

899
 The 1st Regiment of the North Dakota
 Cavalry, under General Sully,
 was ordered to move from Fort Union
 and to cross the R.R. at St. James
 Co. N. at Grandview Co. N. at Hanksville
 Co. N. at Paysonville Co. N. at Bonanza and
 Bonanza Co. N. at Fort Tule Co. N.
 at Fort Cheyenne. The Regiment was
 ordered to assemble at Fort Cheyenne
 and to proceed thence to Fort
 Cheyenne. The Regiment was
 ordered to proceed to Fort Cheyenne
 and to proceed thence to Fort Cheyenne.
 May 22 left Hanksville and arrived
 at Fort Cheyenne. The Regiment
 was ordered to proceed to Fort Cheyenne
 and to proceed thence to Fort Cheyenne.
 May 23 left Fort Cheyenne and arrived
 at Fort Cheyenne. The Regiment
 was ordered to proceed to Fort Cheyenne
 and to proceed thence to Fort Cheyenne.
 May 24 left Fort Cheyenne and arrived
 at Fort Cheyenne. The Regiment
 was ordered to proceed to Fort Cheyenne
 and to proceed thence to Fort Cheyenne.
 May 25 left Fort Cheyenne and arrived
 at Fort Cheyenne. The Regiment
 was ordered to proceed to Fort Cheyenne
 and to proceed thence to Fort Cheyenne.
 May 26 left Fort Cheyenne and arrived
 at Fort Cheyenne. The Regiment
 was ordered to proceed to Fort Cheyenne
 and to proceed thence to Fort Cheyenne.
 May 27 left Fort Cheyenne and arrived
 at Fort Cheyenne. The Regiment
 was ordered to proceed to Fort Cheyenne
 and to proceed thence to Fort Cheyenne.
 May 28 left Fort Cheyenne and arrived
 at Fort Cheyenne. The Regiment
 was ordered to proceed to Fort Cheyenne
 and to proceed thence to Fort Cheyenne.
 May 29 left Fort Cheyenne and arrived
 at Fort Cheyenne. The Regiment
 was ordered to proceed to Fort Cheyenne
 and to proceed thence to Fort Cheyenne.
 May 30 left Fort Cheyenne and arrived
 at Fort Cheyenne. The Regiment
 was ordered to proceed to Fort Cheyenne
 and to proceed thence to Fort Cheyenne.
 May 31 left Fort Cheyenne and arrived
 at Fort Cheyenne. The Regiment
 was ordered to proceed to Fort Cheyenne
 and to proceed thence to Fort Cheyenne.

DEFECTIVE PAGE

Wednesday, Left at 6 A. M. at 6 o'clock, one Co. of
May 25th. I carried the 8th Regiment and
a train of 12 Ox Teams besides Company
Teams. Passed Lake Kossau, between
which and Green Lake the land was
rough and broken, a great part of it
gravelly. Camped on the banks of
Green Lake, which is the head of the
Middle Fork of Crow River. x

Thursday 26th: Left Camp at 6 A. M. about
dawn. Stopped to feed the horses, grazing
being their only dependence on this summer
expedition. The grass on the belt of
Foot Lake was excellent. This is a delightful
part of Minnesota. The land is rich black
loam with a clay subsoil, and ^{we} large
beautiful lakes with timber around
them, sufficient for farming purposes.
Camped on the banks of Lake Rindigisho.
This is the point on which the State
authorities located the land grant
donated by Congress for State Buildings.

Friday May 27th. We traveled around the shore end
of the great Rindigisho Lake no timber on
the route to day. Land smooth prairie
with an abundance of good grass no
water. Camped on the shore end of
a bog out of which we were obliged
to get water. It was very bad water. Went
horses for feeding our coffee. Hard bread
and Port. for breakfast. The pork was
Saturday. Another day over prairie and
May 28th across marshes. The land the
same as that passed over yesterday.
The afternoon came in sight of water
on reaching it we went into camp found
it better than what we had last night.
but we could not call it good. Some
wells were dug. The water from them
tasted better while cold, but very poor
when warm. In digging the wells we
found that the frost was not all out
of the ground. no wood. but we got
some brush and roots.

DEFECTIVE PAGE

30
 Monday June 2nd At 12 O'clock we arrived at
 Fort Bridger, this is a very handsome
 place, some of the buildings are of
 stone but there is no blockade around
 the place to make it deserve the name
 of a Fort if the Indians had known
 the force that was here they might
 have taken it, Here we lay in camp
 organizing for the great trip we are
 to make this summer (June 5th) Sunday
 June 5th we received an order at
 5 O'clock to march in the morning
 at 5 O'clock. Everything was
 examined and everything ready
 contrary to the order was taken out
 by the inspecting officer. Fort in trip
 June 6th distance from Fort to the 12 miles
 June 8th Our faces are turned towards
 the Missouri River, we crossed the Missouri
 River by fording, 12 miles above the fort
 at what was formerly the Lower Agency we
 camped opposite Birch Lodge dist. 12 miles

31
 Tuesday June 9th From the camp we went for about 12 miles
 June 10th From the camp we went for about 12 miles
 Land for the Indians large number of the
 houses are still standing. Land good with
 an abundance of timber on the Minnesota River
 bottom and on the bluffs running into it
 at half past nine we arrived at
 Camp Lake which is at the mouth of the Red
 Wood River. Which crossed here was a train
 of emigrants bound to Idaho they have
 been concentrating at this place waiting for
 us to escort them through to the Missouri
 History to day 10 miles
 June 11th Our road to day has been
 rolling prairie. We crossed what in past
 weather are creeks but are now dry.
 The ground is cracked in some places
 so much that our horses had to step very
 carefully. passed several dogs with all
 water in the middle but so dry that
 we could not reach the water with our
 horses. Camped at Wood Lake water
 good. Distance 12 miles

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Remained in Camp waiting for a train
from Fort Ridgely we are camped near the battle
ground where General Sully had a severe fight
with the Indians in 1862. Our forces consist
of the 2nd Regiment Mounted & Company of
the 2nd Cavalry and two sections of the
6th Battery. We have a Train of about 125 teams
Teams 8 Teams loaded with Indian goods and
120 Wagons belonging to the Dakota Emigrants
These Teams average 2 yoke of oxen to a
Wagon, and with the Train there is about 300
Men, Women and Children.

Friday June 10th Passed through the Upper Agency
The houses built here for the Indians by
Government are also the Agency buildings
are built of Brick everything that would have
been burnt by the Indians. We crossed the
Yellow Medicine River. A flat on the west
side of the river the brick yard is located
There is a large pile of brick made also
another partly built. Nature has done her
best for this of Minnesota Camped at Biggs
Minnesota Station distance 13 miles

Saturday June 11th ^{by} Marched 2 miles above Camp Nelson
opposite the mouth of the Chippewa River
The land over which we have passed today is
Black loam some part of it is quite sandy
Crossed Hazelwood Creek Camped on the
Minnesota River distance 18 miles.

Sunday June 12th We started to day the wind blew a
perfect gale all day, and the dust made
very disagreeable we could not see far for
dust which troubles us considerably in
our marching we look on coming into the
more like Central lands than White Mtn
the grass has been pretty fair so far.

Monday June 13th Crossed the Sisseton River at this
place there was a large Indian Village
called Red Iron Village there is a Creek
of that name that empties into the Min-
nesota on one side of the Village it
was formerly a Trading Post called on one
side. The head Trading Post the remains
of plows and wagons were scattered over
ground land good. Timber plenty here we
left the Minnesota River following the
Sisseton on which we camped the 16 miles

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0317

Tuesday June 14th Today we reached up the North end
 of the St. Lawrence River. The prairies are
 so dry that the fires are running the people
 think it was set by the Indians of whom
 they report signs. We put out the fire
 across a bend of the river leaving us
 a good camping ground on the point
 of land good grazing on the opposite
 side of the river, dist 16 miles.
 Wednesday June 15th At 8 A.M. we crossed the line between Minnesota
 and Dakota, 26 miles South of Big Lake.
 The grass along the route growing better
 and somewhat sandy, the creeks and
 marshes are very dry and the land baked
 so that it is cracked open in some places
 3 and 4 inches. Camped among a number
 of lakes, no wood, dist 17 miles.
 Thursday June 16th Today we passed between two
 large lakes with sandy beaches water
 very clear with plenty of good grass. Sighting
 little wood saw wild red flowers also heard
 of Buffalo they were about 3 miles off the
 banks that are good rough and stony. Camped
 in a prairie through which grows some high
 grass all around us, dist 15 miles.

Friday June 17th The country continued very rough
 for about 10 miles then we came on to
 a level plain. Saw a Buffalo appeared to
 be wounded, also saw 5 or 6 deer. A day we
 have seen some of the handsomest wild flowers
 that we ever saw the rough hands of the last
 two days are the South end of the Cottonwood
 of the prairies, or hills. Crossed the St. Lawrence
 river near its source camped in wild
 Goose nest lake this is the place where
 Col. Marshall captured some Indians
 some pieces of old cloth carpet were
 picked up on the banks of the lake
 proof that they had been concerned in
 the massacre of the Whites on the frontier.
 At Minnesota we saw here a very large
 flock of Black ^{grass} geese, dist 25 miles.
 Saturday June 18th Passed quite a number of lakes
 some of which contained very good water.
 The ground in places was covered with
 white substance which looks like salt, we
 camped on a point of which is almost an
 island, 15 or 20 Indians have been here
 a few days. The water in the lakes is clear and
 good grass abundant - dist 20 miles.

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10th
Sunday June 19th We rested here to recruit strength for another weeks work we had a very heavy thunder shower which blew down some of the tents.

Monday June 20th This has been a very hot day crossed over some Hills, very stony we dismounted and led our Ponies, we have traveled over a rough country today Camped on a Creek, good water and grass with plenty of shavings on the Banks but there was no wood dist 17 1/2 miles.

Tuesday June 21st The Country today has been a level prairie although we had a shower last night it has been very dusty today we arrived at the Dacotah or James River on which we have crossed water muddy and not very good, there is very little timber on the river bottoms, and that little almost worthless being willow. Land fair, May distance 20 1/2 miles.

Wednesday June 22nd Co. B's are acting as pioneers and men detailed from the other companies dug down the banks to meet a crossing we crossed and camped very hot day 9th in the shade distance 1 mile

11th
Thursday June 23rd Today we saw a number of antelopes, one was shot, another caught alive, just as soon as they see the gun they run. They seem pretty badly scared. Camped on a Maple river, out of a well dug on the Banks we got some cold water which was quite refreshing, on all these creeks the water stands in pools and in such hot weather as we are having it gets quite warm, distance 15 miles.

