem to be composed almost full of dry water courses, which give him Humboldt is built of dwarf-willow canes there is none. Cattle must cat this or wholly of small bits of rock. The val- most uncomfortable jolts. Before noon, or wattles-not one of cedar or the dwarf- die-many of them eat it and die. One leys or plains are from five to fifteen we came to the spot where the stage ed White Pine of this region. Neither of the most intelligent emigrants I con-

But I must burry on. At Pleasant ner, on the little stream I have already corner of it. I believe it extends at least sight. There is a large, pine-leaved mentioned, and halted here, 20 miles or 200 miles south from this point, and is at shrub or small tree which a driver termed more from Camp Floyd. In the after- least as far from east to west across its a Mountain Mahogany and a passenger noon, we came on over a higher, rockier center. If Uncle Sam should ever sell called a Red Haw, growing sparingly among the evergreens on some mountain slopes, which seems about half way bethe size of the dwarf Willow. Even the is perennial and wood in fair supply .so further on, the Government bas a farm in crop, intended for the benefit and partly cultivated by the labor of the neighhas its garden, and is cutting an abundance of hay. From this station, it is expected that the new cut-off, saving 100

his own reasons for pu-hing on, and did thus far proved a failure. The station the clay as thirsty as ever. I fear it is tion, 40 miles distant, before sunrise keeper here lives entirely alone-that is, mainly doomed to perpetual barrenness. Here we were detained three or four when the Indians will let him-seeing a -The mountains which divide these hours for mules-those we should have friendly face but twice a week, when the plains exude very little water. Where- taken being astray -- but at 9 we started mail-stage passes one way or the other .- ever a range is single-that is, with a with a new driver, and were soon entan-He deeply regretted his lack of books and broad valley each side of it-it is apt to gled in a pole-bridge over a deep, miry stream-a drove of a thousand head of of the latter. Why do not men who con- feet high, and so to be early denuded of cettle (the fir-t ever driven over this road) regions comprehend that their own inter- feeble, and their waters are often dried bridge to pieces. Our lead mules went est, if no nobler consideration, should im- up before trickling half way down their down in a pile, but were got up and out pel them to supply their stations with sides. If a spring is so copious, or so and the wagon run over, after a delay of an hour. We soon rose from Pine Valthat \$100 spent by Maj. Charpening in a considerable stream, they may reach ley by a long, irregular, generally mode-

-At Ruby, the stage usually stops for

THE HUMBOLDT.

Sometimes they are nearly perpendicular liked to verify the assertion; and they bite to turn a grindstone. This desolation I only wish to record my opinion, that having been mired and thrown down, true judge. the Humboldt, all things considered, is would not pull; the sick wheeler could ther east; but usually they can be ascen- toes do hereabout, it were an easy matter The mountains of central Utah are the mountains of central

versed with on its banks informed me that he had all the grass for his stock mowed, as he had found by experience that his cattle, if grazed upon it, pulled musketoes, gnats, &c., are so countless or cores." and so bloodthir-ty as to allow cattle so unhappy as to be stationed on or driven along this river no chance to eat or sleep. Many have died this season of the bad water, that would have survived the water but for these execrable insects, by which the atmosphere, at times, is darkened. It certainly is not a pleasure to ened. It certainly is not a pleasure to ride night and day along such a stream, with the heat intense, the dust a constant cloud, and the roads all gullied and ground into chuck holes; but then, who would stay in such a region one moment

longer than he must? I thought I had seen barrenness before -on the upper course of the Republican -on the North Platte, Green River, &c. brook, save one small one, runs down be- breaking, they were married. tween them to swell the scanty waters of

After a course, at first west by south, then north by west, afterward south-west, and for the last 50 miles due south, the river falls into Lake Humboldt a fine sheet of clean water, perhaps 15 miles in to obtain an approximation to its depth, but could not; those who have staid behad ever floated upon its waters-a statethis region renders credible. I am satis. will I do it?" fied, however, that this Lake is being slowly filled up from the gradual washing down and washing in of the bills which in America it takes three to make a pair approach it on the east and south, and that time will make great changes in its been a modern, there would have been a configuration and the volume of its wa- hired girl in Paradise to look after Abel

-A stream, not so copious as the risupplying two or three good journals to the plain; but only to be speedily drank rate ascent, to a mountain divide, from ver, runs from the Lake on the south, each station on his route, and in provi- up by its scorebed surface. Cultivation, which our trail took abruptly down the and flows with a gentle, sluggish current ding for their interchange from station to therefore, save in a very few narrow spots, wildest and worst canou I ever saw trav- into a large tule or reed marsh, which ersed by a carriage. It is in places bare- has no outlet, and is said to be but modin keeping good men in his service, and But wherever a chaos or jumble of ly wide enough at bottom for a carriage, erately salt. The Lake water is accountin imbuing them with contentment and mountains is presented -- still more, where and if two should meet here it is scarcely ed sweeter than that of the river. Here gratitude. So with other mail-routes mountains rise behind mountains, range possible that they should pass. The the Humboldt is said to sink, like the behind range, rank above rank, till the length of this canon is a mile and a half; Carson, Truckee and Walker, which issue gaged in a discussion on the following -We drove on that day 50 miles to summits of the furthest that may be seen the descent hardly less than 2,000 feet; from the Sierra Nevada and run east- question; - If a husband deserts his wife, Fish Springs station, just before reaching are flecked with snow-there the case is the side of the road next to the water- wardly into the adjacent desert; but I which is the most abandoned-the man which we passed one of the salt wells altered. Springs are there more abund- course often far lower than the other; the suspect they are all drank up by evapora- or the woman? though I presume not peculiar to it. This ing of the snows swells the rivulets form- fragments of broken rock, hard enough round them. The Mississippi, if it ran one is about six to eight feet in diameter, ed by the speedy meeting of their waters; to stand on, harder still to hold back on. seross the Great Basin and kept clear of mountains, would be threatened by a sim- the counsel for the prisoner said,