Friday June 24th The Country is rolling prairie in some places quite stony, just after we came into camp we had a very heavy thunder shower we are camped in a beautiful valley where there has been a large Indian village, this is on the river the water is good, but there is very little of it, wood abundant, dist 17 miles.

Saturday June 25th all day we have looking ahead towards what we thought were mountains but which proved on reaching them to be merely hills. we are camped at the foot of them, dist 16 miles.

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0319

He had very heavy snow which
commenced about 11 A.M. in the morning
and lasted about five hours, mostly today
falling Russia with timber as water. Very
hot in the middle of the day, and very
compared on the borders of what has
been. Large but not what, only a little more
muddy. No more to get to dry, and not
just one 20 minutes.

March 29th 1864. A very long march over a large tract of prairie, and gravelly ridges. We saw some sand bluffs with a few trees growing on them. From where we last saw trees or brush to this point is a little over 60 miles. Gen. Philip Woodhouse and his command report Indians in the vicinity. It rained again. Camped on the banks of a creek. Water good. Some timber and good grass. Distance 25 1/2 miles.

March 30th } Changed our course to almost South. Our General Course before had been North West. Indians were reported in sight. The morning the train was started and the troops ready for action. But it proved a false alarm, we went to sleep. Took out some very rough country. Several parties had been scattered. Good. which is on the outlet of the lake. Good water. Some woods. Here we find ourselves within 4 miles of the Missouri River and one mile from Gen. Philip's Camp. Captain [illegible] to Gen. Philip's Brigade. We killed a bear here by the river. He was the Engineer. Distance 24 1/2 miles.

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0320

Friday, 14th Remained in camp Co H, were out as an
escort for the Teams sent out to the
Shoals on the Missouri river after the
Battalion for the Minnesota Brigade. Wrote
Lieut. Ridgely, 349 Miles. to this place
from Ridgely to Hank Centre 125 miles, and
to Fort Abernethy 120, from Hank Centre
Company A's whole dis. 594 miles.

Monday, 21st June. Today we made our old camp of the
day. The wind blew very hard
and it was dusky. His hand dries off so
quick after a shower that in an hour after
it stops raining the dust flies, a Thunder
storm again after we came in camp.
we now feed our horses a little corn, 3 lbs
if a feed. Lost 10 1/2 miles.

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0 3 2 1

Sunday July 1st 1862
 Our Camp last night was among the hills
 Today we went away from this in a rough hilly country
 Country some of the hills look like Soda. The hills are low
 with some of the hills are flat in some places
 headed Camped on Bush River in some water
 and grassy ground. Dist 10 to 12 miles.
 Monday July 2nd
 This has been the country over which we have
 marched we have in sight of the Wisconsin River
 over which we have passed in the night that we
 have seen the peaks of Clouds were among
 the hills we commenced descending the hills towards
 the river bottom on which we are camped on looking
 back towards the bluffs they seem almost insurmountable
 there is some bottom land about 30 feet higher than the
 water. Dist 10 to 12 miles.
 Tuesday July 3rd
 We are to cross the Wisconsin at this place
 our camp is on the point of land formed by Long
 Lake Creek and the Wisconsin. General Kelly's troops
 commenced crossing this morning at 10 o'clock
 take three or four days for to cross the whole river
 we are hindered now by the Wisconsin. The river
 runs very swift and the boats are constantly
 over the top of the river and it takes the boats down
 and the many small boats and rafts are going

Sunday July 1st 1862
 That a boat leaves to morning with a mail for some
 time. So all are very busy writing home to their friends
 all day is of all others the liveliest. When going
 out we often are in received and in the faces of the
 men you can read the news from home if you
 go to a boat up on their faces and I understand
 sometimes if had news is received and if the
 riders say all you and there is some for
 them then there is a business look as if
 they thought they were forgotten by those that they
 left behind them.
 Monday July 2nd
 This morning we went out to graze some
 about 10 o'clock. We followed in order to bring the
 horses and Brigade over to cross. We took with us
 on board of the boats and passed on land on the
 west side of the river where we are now camped
 to day. In Camp there is a threat to be limited at
 the place the spot is selected the place of
 a fort. There is plenty of timber here
 principally Cottonwood and there is some oak and
 and Redwood and scattered through the
 prairie and bottom. There is a good deal of
 the bottom here to build the fort

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Wednesday July 11th 1862. In Camp. There was a battle with the
near the camp he measured about four feet long
and had two bottles. They are building a log house
to store our Knapsacks in as they will have to be
left at this place until we return as it will take
all the teams to carry our provisions for the hunt
after the deer which we are going on from this
place. We expect to be absent about 10 days.
Thursday July 12th In Camp. Hard coal has been discovered
about three miles from camp in a sandstone
formation also there is a sandstone in the same
region. our discovery of coal settles the question
of fuel for a rail road through the country
to Dakota and thence to the Pacific Ocean. It
will probably be a large city at this
place.
Friday July 13th In Camp. The grass is getting so scarce
that we have to go two and three miles to find
grass for our horses and not very plenty or
good even then the water of the river here
is very muddy just about 1 quart of dirt
stirred into 50 bushels of well water will
drink before it is good. Some horses will
not drink it.

Saturday July 14th In Camp. The building for horses and
knapsacks is finished and the men have
commenced hauling them to it for storage. The teams
belonging to the Quartermaster's Department have
commenced hauling provisions.
Sunday July 15th In Camp. Today we had a grand review
of the whole command. Co. A & J were posted
and therefore got clear of it.
Monday July 16th In Camp. A light shower of rain
fell during the past week has been very
hot and disagreeable.
Tuesday July 17th In Camp. This morning broke camp and marched
off westward over a country such as Minnesota
but there is not a better looking country till
from here and Hard Coal are taken from in all
directions. Washed out as the land washed
down from its former elevation to its present
year after year it has washed away cutting the
hills down leaving high bald hills. The
the coal is in sandstone layers of from one to 2
feet thick some of the cliffs are over 100 feet high
that little valley there is just into a narrow
valley. Marched in sight of the Cannon Falls bridge
north side camped on the banks of the water muddy but
good distance 1 1/2 miles.

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Wednesday July 20th Still our course is westward over hills and down dale, grass growing, better. A large number of pieces of Petrified Wood were picked up to day. Water to day has muddy but quite a little clearer than the water of the Missouri. Camped on a small creek water in holes but good water. Distance 10 miles.

Thursday July 21st A pretty rough country yet but it is getting smoother and the land is a little better. Grass is good. Considering the dry season the water following as near as possible the Canon. Bull River. Camped on a creek water good but a little muddy.

Friday July 22nd To day we passed over some level country in comparison with what we have passed over the previous days. Crossed the Canon. Bull River and camped on the south side of it. Water good but muddy. Distance 10 miles.

Saturday July 23rd This has been a very sunny day for us and the country is very hot with a very much larger breeze we passed over some very high rolling prairie grass good on the whole to day crossed the Canon. Bull River again. A little more North. Camped on a creek water good but muddy. The last stream is the prairie country is here again on the whole but there for our horse carried us over some high sand hills which made the road very hard. After passing the hills we passed a little prairie the country here is very much better than the prairie hills. Camped on a creek water good but muddy. Distance 10 miles.

Sunday July 24th This has been another very hot day and we suffered for want of water. We passed several creeks which were dry, saw numerous signs of animals. The heat caused some of the deer to drop some of them were dead when we passed others were allowed to live and feed grass excellent. no water in the creek to day. Camped on Heart River good water. Distance 21 miles.

Monday July 25th This flat is covered with Prairie Dogs, holding up their heads like a dog. They come up out of their holes and standing up like a Gopher they look like a sand dog. They look and are about the size of a muskrat except the tail which is short and bushy. Another curiosity is a ledge of limestone which runs across the river which by some combination of nature has been thrown up so that the edge of the layers are thrown up and it forms a dam across the river impounded in the stones are leaves which look very much like petrified wood also. Coal is found in large pieces are found in the river which have rolled out of the banks of the river, our train expect near part of it as well be needed to make a light train. and the whole train will be completed at this place until we return from our Indian hunt.

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Wednesday This afternoon we commenced our march at
July 26th 11 o'clock and traveled at a rapid
rate all the afternoon, we arrived at what was
called camp at 4 o'clock at night. we tied our
horses to the line and those that were not injured
lay down behind their horses to sleep if they would
started at daylight. We are now soldiering in regular
style carrying our rations of Hard Bread & Beans
in our Haversacks. on the arrival of the Scouts
at this place they surprised some Indians they fired
at one another ^{Scouts} the killing two of their warriors.
Thursday July 27th As we have but 4 days' rations we are in hurry
in the morning at two o'clock and start just as soon as
we can see. we are trying to catch the Indians if we can
at noon today we made a halt to let our horses feed and to
get a cup of coffee for ourselves. we are not allowed fire at
night on account of the being seen if these should be any
Indians prowling around. Camped on the Big Knife river
here there was a large spring but the water contained some
sulphur of some.

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0 3 2 5

Thursday July 24th
Two shells fired at them but they took no notice.
They came on in force and driving them back from the
mountain a large part of their force were lying in the
valley below taking their property and getting the
women and children out of the way. A very large party
of them had collected at the bottom of the mountain when
J. G. B. Battalion made a charge on them and for a
few minutes the fighting was desperate. At last in this part
of our forces that our loss occurred he having two men
killed and five wounded (one of whom died that night)
the Battalion killing 24 Indians. This charge drove them
into the timber in the ravines which ran up the
sides of the mountain. The batteries were brought up
and positioned on another hill within reach of them, now
commenced the work of death among the Indians. Shell
were thrown into the timber driving them out of it then
others would be thrown among, till they broke and ran
for the top of the mountain here the deadly shot found
them, thrown up to the top by the 6. Pounders. Night
came and they had fled in all directions, leaving their
property behind hid in the ravines. Buffalo meat dried
and packed in barrels by the 6. Pounders. Bundles of poles
ready for Market. Carries looking over side of diff.

Friday July 25th
Brass Kettles, some of which were quite
large. Large Tepee Poles by the thousands and a large
number of Dogs were left behind in flight. The
black pack bands, Territory, etc. and a large band of
the Indians. It is supposed from appearances that
the Indians belonging to the other bands were present. The
fact it is estimated that there were between 100 and
150 lodges, which according to the usual estimate would
make their number between 6 and 1000.
Last night we camped on the hills. The morning
we started in pursuit and followed them
for ten miles and the only thing we got was
nothing but Indians. We were obliged to give up the
chase. We went back to our encampment and
went out to burn their property. In the afternoon
a company of soldiers went for the same purpose.
While these were out and on the hills the dogs
were killed and the cattle were captured. The property
it would have sold for a number of thousands of dollars
if it could have been brought off. It was not
to and therefore was destroyed. It would have been a great
loss for them to get it together again. The property
we captured about 10 miles off.

0326

Saturday July 30th Last night just at dark a Party of Indians dashed
 into the Picket guard killing ^{two} the three on that Post they mistook
 them for the scouts until the Indians got between them and the
 camp they shot the horse belonging to the one that escaped and
 captured the other two and got the Carbine and musket
 taken in fact the whole equipment of those that they were
 Enslaved men it seemed quite a bit in camp the horses were
 led to the line in a few moments the men were defiled over
 the camp but they left without making any noise the bodies of
 those that last night were found this morning and buried
 the Indians were in such a hurry to get away that they
 did not scalp them we came back to a small stream
 between the Big Horn and Heart rivers, and camped there
 I do not know how long we were here we left our baggage
 Sunday July 31st We have made the longest march as well as the
 hardest one to day that we have made in the whole trip
 since leaving Fort Ridgely, we had a heavy blizzard
 just before we entered in camp we are camped on the
 North side of Heart river about one mile from the
 remainder of the train that we left behind last day 33rd
 and old distance up and back 150 miles this in 5 days
 besides fighting big game and killing from 150 to 200 of
 the Indians horses have followed us back to camp

Monday Aug 1st 2nd We lay over in camp to day getting ready for
 another move Nine Ponies were captured to day by the
 Guard one of them had this much courage as well as the
 Tuesday Aug 2nd Still in camp it seemed that during the night the
 Indians were getting ready and allowed some of their
 cattle to stray off they imagined that the Indians were in
 the vicinity but it proved to be a false alarm the scouts
 found them rather nothing back track towards daylight
 they made a canon out of wood putting logs and
 around it which they fired several times.
 Wednesday Aug 3rd Started again this time with the
 Idaho Train along when it got to that Fort on the
 by rail road to drag men and children in this
 way it seems like suffering more than they old
 will to pay even if they find it in abundance
 Camped on Heart river grass and water plenty, it
 good to day distance 20 miles
 Thursday Aug 4th The Heart river was very high but the water was
 followed this afternoon we came into a country where the
 Indians had been this summer gathering berries
 very good with plenty of berries we saw some berry trees
 and got down to the river where we were camped
 again distance 18 miles

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0327

Sunday
 June 5th To day we left the boat, went bearing off about
 one hundred the head of Big White river about six miles
 from this camp yesterday and crossed a belt of sloping
 land about 1/4 of a mile wide it looks as if the wind
 shifted it except at lower very hard these means nothing
 growing on it, almost dark we arrived at the edge of
 the field and a wilder looking scene was presented
 the sign of mortal ruin, than we saw that we looked
 from the edge of the river on the left and that we have been
 traveling over for a day or two past. we crossed one of
 the numerous ravines and camped on a piece of low
 grassy land enough for our camp. no water except the
 water found in the holes where it has collected after the
 rain being suddenly at that point it was enough to kill
 the animals. Distance 25 miles
 (Saturday)
 July 1st We have been traveling and living around the edge
 of the prairie following the river first down
 and then up making our road as we advance this land
 has been covered for ages and every rain, changes the
 face of it all having been down which the water has run has
 come it has been up and down once but by the water it
 has been covered. The land is finally covered
 some large enough for a camp water muddy grass good
 distance 15 miles

Sunday
 July 2nd From the appearance of the valley where we are camped
 it is a mountain forest after the rain, on an examination of it
 and we are surprised no longer at the color of the Missouri and
 the streams emptying into it. It is a mixture of green mud and
 clay, which mixes with the water very readily and is carried
 off to make some change in the ^{the earth surface in} course of the state of things
 in the rivers, and these in turn are carried off into the Gulf of
 Mexico. This morning we were delayed to go out on guard for
 the Sioux who were killing down the perpendicular sides
 of the ravines and filling up holes for a road, during our
 absence a few Indians made a dash into the valley where the
 horses and cattle were grazing and got out a horse, a cow
 a couple of horses, after we got the Indians down in the
 pockets on the west side of the river, we formed a line around
 the camp immediately and lay on our arms all night just
 outside of the Pocket Guard. When dawn broke the Indians got
 their water and they had some more on the east side of the
 east side of the Little Missouri river, it looked as if
 we had reached the end of our trip, but the Indian
 Indian who was acting as guide showed us a passage
 we have crossed the river twice, and will have to cross it
 again to get on the opposite or west side. There were
 trees growing in the valley of the river, but not many

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Monday 30th
This day we were camped upon we find in daylight
is a red ground, as is also the bed of the river, in the water
we have to keep moving or down we go. Crossed the river
for the third time immediately after crossing dismounted
the 8th on the right and the 2nd Cavalry on the left, one half
were dismounted, the other ^{taking} charge of the horses, those
that were dismounted had to climb up the hills and deploy
while the horses and teams followed, which was not
the bed of a creek that was almost dry, this continued
for about one mile, when just as we were coming out
of it, on the right hand side, with the head of the column
the sharp crack of the guns was heard in all directions
every peak in sight was covered with Indians, in front
over the highest ^{and} mountain range was taken over,
in some places our road ran along the edge of cliffs that had been
washed down on the side to the depth of 200 or 300 feet almost per-
pendicular, in other places we crossed chasms where our horses
were almost at end were going down and coming up out of them
our guide was shot in the shoulder, he was in the advance
with the decoys, he was brought in and put into an ambulance
the train was halted and Corralled just as soon as there was
room to do so, and half of those left in charge of the horses
were ordered out the others they already there, and some

Monday 31st
Holding the Indians in check the batteries were
in position and commenced throwing shells among the
groups of Indians on the hills, our boys were
driving them out of the ravines, occasionally one was
seen to fall from his horse, several ponies came in under
our lines, they were covered with blood, and as they were not
wounded it was proof that these were not killed or wounded
these weapons were bows and arrows but few of having guns,
they were driven back in all directions, and the train moved
on again, they hustling in every chance they could get, but they
could not do us much damage when we fell back toward the
train they could not keep coming and make them last
that of the other battle we had it all over our way, but
now they would show us that were not towards and that
they had been joined by 500 more warriors, we drove them
and when we reached ^{our} camping ground we found but
very little water or then mud, in a couple of holes we
were surrounded with hills and these were covered with
Indians, our ponies had no water and nothing to eat during
the day, all they could see was the mountains, and the Indians
to graze, the Indians in attempt to cut off our path, but the ^{guard} herd
happened to be coming at the time and they made
a charge ^{dist 6 1/2 miles} into them, but not before they had wounded 6 of
our men 5 of them with arrows and the 6th with a bullet

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132
Friday The men were deployed and lay in line in a row
The camp early this morning firing commenced their
and shells all around us and both in fact we could
see they crossed the Hills. We made a hole in the
camp but when we opened fire they were very much
shaken and fled out of range of our guns and we
the better we would get a chance to throw a shell at
them we commenced moving out of camp early in
morning and about noon they were fleeing again. In the
afternoon we crossed their camp ground and we
were one hour and a half in crossing it the estimate that
from what they saw at least 200 Indians were killed in
this battle. We have dealt them a severe chastisement
this year without much injury to ourselves. Good water
and grass today in the ravines but on the upland the
grass has been destroyed everything that was green
eating off the grass close to the ground. The country
bordering the Missouri and so far as we have come
this of it abounds in berries and choke cherries
There is very little timber some places I found it but
but what timber there is, is principally cottonwood
Camped on a creek of pretty water which we call
anything that is drinkable did 18 miles

35
Saturday This has been a rotten day of thinking
and crossing a few great gullies we have not like a
Creek deep enough to float a barrel out if the water
was there grass very scarce and the horses beginning
to drop in the road water very poor stink and the horses
suffered in it the same as feel the effects of poor
water and salt food and scant allowance at
that and not having water we are getting pretty well
acquainted with dirt, it being just possible to get
many instances to get them used for water and
they make. Camped on Running Water which is quite
a treat. Grass is very poor, dirt 12 miles.
Sunday This is the sickest day of the expedition
Camping was very good to and have had a good
chance to see the results of the last few days marching
without feed for our animals. Horses killed and a few
were left behind they would die and lay there and
when we came up to them if they could not be made
to travel, our leaders were to shoot them, and our road
of today will be marked with their skeletons. We did
not arrive in camp till 11 o'clock at night. After dark
we did ^{not} shoot the animals for fear of shooting the Indians
Emigrants who were trying to camp their cattle into

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0 3 3 0

Thursday, Aug 12th 1862
Camp about 10 miles were left after dark
and two women belonging to the Idaho train pulling
great among the brush in harness forgetting ^{their} ~~in~~ ^{to} save their cattle the Indians they watered them out
of the kegs they had in the wagons and after all were
obliged to leave some of their cattle behind. The water
where camped was very strongly impregnated with
salt. Distance 28 miles.
Friday, Aug 13th 1862
Here we are at last on the Yellow Stone River
but not at the point we started for but across the
mouth of the river we have been obliged to back off
some north on account of the impossibility of
the country. A singular coincidence occurred here
in the meeting the Steamboats at this point. Loaded
with rations for us the Steamboats could not go any
further up the river on account of the lowness
of water. The Yellow Stone River is a large river
with a very swift current. The last four days travel
had been over a country desolated by Grasshoppers.
The only thing that this whole country contains necessary
for the White Man is Coal and with the exception
of the sight of many across the country the White
race have no business settling west of the

Friday, Aug 13th 1862
Continued 35
Forthank River the only big
taken at Idaho is only fit for the Indian and
they had right of right to possess it they used them
children forever and the White Man allowed
to travel over it except by Rail Road or Steamboat
there is but few places where the water is fit for
use and the land is a mixture of quicksand and
clay and not timber enough in the whole route
sufficient for one farm except on the Missouri
the country at this point where crops are numerous
places have been being 8 feet thick from the appearance
of the hills in some places at least as is shown on a good
coal beds had been ^{cut} out having consisted of it has
left the sides covered with a kind of red shale in other
places there is what appears to have been the mouth of the
Gardner or Water Relief road also along although
at this region some of the stumps with the roots stuck
are sticking out of the sides of the hills at least 100 feet
above our heads while on the other side of it is
down down full as much or more. We dug and
dug through a country where White Man never had
traveled before. but the first heavy rain the wind came
away trail and the white train caught in the mud bank
of the little Missouri River, dist 11 miles

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36
 Monday Aug 13th This morning we went to a very large flat piece of
 water and it would have been pretty if the grass had
 not all been cut off but it is now a barren
 Prairie Dogs occupy considerable of the land the lower bottom
 is covered with a very heavy growth of cottonwood and the
 bottom is full of tall grass for our animals there were
 about eight Elk, antelope and black tail deer and a
 number were shot and one Elk was skinned to see what
 kind of meat it was. The 1st Brigade commenced
 crossing the river this forenoon.
 Tuesday Aug 14th Last night we lay out before we got to sleep
 we were ordered up to pack up our things saddle our
 horses and march to the river. The 1st Brigade did not
 all get across till 11 o'clock and we lay around till
 daylight when we commenced crossing we saddled
 and put our saddles and equipment on the animals
 to be taken across while crossed with the horses
 by fording the river was very crooked and the
 current ran very swift and many of the
 horses fell another horse the wagons were unloaded
 before crossing and their loads put in the boats some
 of the horses got scared and kept nosing down and
 about 30 horses were drowned and a horse team
 was also carried off down the stream the men were
 lost 3 miles down.