Thursday, the 29th-scarcely two days yard." from Gravelly Ford, where we struck the "Very likely," said the complainant; river, having in those two days traversed "I have lost a good many lately." some 220 miles of very bad and intensedrive a tedious one, and we contrived, by dexterous mismanagement, to get stuck I am not going to describe the route in a bayou or back-set of the Humboldt been fined, under the Sunday law, for down this river, as it is the old emigrant Sink, where we for a while seemed likely driving his carriage to church on the Sab-

HORACE GREELEY.

Apples Without Seeds.

The following is published in the Memphis Eagle as the only method to produce apples without seeds or cores:

"Take the ends of the limbs of an apple tree where they bang low, so as to up much of their grass by the roots, and reach the ground, dig a small hole for these roots were far more alkaline than each under the tree, bend in the bole, the stalks. I believe no tree of any size confining it down so that it will remain. grows on this forlorn river from its forks Do this in winter or the beginning of to its mouth-I am sure I saw none while spring. The end of the limb thus burtraversing the lower half of its course .- ried will take root and put up sprouts or Half a dozen specimens of a large, worth- scions, which, when they become suffiless shrub, known as Buffalo bush or ciently large to 'set out,' dig up at the Bullberry, with a prevalent fringe of Wil- proper season, and transplant them in lows about the proper size for a school- the oarched where you wish them to remarm's use comprise the entire timber of main. When they get large enough to this delectable stream, whose gad-flies, bear, they will bear apples without seeds

> The following is a funeral sermon lately preached in Ohio by a-Buckeye clergybim. He had horses, and he run them; he had cocks, and he fit them; I have heard that he was occasionally good at fires. The bearers will please remove the body, and sing the following bymp:

"With rapture we delight to see

The cuss removed."

The Paris (Ky.) Flag states that the -but I was green, if the regions washed country in and around "Head Quarters," by those streams were not. Here, on the Nicholas County, in that State, had been Humboldt, Famine sits enthorned, and for many weeks terribly excited about a waves his scepter over a dominion ex- "big wedding," at which everybody was pressly made for him. On the above to be present, and which was to come off named rivers, I regarded Cottonwood regardless of expense. The parties to be with contempt, here, a belt, even the nar- married were Mr. James H --- and Miss rowest fringe, of Cottonwood would make Anna Y. J .- . Everything went on a comparative Eden. The Segebush and smoothly till the night before the wed-Greasewood which cover the high, parch. ding (the marriage was to take place in ed plain on either side of the river's bot. the morning and the jollification to last tom seems thinly set, with broad spaces all day,) when the young lady instead of of naked, shining, glaring, blinding clay going to her bed, packed up a few clothes, between them; the bills beyond, which and at midnight left the house in compabound the prospect, seem even more na. ny with Mr. Frank C-, and, as fast ked. Not a tree, and hardly a shrub, as borseflesh could carry them, sped for anywhere relieves their sterility; not a Aberdeen, Ohio, where, as day was

the river. As the only considerable A NEW Fown .-- A traveler stopping stream in the Great Basin that pursues a at one of the hotels in Minnesota, recentgeneral east and west direction, the Hum- ly, saw the phrase "Fried Water Chickboldt may continue for years to be trav- ens" on the dinner bill of fare. Desiring eled; but I am sure no one ever left it to know what this meant, he sent for a without a sense of relief and thankfulness. dish of water chickens. He tried them-There can never be any considerable set- found them excellent-recommended them to the rest of the party, ladies and all .--All who tried them liked them wonderfully; and almost all of them became frog eaters almost without knowing it.

A PUZZLED IRISHMAN .- "There is length and 40 in circumference. I tried jist two ways of doing it," said Pat to himself, as he stood on the street corner musing and waiting for a job. "If I save side it longest assuring me that no boat \$4,000, I must lay up \$200 a year for twenty years; or I can put away \$20 a ment which the destitution of wood in all year for 200 years. Now which way

> It is undeniable, (says Prentice,) that -be, she and a hired girl. Had Adam and raise Cain.

A pegro lately fell from the upper story of a warehouse in Charleston, S. C., a distance of about thirty feet, striking head first, on the top of a whicky barrel. The result was-the barrel leaked.

The Frogtown Debating Society is en-

II A fellow was arrested for stealing ducks, and after a description of them,

"Why they can't be such a rare breed, -We reached the Sink at 62 p. m. on for I have some of them in my own

The following is a toast at a late Piepic in Illipois. Its author is a bachelor: "THE LADIES-Saints in their prayers -angels in their parlors-and the Lord knows what in their kitchens."

Chief Justice Lowrie, of Pittsburg, has

"Ab Charley, said one little fellow to ded on any side, and seem to rise but one to afford the stage passengers here a less hopeless than the Plains. Contrary Rising in the Humboldt Mountains, hard- leaders in his place, we made a start, and another, "we are going to have a cupola to three thousand feet above the platus change from their usual retions of pork, to my former impression, they are fairly ly 150 miles west of Salt Lake, it is at come through, finding the bottom firm on our house." "Pooh! that's nothing,"