37
 Tuesday Aug 14th The 1st Brigade continued to cross their horses
 and pack they have in the place of wagon horses and
 and forced their stuff over in them swimming
 their cattle two of their men were swept off the river
 and drowned one was a single man the left a wife
 and five children in the river. We started again down
 the river which runs due north here we reached
 a level piece of ground with everything eaten
 off by the grasshoppers except now and a patch in the
 low bottoms where it was after getting into camp
 25 of our Company were detailed and sent back to the
 boats which had grounded and to be lightened when
 they could get over the bar 20 teams were sent to
 take of as much as they can carry the horses were
 good grass and water with plenty of both camped in the
 river high distant 10 miles.
 Wednesday Aug 15th Started early as usual about daylight made
 a short march when we reached the mouth of the river
 the horses again began to balk and the men were
 and as the horses were so much of a good nature
 till the 1st Brigade have crossed the river now down
 the 2nd Brigade had sent back to the boats and the
 one in sight was about 6 miles.

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Wednesday
 Aug 12th The yellow stone river like the Missouri
 is a muddy stream and is constantly changing its
 channel. The bottom here is very wide and a heavy
 growth of cottonwood covers the most of it. The
 banks are cut away to the trees. The bottom
 banks and flats are covered with drift wood which
 is excellent fire wood. The new formed land is covered
 with a young growth of cottonwood which looks very
 handsome.
 Thursday
 Aug 13th Again in view. The same desolate appearance.
 What the grasshoppers have left is picked up. Nothing grows
 in sight. As we approach the Missouri the flats are covered
 with yellow brush. With a scattering growth of trees.
 Camped on the Missouri river. Dist 15 miles.
 Friday
 Aug 14th Left at 9 o'clock. Last night we were called upon by
 food and around about we did not get back till 2 o'clock in the
 morning about 10 o'clock we crossed the river. The horses feeding
 and the path were covered with mud. The horses feeding
 there was nothing for them to eat but yellow brush. We
 are now on the north side of the Missouri which at this
 place does not as large as the Yellow Stone. There was some
 downed in crossing at this place. The Indians report
 from up at the mouth of the river are used of them. They
 are going to Fort Union this fall and likely they will
 winter there.

Saturday
 Aug 15th We are in camp about one mile below Fort Union.
 This is the old trading post but there is no building of the old fort
 to be left here by some one on the bank. The place has the
 appearance of being an old place and also one of considerable
 trade. On the Indian side there is some Crow Indians here. The
 fort is a stockade inclosure, about 1/2 mile with bastions
 at two corners. The buildings inside are very good and quite
 neat. The buildings are clapboarded and painted. The stockade
 is built of logs. It is about 12 feet high.
 Sunday
 Aug 16th Marched to day down the river in search of grass
 our horses are growing very fast and unless we find more
 grass there will be but little to eat. A good corn field
 a head of the river. Grass good. Distance 8 miles.
 Monday
 Aug 17th Marched here till the boats were gone. The boat killed
 of the yellow stone. We left camp at 11 o'clock. Reached the fort
 was sent out to show the country it being reported by the Crow
 Indians that there was a large body of Sioux in the vicinity.
 They did not find any. Company E of the 6th were sent after the
 Idaho train which had started from Fort Union. Accompanied
 with some cattle and travelers. They have returned with some
 of the cattle but they did not find the Deer. The Indians who
 from the river side built up on the north side of the river going
 through to Idaho in the fall. They had a trail last year
 we had passed some miles of those have been killed and have
 been taken in this country. Distance 17 miles.
 Camped on the Missouri.

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0333

24th
Sunday 24th We marched to day just across up to the
the rough bluffy land near the river in some
places this washed sand extends back into the country
along the stream at other places the creek runs
since has a good bottom land and the side hills
as well as the valley is covered with good grass
We passed some more of these bluffs
Camped on a creek near the river we did 26 miles
Monday Aug 25th Left Camp we were visited today by some Indians
belonging to the Mandans, Beas, and Gros Ventres
who live at Fort Beethold they came to hold a council
with General Sully, then we travelled a good
by the Sioux who their enemies, the Sioux made
an attack on them last week they had to steal
of their Ponies, then Indians say they killed a boy
and scalped him, they brought in some Corn
and squash to sell.
Tuesday Aug 26th In the morning we passed a small
Indian village containing 1500
Indians, the best being built on a point of land which was
across the river just in sight, we were about 2 miles from
it, there is a large level Prairie considerable above the
river covered with good grass and plenty of timber
on the river bottom distance 10 miles

25th
Wednesday Aug 27th The men that went up to the fort gave
a very glowing description of the prosperity of the
Indians they were busy getting their corn, men
Women Children and Dogs all made to work in getting
it in and blowing it away they break it off and ball
it together then hang it on the backs of their Ponies
or lay it on the frame made upon two small
poles which are fastened to the Dog house and dragging
on the ground, then they are built away large holes
are laid across overhead and the Corn being upon
these poles is dug, the field is a piece of 2000 acres
and is about 2 miles long and 1 mile wide but very
free from weeds, we were told that we would not
have water to day, so some barrels were filled at
the river and put on the wagons, but we had
the best water we have seen for two months
it was clear and cold, we had good grass to
day the country is getting better as we go down
the river distance 11 miles

Thursday Aug 28th We again strike off from the river
on another Indian Hunt and course towards
the the old fort at Fort Beethold leading towards
the Red River Billments are seen on the large head

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0335

Thursday Sept 2nd
 The men were perfectly wild they dismounted and
 ran off after them. Shooting them down in all directions
 it was continued till about 12 of them were shot
 down the rest fled around us faster and faster
 than they did in the Indian fight. We have killed
 meat in abundance it was much better than
 the meat of the latter we have been driving
 along with us. We are camped on the banks
 of Lake. Water not very good. No wood. Sept 23rd
 Friday Sept 2nd Today a part of our force was sent on in
 advance to feel carefully for the Indians. Which
 were expected to be found here in force near
 a large hill called Dog Mountain. We have seen
 Buffalo today but we were not allowed to fire
 at them, and they got so bold that they came
 inside of the blankets the sounds of the lake
 where we camped to night are all track up by
 the Buffalo. Water good. No wood. Some brush
 Land rocky distance 15 miles.
 Saturday Sept 3rd Just after we left camp we had quite a
 heavy shower of rain which lasted about an
 hour and a half. We have traveled South East
 today we did not find any Indians, but a small

Saturday Sept 3rd
 Continued our march approaching camp we saw
 large herds of Buffalo the reflections about them
 being removed the boys have gone out
 to drive some of them into camp prepared
 a number of lakes today the water was not
 very good. Camped on the banks of large lake
 the water looks green and don't taste very good
 distance 23 miles. No wood but some brush.
 Sunday Sept 4th This has been called 2nd day of rest. We
 have remained in camp more account of
 the animals than on our march although we have
 not yet seen any signs of Indians. This part of the country is covered with
 of grass called Buffalo grass which is very fine if
 we can get by the way the horses eat it and
 also getting better there is but one drawback to
 the settlement for farming purposes and that
 is wood there is not any for firewood or for
 building. Last night we had quite a rain
 storm this morning it was stormy and getting
 to feel that Buffalo chips are very good
 in dry but for firewood and water

DEFECTIVE PAGE

Monday
Feb 1st 1862
On the march again in a southerly direction passed
over a large number of hills on which numerous dead buffaloes
have been feeding lately we are approaching a large river and
of them again one was driven into camp and one was shot
about 100 yards standing ready to fire in hand to cut out a dead
buffalo. A disagreeable day the wind blew hard from the west
and it was cloudy and we were quite comfortable today
camped on a creek in a deep ravine a very deep ravine
we went into the Grand Valley a narrow valley surrounded
with steep hillsides where the Indians have
been making for the purpose of capturing them and by the
bones lying at the bottom they have killed a great number
of them in last week. Water good but 21 miles.
Tuesday
Feb 2nd 1862
A very uncomfortable day. It was a very hard day
just after we left camp and continued till about midnight
we were obliged to camp - account of the team going out
a number of horses gave out and also some that were
in rear guard and we had the job to do we crossed a
stream called Little Rock and took camp on ground we
were camped on the banks of Little River
whose banks are full of spruce of good water is there
for wood and grass are also good camped about 10 miles
from the Missouri distance 23 miles.

Wednesday
Feb 3rd 1862
A beautiful day. The wind is very strong account of it being
very strong in some places and our teams are getting poor and weak
without a feed of hay and some corn and beans
we feeling as before in our camp. Day has been over a good deal of
the day and we are going back just before reaching camp this is
the place where we found the bones of the Indians which were killed
by these that caught them in a very rough country but it was a
good deal of the day. The country we thought them to be
camped on the river the water of the river was represented to
be very poor by the expedition of last year but we took it good water
in comparison with some that we had had in our river good
distance 14 miles.

Thursday
Feb 4th 1862
We were late starting out of our camp this morning
to find that to be built across the river before we could cross the
teams had to cross the river before we could leave the ground. It
was sent to take up the body of a man who was
killed last year killed by the Indians in his return
from the part of the force who had drove the Indians to the river
when he missed the trail and turned down the river and was
also a child who was with him their bodies were found
the Lieutenant Beecher was an Englishman who was a volunteer in
the Expedition he died and for the purpose of a hunting license
his body was taken up to send it to England was sent on the route
from the river to the river distance 14 miles.

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0337

Sept 10. To day we entered the river at head of lake. There
the is nothing of the same sort. We crossed a sandy
ridge of land. To day we crossed the road that
he made. The road in going from Fort Henderson to
Fort Price, grass pretty good, good water except
1/2 road distance 12 miles.

July 15th We have made a long march today without water and when we arrived in Camp Dehsh we saw two very large lakes one of which I will name the other I will not. I am getting digging wells but they proved to be fruitless. The great long lake we have been looking for which was said to be about 30 miles long we have been traveling on what appears to have been the bottom of the lake for about 10 miles it is grown over with mud and grass the water there that the water is sometimes 8 feet deep. The lake on which we are camped is part of the same lake. Land sandy, grass poor. No wood at 12 miles.

July 19th To day we have been marching over a good looking
country so far as grass is concerned. But water is scarce all
all the places where ^{here} ^{small} ^{small} lakes are now dry, except
one large lake the water of which was poor and filling
the most of the way to day about 5 miles from the Prairie
Camped on a creek water scarce some springs not too
good, the wood is scarce. 25 miles

But cold. We have started to say over about Prairie Land
however. The grass is quite green, and good, another winter
died last night there is considerable sickness in the
flock at present. Buffalo are killed every day but we
don't see many because the Scouts go ahead and they
have all the sport to themselves. Camped in a creek
grass, plenty, and good also good water in the ditches & miles
thence.

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52
 We had a hard day's work down the river to day
 on the last side the land is high and dry above
 the river which is falling. The river is very low, but the
 land is higher on the bottom. The grass is upland, but
 the timber is good. The timber is good to a great extent
 for many purposes. There are some dead trees but not
 much. The trees are off, there is a large number of
 dead trees of various kinds. We are camped again on the
 river. Distance 15 miles.
 53
 The day was very long and we were very tired.
 We had a hard day's work down the river. The land is
 high and dry above the river which is falling. The river is
 very low, but the land is higher on the bottom. The grass is
 upland, but the timber is good. The timber is good to a great
 extent for many purposes. There are some dead trees but not
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 54
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 55
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 56
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 kinds. We are camped again on the river. Distance 15 miles.
 58
 The day was very long and we were very tired. We had a
 hard day's work down the river. The land is high and dry
 above the river which is falling. The river is very low, but
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 the timber is good. The timber is good to a great extent for
 many purposes. There are some dead trees but not much. The
 trees are off, there is a large number of dead trees of various
 kinds. We are camped again on the river. Distance 15 miles.

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Wednesday Sept 2nd 1862
The morning's departure from the
place about these days rather to take to the west
for the trip to Fort Dodge. There is very little done
yet on the trail at this place, and but little work on the
quarries. The timber is short and therefore there will
be great amount of labor expended in preparing
and felling the same. The men have built small log houses
in instances and others have dug holes in the ground
covered the bottom with canvas or bear skin tents.
The houses are built with log and board
with masts. A few of the tents are covered with bark.
Sept 3rd again we are on the move towards
Sun, very foggy till late in the forenoon. Cloudy.
Most of the day we have been winding around
and between lakes all day. There is a good chance for
a large settlement and each man has a lake
of his own. A large number of them have some
timber on their lands which is principally oak.
These lakes have sandy or gravelly beaches. There
is considerable meadow on which good hay can be
this is on the bottom, or rather among them as they
injured the grass in some places in which it is not growing.
Camped on the bank of very large lake. Cold good but 24 miles.

Thursday Sept 4th 1862
Left about 8 miles from camp and crossed the Minnesota
River at that place. In this place on the east side it is
very small at this point on the river is again to be
looked at the river. They found a very good road
from the Prairie to the summit and the river
crossed and branching off as they ascend the hills
lined at they are with timber the trees of which are
a very dark green form a picture that can only
be beat by Nature herself. Cattle and horses are
found of the Minnesota dist 15 1/2 miles.
Oct 1st 1862 Our march to day has been over a rolling Prairie
we crossed three wagon roads some of which were made
by General Cibley's Indian Expedition of last year. These
roads are somewhat encouraging, although far from
civilization for we know white men have been here
and that though the road be a long one, yet at the
Eastern end our friends are waiting patiently for us.
Between the trail on the continent disappears at
the mention of Home and a smile lights up the face.
at the anticipated meeting of those loved ones
at Home. Camped on the Whetstone River plenty
of good grass, land also good. only a few cattails
but on this river, distance 23 miles.

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0341

Thursday Oct 2nd 56th We crossed the White River nearly 4 miles below the Camb. Some persons set the grass on fire. This is contrary to order, and those who are forgetful or thoughtless enough to do it sometimes not thinking of the consequences there is others on the road besides our party who want this grass to feed their animals on. The grass is quite dead on the prairie along the part of our route. We crossed the Yellow Earth River and camped on the Indian water good distance 15 miles.

Friday Oct 3rd To day we have made along march passing a large lake met one of Brackets' Troop landed with supplies for our party. We were escorted by a detachment of the 2nd Cavalry and a company of the party belonging to the United States Regulars they were enlisted in Alabama and are sent back on the frontier for the purpose getting them into some place where they can be used on Garrison duty. The Rebels hang all men that are found in our service who have been in their armies. They will have something to say to build up Fort Madsen and it will be far enough from the front to insure them protection. Camped at the Indian village at the mouth of the Yellow River distance 27 miles.

Saturday Oct 4th 57th Here we are in our camp. This morning in the morning we crossed the river immediately after leaving camp this morning the river emptied into the Minnesota. At about 10 miles we reached a place which is an enlargement of the Minnesota into such a lake. This is not far from a celebrated trading post called the Snake Trading Post or Snake River Village. It is named from the fact of that name which is a name of the village. There are several buildings yet standing and some of the fences around it. Some of the buildings are being taken by the Indians for use on the road over the prairie. Camped on the old camp ground ^(on the Minnesota) where we occupied our camp for distance 7 miles.

Sunday Oct 5th We left camp this morning with the expectation of camping on the old camp ground at the Snake River Trading Station which is called Snake River as is also a creek in its vicinity. The station is situated on the land being sold and on the immediate neighborhood for it can be called that for there appears to have been a settlement around it. We left on the old trail the Yellow Earth River where we camped. It was near the ruins of the Agency buildings which

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0342

Wednesday 23rd
We have been in the mouth of the Red Wood River, this is a splendid
place for a settlement. The land is very rich and
there is plenty of timber on the river also good clay
for making bricks, and there is considerable
land broke and it has been fenced but they
are down some but not and carried away
by the trains for fuel. The walls of the house
built for the Indians are still standing and can
be repaired although the roof is bent and
new floors and roofs can be put in and upon
them. Distance 23 miles.

Thursday 24th
The chance continues good for making
claims the timber is more plentiful than
some above the land is a rolling prairie very
rich brown soil with a clay or hard gravelly
subsoil it has been quite new and some say with
the prospect of plenty of it before many years will
train belonging to Marshall who has the contract for hauling
the supplies to Fort Wadsworth. It seems well and is
the same as the day, all the wagons drawn by oxen or
cattle is a number of loaded places on the opposite side
of the river, among them is that of Major Thompson
and some other, and finally we got to the mouth of the river, distance 14 miles.

Friday 25th
About 8 miles travel this morning brought us to the upper
part of the improvements on the lower agency and some brought
us to the mouth of the Red Wood River, where Camp Pope
situated. There is nothing there but one house it became sold
as the place where General Sully's expedition started from
before. The Chief formerly of the Mounted Rangers, had
had out a stone and brick building a mill some 15 or 20 miles
above the mouth of the river, he has made some thirty
miles to settle at this place. Large quantities of hay
has been put up around the mouth of the Red Wood river
the California wagon road follows this river and runs
through to the mouth of the river. We passed the ruins of
the lower agency and crossed the Minnesota river
it is very low. Camped on the north bank side on a very
handsome piece of bottom land. The grass was 6 feet high
or more. Distance 14 miles.

Saturday 26th
We have arrived at last back to our starting point
Fort Ridgely. We have made one of the greatest marches on
record. It has been over an unbroken country and over
a river, route the whole distance out and back, 1605
miles. We look upon this as the end of the Expedition of 1864.
It was very cold last night and this morning the
grass was frozen hard. The grass looks quite green
yet although short distance 13 miles.

DEFECTIVE PAGE

DAKOTA CONFLICT OF 1862 MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTIONS
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

0343

Sunday 20th We remained in camp today for the purpose
 observing nations here the organization is a very good
 one. The two Companies of the 2^d Cavalry and the
 two Sections of the 3^d Battery are to remain here.
 The 5th Regiment goes to Fort Snelling. Some horses
 are left here they being too poor to travel further.
 Monday 21st On March 21st again we have passed some
 fine fields etc which make us all feel better. The corn
 in the field and wheat in stacks looks more promising
 than to take our chance of catching game in the
 snow. Fresh buffalo meat is very good
 especially when a person is hungry but I don't eat
 so well as a horse of corn and corn feeding near
 the residence of man. This country we have traveled
 over today is thickly settled, and there is excellent
 plenty of timber along the road. Our march was
 a reverse one today it was dark before we got
 into camp which was on Swan Lake. Snow very
 low therefore the water looked very bad it had a boggy
 taste. There is considerable timber around Madaket
 the whole country is settled by Dutch who are very
 close and all are for the frontier the Indians are not
 afraid of them. Distance 24 miles.

Sunday 20th Today we passed some very handsome farms. The
 soil is of the best kind here a deep black loam with a
 clay sub soil suitable for oats and wheat but here
 corn don't look any better than that raised on the
 sandy soil of Dakota Country. We are camped at
 Traverse Des Sioux which has been a flourishing
 place once but it was too near the river which
 joined it on the south and St Peter is doing quite a
 business. It needs a rail road to develop the
 resources of the country. There is a school in the
 place houses that has been waiting for two years
 the river being so low that boats cannot run up
 to this point. Distance 17 miles.
 Monday 21st We are marching down the river. There is
 some very rich pieces of bottom land but the part
 of it is sandy and there is a great quantity of hard
 land but it is not so good. Land good but long.
 Got on board of it. There is some very good
 land through the river which is suitable for growing
 on the lower side are very large. There is an abundance of it on
 the bottom of the Minnesota. We camped on a piece of
 good land very near the river surrounded with
 heavy timber. High Island Creek runs through
 the timber on the north side of the river.

DEFECTIVE PAGE

1862
 15th May morning, we passed the town of Dixon and
 Walker's Landing. There is some very handsome place
 along the road of today. There are abundance of good
 Meadows on the Bottoms, and a large amount of
 hay is cut on them. The town of Dixon is not
 much of a place, but Walker's Landing is a
 flourishing place considering that this is the
 line and the business is with farmers. In
 the afternoon we passed through Carver. All
 of these river towns do a large wheat business.
 There is a small steam boat running between this
 place and St. Paul. Camped on the Minnesota
 just below the town of Carver. Dist 2 1/2 miles.
 16th May. We passed through Shakopee. Here we
 left the bottom land, and commenced climbing
 the high bluff. Our road to day has been
 very rough. The land through the oak swamp
 is sandy, but in the heavy timber it is loam.
 Very dusty to day. There is a great many
 deserted places in this part of Hennepin Co.
 I don't know but suppose them to be the
 lands of speculators which ^{lands} are not paying
 much at present. belong to whom they will
 distance 2 1 miles.

1862
 15th May. We arrived at West Ancker at 7 1/2
 Clock this morning, and went into camp
 on the big Minnesota river here. This
 Indian Campaign so far as the 7th Regiment
 is concerned because here we give up our
 horses. In the last four months and thirteen
 days we have traveled 1844 miles from the
 place we received our horses to this. We are
 tired out but we hear that there will be no
 rest for us. We hear that we are to go about
 distance 7 miles.
 16th May. In camp. No furloughs are granted
 but we leave for the South so soon as the boat
 can be furnished to carry us down the river
 to La Crosse. Returned over on horse back to quarters.
 17th May. Last night there was a general muster
 from camp the boys concluding to go on their
 own responsibility to day. The Camp Cook's
 deserted leave of absence are granted by
 the Colonel for 24 hours and the Captains
 are ordered to get their men back by next
 Sunday or the men are to be considered
 deserters.

DEFECTIVE PAGE

Tuesday Oct 18th To day our clothing arrived, and in
 afternoon we had the pleasure of putting on a
 Clean suit once more. in the morning
 Freeman, came up from St Paul after me, we had
 a leave of absence in the evening to St Paul
 Wednesday
 Oct 19th I saw the Colonel got my leave of
 absence extended till Sunday morning.
 Thursday
 Oct 20th I arrived at home at two o'clock
 in the afternoon.
 Friday
 Oct 21st at home, and writing.
 Saturday
 Oct 22nd Hattie and Husband came up to St Paul
 but a short time to St Paul and my children
 I then took me to St Paul in the evening by the boat.
 Sunday
 Oct 23rd I went with John Cooper and
 myself to the Port.
 Monday
 Oct 24th The Drabs Parade had an order
 that we would leave in the morning if the
 boats arrived from below.
 Tuesday
 Oct 25th Remained in camp. Rained in the night
 and in the morning. The first three started at daylight for
 St Paul. The others at 11. Took meat on board of the
 boat and packed it. There were three men in the
 fore of the company. I did not stay. It was impossible to
 follow the others after dark. The boat was full of men
 and the men were through St Paul without any demonstration
 of any kind being made.

Thursday
 Oct 26th To day we passed quite a number of towns
 entered Lake Pepin in the morning and about 7 o'clock
 the boat up at Lake City for the night we were
 allowed to go on shore and sleep in a barnhouse
 which was better than standing around on the
 boat and barges it being impossible to lay down
 on board there being just about standing room.
 This is treating men called into the service of this
 Country, more like Hogs. It would have been
 somewhat better if it had not rained all the
 time we were out. Cold and uncomfortable.
 Friday
 Oct 27th We are again moving down the river.
 Several Americans got aboard at Lake City
 and went to the hotel. I went to the hotel on this side
 the reason why others have to be treated
 more like animals than men is because they
 will draw off every chance they get and get
 drunk therefore all must be treated alike.
 Saturday
 Oct 28th We are again moving down the river.
 Several Americans got aboard at Lake City
 and went to the hotel. I went to the hotel on this side
 the reason why others have to be treated
 more like animals than men is because they
 will draw off every chance they get and get
 drunk therefore all must be treated alike.
 Sunday
 Oct 29th We are again moving down the river.
 Several Americans got aboard at Lake City
 and went to the hotel. I went to the hotel on this side
 the reason why others have to be treated
 more like animals than men is because they
 will draw off every chance they get and get
 drunk therefore all must be treated alike.

DEFECTIVE PAGE

¹⁸⁶²
Sunday Oct 28th Last night at 12 o'clock we arrived in
Chicago hungry as wolves but there nothing to eat
we were marched through Chicago to the Soldiers
Rest a large Building which belongs to the Military
Commission, and a place for Soldiers to stop
on their down in up. it is filled up with Bunks
we lay down about three o'clock to sleep off
our hungry feelings. We got a very good meal
at 9 o'clock this ^{morning} and again at three in the afternoon
at four we were marched to the Depot here we
were furnished with first class live Stock Cars.
^{Monday} Oct 29th At 2 o'clock we left Chicago on the Michigan
Central Rail Road to Michigan City Indiana where
we were switched off on to the Michigan City and
Keweenaw Road. on this road we passed
through Lafayette, Fort Port, Blountington
and other places.
^{Tuesday} Oct 30th This morning when within about two of
Keweenaw our got off the track and our first
was in this train the second locomotive we were
kissing at the same place ran off and down
an embankment the lady heard the men marched
in after their arrival we marched through

¹⁸⁶²
^{Tuesday} Nov 1st From Keweenaw to the Chicago River we arrived
on a Steam Ferry Boat to Portland Kentucky
in the afternoon we marched to Louisville
about three miles and went into camp in a
few minutes after we got into camp it was full
of Women and girls with Brand Res Bikes
Hibbs and Tobacco. A pretty hard sett.
^{Wednesday} Nov 2nd We lay in camp till three o'clock then we
marched to the Depot, and here we took 2 class
Cattle Cars, or freight just which they want to put
in them, we left at 5 o'clock on the Louisville and
Nashville Rail Road for Nashville Tennessee
^{Thursday} Nov 3rd All the land we have seen on our route through
Indiana Kentucky and Tennessee is mostly clay some
yellow and the most of it red some part of the country
is very rocky we passed through two tunnels we
crossed a river during the night which must have
been Green River. War shows its effects in that
part of the country we have passed this afternoon
in the number of places deserted. Crops were put
into the ground but were not tended, what corn
is left standing don't look any better than it does
in Minnesota we have seen some cotton to day small

DEFECTIVE PAGE

Saturday
 Jan 4th We arrived in Nashville last night but were
 run back again across the Cumberland river to
 remain in the cars till morning this morning
 we were allowed the privilege of building a fire
 and getting some coffee then we started through
 Nashville to take the cars again for Murfreesboro
 John Cooper had a chance to go through the town
 or city and I got him to go to the Post office and
 tell George that I was here but being on duty
 could not leave he came to the Depot and
 brought Lieut Col John B Smith with him they
 were both glad to see me and so was I to see
 the faces of old acquaintances the streets of the
 City of Nashville were very muddy we arrived
 at Murfreesboro about 9 o'clock although it is
 only 30 miles we were about 24 hours on the
 road on our arrival here we built fires and
 made coffee then we lay down on the ground
 with gratification of sleeping out at full length
 it being the third time we could do since leaving Fort
 Snelling it has ^{rained} rained day but has since clearing
 and we have not had enough to eat our horses
 got wet in leaving the boats and that no chance to eat
 anything of the kind in abundance which we have not

Saturday
 Jan 5th This has been a place of considerable trade before
 the war broke out but the people have learned
 a lesson which will not be forgotten very
 soon and that is the way of the transgressor
 is hard Both Armies have had possession
 of this place the ground has fought over in
 some closely contested battles everything thrown
 it the number of embankments thrown up
 the trees cut down, orchards destroyed, fields
 laid waste, thrown out to common, fences
 all gone and yet the country is infested
 with Guerrillas men whose interest had
 ought to be in the restoring of a Government
 capable to protect them in their property but
 they are blinded to their best interest slavery
 that curse that has brought this war upon
 our once happy country must be blotted out
 of existence the lords of this land will
 have to learn to eat bread of their own sweat
 or in other words they must learn that they
 were not born to rule this nation we are
 a nation of free people and we believe the
 government is able to support itself for years

DEFECTIVE PAGE

Nashville May 7 1865
After writing to you the other day I went
down to the River. And what I sight there
was hundreds of Negroes Men Women & Children
huddled together with their Furniture
waiting for a chance to go on to some
place where they can earn their living
this Country will have a serious job
to do in settling these liberated slaves
where they can make a living there is
land enough to till if they are willing
to work and that they will be obliged
to do or starve but a great many of
them will suffer before they settle
down into an industrious class
of producers as we look around
us and think what a State & Society
this is at the present time but the
time will come when order will
be brought out of Chaos and we
will see this Country in its Glory
Prosperity will bloom on every
side for we as a Nation will

DEFECTIVE PAGE

shine out brighter than ever. We are
bound to prosper. There was a Negro
standing there looking on. I asked
him where these poor people were
going he said he did not know but
he thought some place would be
provided for them where they could
earn their living. He said there
was some among them that
would not work but would
sooner steal for a living and
he said he had seen the same
among the whites but said he
you don't condemnall because
some steal for a living. give them
a trial and he thought they would
do well. So say I and I pray God
it may prove a blessing to both
whites and blacks. the giving their
freedom.

DEFECTIVE PAGE

DAKOTA CONFLICT OF 1862 MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTIONS
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

0 3 5 0

STRONG (JOHN H.) DIARY

May 22-Nov. 5, 1864 - May 7, 1865

A Journal of the Northwestern Indian Expedition under General Sully. Company A & C were Stationed at Abercrombie and Old Crossing Co. D. at Pomme de Terre Co. K. at Alexandria. Co. B. at Sauk Centre. Co. E. at Paynesville. Co. F at Princeton and Sunrise. Co. G. & I. at Fort. Ripley, Co. H. at Fort Snelling. the Regiment were ordered to assemble at Sauk Centre and to proceed thence across the country to Fort Ridgely. The Regiment was Mounted at Sauk Centre on Ponies. Co. A. C. D. & K. Drew their Horses Sunday May 22^d.

May 23^d. Left Sauk Centre, and made a short march and Camped at Winnebago Crossing.

May 24th Marched through some very good country, arrived at Paynesville and in the afternoon, the 8th Regiment being together for the first time we had a Dress Parade at which time our Regimental Flags were unfurled.

Wednesday May 25th Left at 6.0. Clock, one Co. of Cavalry, the 8th Regiment and a Train of 75 Ox Teams besides Company Teams. Passed Lake Korona, between which, and Green Lake the Land was rough and broken, a great part of it Gravelly. Camped, on the Banks of

Green Lake, which is the Head of the Middle Fork of Crow River, ^o

Thursday 26th Left Camp at 6.0^o clock, about Noon ^[Sic] Stopped to feed (the Ponies) grazeing being their only dependance on this ^{##} Summers expedition. the grass on the ^{##} Outlet of Foot Lake was excellent. this is a delightful part of Minnesota. the Land a rich black Loam with a clay subsoil, and two Large Beautiful ^{##} Lakes, with Timber around them, sufficient for farming purposes ^{##} Camped, on the Banks of Lake Kandiyiho ^{##} this is the point on which the State Authorities Located the Land Grant donated by Congress for State Buildings

Friday May 27th We traveled around the North end of the Great Kandiyiho Lake. No timber on the route to day Land ^{##} Smooth Prairie with an abundance of good grass. no water. Camped on the Prairie on the Banks of a Bog out of which we were obliged to get water. it was very bad water. Burnt Bushes for boiling our coffee. Hard Bread and Pork for Breakfast, the pork raw. ^o

Saturday May 28th Another day over Prairie and across ^o Marshes the Land the same as that passed over yesterday. ^{##} in the afternoon came in sight of ^{##} water on reaching it we went into ^{##} Camp found it better than what we had last night but we could not call it good. ^{##} Some wells were dug ^o the water from them tasted better, While cold,

but very poor when warm, in digging the Wells we found that the Frost was not all out of the ground ^o no wood, but we got some brush and roots

Sunday May 29th At 12.0^o clock we arrived at Fort Ridgely ^o this is a very handsome place. Some of the Buildings are of Stone, but there is no ^o stockade around the place to make it deserve the name of a Fort ^o if the Indians had known the force that was there they might have taken it. Here we Lay in Camp organizeing ^[Sic] for the great trip we are to make this ^{##} Summer June 4th Rained.

Sunday June 5th To day we received an ^o Order to be ready to ^o March in the ^o Morning at 5 1/2 0.0 clock, Inspection ^o our Knapsacks were examined and everything therein Contrary to the Order was taken out by the Inspecting officers. Frost in the night severe ^o distance from Sauk Centre, ^o 125 miles

Monday June 6th Our faces are turned towards the Missouri River. We crossed the Minnesota River, by fording, 12 miles above the Fort at what was formerly the Lower Agency. We Camped opposite Birch Coolie dist. 17 mile.

Tuesday June 7th From the ^o Camp Back for about 14 miles Government had built houses and broke Land for the Indians. a large number of the houses are still standing.

land good with an abundance of timber on the Minnesota river bottoms and on the ~~streams~~ ^{###} running into it at half past nine O.Clock we arrived at Camp Pope which is at the mouth of the Red Wood river, which we crossed. here was a Train of Emmigrants bound to Idaho. they ^[sic] have been concentrateing at this place, waiting for us to escort them, through to the Missouri ^{###} Distance to day 10 miles.

Wednesday June 8th Our road to day has been over rolling Prairie. We ~~crossed~~ what in wet weather are creeks, but are now dry, ^o the ground is cracked in some places so much that our horses had to step very carefull. passed several Bogs with a little water in the middle, but so miry that we could not reach the water with our Horses. Camped at Wood Lake. water good, ^o Distance 12 miles

Thursday June 9th ^e Remained in Camp waiting for a Train from Fort Ridgely. we are camped near, the Battle ground, where General Sibley, had a severe fight with the Indians in 1862. Our forces consist of the 8th Regiment ~~Mounted~~ 6 Companies of the 2^d Cavalry and two ~~Sections~~ of the 3^d Battery. we have a Train of about 125. mules Teams 8 Teams loaded with Sutlers goods and 120 Wagons belonging to the Idaho Emmigrants ^{###} these Teams average 2 yoke of oxen to a Wagon, and with the Train there is about 500 men, Women, and Children.

Friday 10th ^{###} Passed through the Upper Agency ^{###} the Houses built here for the Indians by Government, as also the Agency Buildings are built of Brick. everything that would burn was burnt by the Indians. ~~We~~ crossed the Yellow Medicine River, on a flat on the ~~West~~ side of the river. the Brick yard is situated there is a large Kiln of Brick Burnt, also another partly built. Nature has done her best for this of Minnesota ^{###} Camped at Riggs Missionary Station, ^o distance 13 miles.

Saturday June 11 Marched 2 miles above Camp Release opposite the ~~Mouth~~ ^{###} of the Chippewa river ^{###} the Land over which we have passed to day is Black Loan ^{###} some part of it is quite ~~Stony~~ ^{###} Crossed Hazelwood Creek ^{###} Camped on the Minnesota River, ^o distance 18 Miles.

Sunday June 12 We rested to day. the wind blew a perfect gale all day, and the Dust made it very disagreeable ^{###} ~~We~~ could not see far for dust, which troubles us considerably in our marching. ~~We~~ look on ^{###} ~~Coming~~ into camp more like Contrabands than White Men ^{###} the grass has been pretty fair so far.

Monday June 13th ^{###} Crossed the ~~Intpah~~ River, at this place there was a large Indian Village called Red Iron Village. ^{###} there is a creek of that name that empties ^{to} into the Minnesota on one side of the Village. it was formerly

*how he makes
possessives*
a Trading Post, called on some Maps, McLeod, s trading
post. the remains of plows and wagons were scattered
over ground. Land good. Timber plenty. here we left
the Minnesota river, following the Intpah, on which we
camped distance 16 miles.

Tuesday June 14th To day we traveled up the North Fork
of the Intpah River. the Prairies are so dry that the
fires are running. the Scouts think it was set by the
Indians, of Whom they report Signs. We put out the
fire across a bend of the River leaving us a good
camping ground, on the point of Land good grazeing on
the opposite side of the river, dis^t 16 miles,

Wednesday June 15th At 8. 0. Clock this morning we
Crossed the Line between Minnesota and Dacotah, 26
miles South of Big Stone Lake, grass along the route
growing better Land somewhat sandy. the Creeks and
Marshes are very dry and the land baked so that it is
cracked open in some places 3 and 4 inches. Camped
among a number of Lakes, no wood. dis^t 17 miles.

Thursday June 16th to day we passed between two Large
Lakes with Sandy Beaches. Water very clear, with plenty
of good grass, but very little wood. Saw Wild red
clover, also a herd of Buffalo. they were about 3 miles
off. the Scouts shot one. Land rough and Stony.

Camped in a ravine through which a creeks runs high
Bluffs all around us. no wood dis^t 15 miles

Friday June 17th The Country Continued very rough for
about 10 miles, then we came on to a Level plain. saw
a Buffalo, he appeared to be wounded. also saw 6 Antelopes.
to day we have seen some of the handsomest Wild flowers
that we ever saw. the rough Lands of the last two days
are the South End of the Coteaus of the Prairies, or
Hills. Crossed the Big Sioux river near its source.
Camped on Wild Goose Nest Lake. this is the place where
Col Marshall, Captured some Indians. some pieces of
Oil Cloth Carpet were picked up on the Banks of the
Lake the proof that they had been concerned in the
Massacre of the Whites on the Frontier of Minnesota.
we saw here a very large flock of Black Loons. dis^t 25 Miles

Saturday June 18th Passed quite a number of Lakes
Some of which contained very poor Water the ground in
places was Covered with a white substance which looks
like Salt. We Camped on a point of Which is almost an
Island. 15 or 20 Indians have been here within a few
days. the water in these Lakes is clear and good,
grass abundant -- dis^t 20 miles

Strong Diary-8

Sunday June 19th We rested here to recruit strenght for another weeks work. we had a very heavy thunder Shower which blew down some of the Tents.

Monday June 20th This has been a very hot Day crossed over some Hills. very stony we dismounted and led our Ponies. we have traveled over a rough Country. to day Camped on a Creek. good water and grass with plenty of springs on the Banks, but there was no wood. dist 18 1/4 miles.

Tuesday June 21st The Country to day has been a Level Prairie although we had a shower last night it has been very dusty to day we arrived at the Dacotah or James River on which we have Camped. Water muddy and not very good. there is very little timber on the river bottoms, and that little almost worthless being Willow. Land fair, Clay distance, 20 1/2 miles.

Wednesday June 22^d Co. C. are acting as Pioneers and men detailed from the other Companies dug down the Banks & Brushed a Crossing we crossed and Camped very hot Ther 98 in the shade distance 1 mile

Thursday June 23^d To day we saw a number of Antelopes, one was shot, another caught alive. just as soon as they see the Train they run into it they seem pretty

Strong Diary-9

badly scared. Camped on Maple river out of a well dug on the Banks we got some cold water, which was quite refreshing. on all these creeks the water stands in Pools, and in such hot weather as we are having it gets quite warm distance 13 miles.

Friday June 24th The Country is rolling Prairie in some places quite stony. just after we came into camp we had a very heavy Thunder Shower. We are Camped in a Beautiful Valley where there has been a large Indian Village. this is on Elm river the water is good, but there is very little of it. Wood abundant dist 17 miles.

Saturday June 25th all day we have looking ahead towards what we thought were mountains but which proved on reaching them to be merely Hills. We are camped at the foot of them dist 16 miles.

Sunday June 26th we lay over To day. found some Springs the water of which was very good this is the head of Elm river. We also found some June Berries which are very good. good grass in the ravines.

Monday June 27th To day we crossed another range of Hills, or Coteaus as they are called on the Map. they were about 7 or 8 miles wide with quite a number of Lakes along our road to day. grass good and Plenty of it but, no wood in sight. Camped on the Banks of a

large Lake^o no wood, and when that is the case we resort to the next best thing which is Buffalo Chips Land^{###} gravely^o no good^o dis^t 19 miles.

Tuesday 28th We had a very heavy shower, which commenced about 1 1/2 O. Clock in the morning and lasted about two hours. Country to day rolling Prairie with Timber or Water^{###} very hot in the Middle of the day. Land Stony^{###} Camped on the Borders^{of} at what has been a large Lake, but what water is left is very muddy. We were obliged to dig wells^{###}, no wood^{###} distance, 20, miles

Wednesday June 29th A very long march over a Barren Tract of Country. Land gravely and Stony^{###}. We saw some sand Bluffs with a few trees growing on them^o from where we last saw trees or brush to this point is a little over 60 miles. Gen^l Sullys Scouts came into camp. they report Indians in the Vicinity^{###} it rained again. Camped on the Banks of a creek^o water good^{###} some timber^{###} good grass^o distance 25 1/2 miles

Thursday June 30th Changed our course to almost South^{###} our General course before had been North West^{###} Indians were reported in sight in the morning^{###} the Train was Corraled, and the Troops ready for action, but it proved a false alarm^o our route to day took us over some very rough Country. rained quite hard, when we arrived in

Camp, which is on the outlet of Swan Lake. good water, some Wood^o here we find ourselves within 8 miles of the Missouri River, and one mile from Gen^l Sully^s camp^{###} A Captain belonging to Gen^l Sullys Brigade was killed at this place by Indians. he was his Engineer^{###} Distance 20 1/2 miles^o

Friday July 1st Remained in Camp^{###} Co K. were sent as an escort for the Teams sent out to the Steamboats on the Missouri River after the Rations, for the Minnesota Brigade^o distance from Fort Ridgely, 349 Miles, to this place^{###} from Ridgely to Sauk Centre 125 Miles, and to Fort Abercrombie 120, from Sauk Centre Company A^s Whole, dis^t 594 miles.

Saturday July 2^d Still in Camp. there was Dress Parade at 7.0 Clock in the Evening. A Mail left for down river^o the Scouts killed the Indians, that killed the Captain^o

Sunday July 3^d General Sullys Brigade passed through our Camp about sunrise this morning^{###} our Teams arrived about 10.0 Clock when we immediately took up our line of March back on the same track that we came on^o our route will be now up the Missouri river towards Long Lake where the Indians are reported to be in force, waiting for us to come. We made a very short March merely Straightening out^{###} Camped after marching, 3, miles

349
125
120
594

Strong Diary-12

Monday July 4th To day we made our old camp of the 29th of June. the wind blew very hard and it was dusty. this Land dries off so quick after a shower that in an hour after it stops raining, the dust flies. a Thunder Shower again after we came in Camp we now feed our Ponies a little corn, 3 lbs at a feed, dist 17¹/₂ miles.

Tuesday July 5th Traveled to day about 10 miles over a flat Sandy Bottom. the remainder was rolling Prairie no water, and only two small spots where trees were to be seen a few at each place the road was ground up into a fine dust when we marched over it Camped on a creek distance 19 miles.

Wednesday July 6th This day we have a very long tire some march. it was quite cool which was very favourable for us. Saw a little timber in three different places on our route to day Watered at a Lake which like all the Lakes we have seen on the trip, was very low. We Crossed of what has been a lake, but is now dry, Land on this part of our route Sandy the remainder rolling Prairie Camped on the Beaver river. the first Running water since we left James river water good some wood, distance 31 miles.

Thursday July 7th Our Camp last night was among the Hills To day we went over them this is a rough hilly

Strong Diary-13

Country Country, some of the hills look like Forts. their sides are covered with stones. some of the hills are flat on top others are peaked. Camped on Rush river no wood, water and grass good, dist 10¹/₄ miles.

Friday July 8th This has been the roughest Country over which we have Marched. We came in sight of the Missouri River our eyes were made glad by the sight that met their view. the pipes of Steamboats were seen among the trees. We commenced descending the hills towards the river Bottom, on which we are Camped. on looking back towards the Bluffs they seem almost inaccessible there is two Bottoms one about 30 feet higher than the other. distance 16¹/₂ miles.

Saturday July 9th We are to cross the Missouri at this place. Our Camp is on the point of land formed by Long Lake Creek and the Missouri General Sully's Brigade commenced crossing this morning. it will probably take three or four days for to cross the whole concern we are ferried over by the Steamboats. the river runs very swift, and the Channel is constantly changing from one side to the other, and it cuts the Banks down square Water very muddy Land quick sand of Clay

Sunday July 10th Still in camp on the East Side of the river a report that a Boat leaves to morrow with a mail

for down river, so all are very busy writing home to their friends. ~~###~~ Mail day is of all others the liveliest, either when going out or when one is received, and in ~~###~~ the faces of the Men you can read the News from home, if good you see a smile upon their faces, and a sorrowfull countenance if bad news is received, and if the Orderly ~~says~~ ^{says} all gone and their is none for them then there is a bewildered blank look as if they thought they were forgotten by those that they left behind them.

Monday July 11th This morning we went out to graze as usual about 9.0. Clock. We received an order to bring in the horses. our Brigade was to Cross. We took our Horses on board of the Boats, and were soon landed on the West side of the river, where we are now Camped

Tuesday July 12th In Camp, their is a Fort to be built at this place, the spot is selected, ^{the} name of it is Fort Rice, there is plenty of Timber here principally Cottonwood, there is some oak, ash and Hornbeam or Iron wood, Scattered through the Ravines and Bottoms, there is 6 Companies of the 30 Wisconsin here to build the Fort.

Wednesday July 13th In Camp, there was a Rattlesnake Killed near the camp, ~~he~~ ^{he} Measured about four feet long and had ten Rattles. they are building a Log house to store our Knapsacks in, as they will have to be left at this place untill we return, as it will take all the

Teams to carry our Rations, for the Hunt after Indians, which we are going on from this place. we expect to be absent about 40 days, ²

Thursday July 14th In Camp. Hard Coal has been discovered about three miles from Camp in considerable quantities. ~~###~~ ~~quartz~~ also Iron Ore abounds in the same region. our discovery of coal settle the question of fuel for a Rail Road through this Country to Idaho, and ^{thence} ~~then~~ to the Pacific Ocean. it will probably build up a large City at this place.

Friday July 15 In camp. the grass is getting so scarce that we have to go two and three miles to find grass for our Ponies, and not very plenty or good even then. the water of the Missouri river is very muddy, ~~just~~ ^{just} about 1 quart of dirt stired into a bucketful of well water and drink before it settles, and come as near as possible to the Missouri

Saturday July 16th In Camp. The Building for Storing our Knapsacks is finished, and the Teams have commenced hauling them to it for Storage. the Teams belonging to the Quartermaster's Department have commenced Loading Rations.

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522 MS. P. 19
Sunday July 17th In Camp. A light Shower this morning the weather during the past week has been very hot and disagreeable.

Tuesday July 19th This Morning broke camp, and marched off westward over a country rich in Minerals but poor in soil or rather having none at all. Iron Ore and Hard Coal are to be seen in all directions, Washed out as the Sand washed down from its former elevation to its present year after year it has washed away cutting the Hills down leaving high Bald Bluffs, in which the coal can be seen in Layers of from one to 2 feet thick some of the Bluffs are over 100 feet high. What little valley there is, is cut into enormous great gullies. Marched in sight of the Cannon Ball River, on the North side. Camped on its Banks. Water Muddy but good, distance 18 1/2 miles

20th

Wednesday July 20th Still our course is westward over hills and down dales. grass growing better. A large number of pieces of Petrefied wood were picked up to day. Water to day has muddy but good a little clearer than, the water of the Missouri. Camped on a small Creek. Water in holes but good no Wood. Distance 16. Miles

Thursday July 21st A pretty rough Country yet but it is getting smoother and the land is a little better

Strong-Diary-17

grass is good. Considering the dry weather we are following as near as possible the Cannon Ball river. Camped on a creek. Water good dist 19 miles.

Friday July 22^d To day we passed over some Level Country in comparison with what we have passed over the few days past. Crossed the Cannon Ball river and Camped on the south side of it. Water good but Muddy, dist 12 miles.

Saturday July 23^d This has been a very severe day for us and the Ponies, being very hot with an occasionally light breeze we passed over some very high rolling Prairie. grass good, on the route to day crossed the Cannon Ball river again. Kept off more North. Came 4 miles beyond the river to a creek, the last three miles the poorest country we have seen on the whole trip thus far. our road carried us over some high sand hills, which tried the Teams pretty hard. Just after crossing the river we passed a place where the Indians bury their Dead, or rather hang them up, on a frame held up by poles. We were sent back three miles to guard the Idaho Train. Water good. Dist 20 miles.

Sunday July 24th This has been another very hot day, and we suffered for want of water. We passed several creeks which were dry. Saw numerous signs of Indians the heat

caused some of the oxen to drop. two of them were dead
 when we passed ~~others~~ ^{others} were allowed to stop and feed.
 grass excellent. no water on the road to day. ^{camped}
 on Heart river ^{good} water. did ²¹ $\frac{1}{2}$ miles

Monday July 25th This flat is covered with Prairie Dogs
 holes ^{up} they dont look much like a Dog. they came ~~out~~ out
 of their holes, and standing up like a Gopher they bark
 like a Lap Dog. they look ^{like} and are about the size of
 Muskrats except the tail which is short and bushy.
 another Curiosity is a Ledge of Limestone which runs
 across the river which by some convulsion of nature has
 been thrown up so that the edges of the ~~Layers~~ ^{Layers} are
 thrown up, and it forms a Dam across the river, imprinted
 in the stones are leaves, which looks very natural,
 Petrefied wood also. Coal is found in large pieces are
 found in the river, which has washed out of the Banks
 of the river. Our Train except such parts of it as will
 be needed to make up a light train, and the Idaho train
 will be corraled at this place untill we return from
 our Indian hunt.

Tuesday July 26th This afternoon we commenced our march
 We left camp at 1.0. Clock and traveled at a rapid rate all
 the afternoon. we arrived at what was called camp at
 8 o'clock at night. We tied our horses to the line and
 those that were not on guard lay down behind their horses

to sleep if they could. Started at daylight. We are
 now soldiering in regular ~~Style~~ ^{Style} Carrieing our rations
 of Hard Break & Bacon in our Haversacks. on the
 arrival of the Scouts at this place they surprised
 some Indians. they fired at one another, the ^{Scouts} killing
 two of their ponies.

Wednesday July 27th As we have but 7 days Rations we are
 in hurry. up in the morning at two. o'clock and start
 just ^{as} soon as we can see. we are trying to overhaul
 the Indians if we can ^{at} noon today we made a halt to
 let our ponies feed and to get a cup of coffee for
 ourselves. we are not allowed fires at night, on
 account of the being seen if there should be any
 Indians Prowling around. Camped on the Big Knife river
 here there was a large Spring but the water contained
 some Sulperet of Iron.

Thursday July 28th Up at 12.0. Clock in the night and
 Saddle, then we down again till daylight. this is done
 to guard against a surprise. at daylight off we go, neither
 man or horse is spared, we both begin to the effects of
 long marches, without sufficeint food. the scouts came
 back and reported that there was a large force of Indians
 about 4 miles ahead. this about 11 o'clock.

Thursday July 28th Continued Just so soon as the news was
 received the Teams were Closed up in two lines. the 8th

July 27th

Iron Sulphide or fool's gold ?

iron pyrite

Check in Chemical dictionary

Strong Diary-20

Minnesota were dismounted and Deployed leaving every fourth man in charge of the Horses. the 6th Iowa were also dismounted and Deployed. the Indian camp being^{at} the foot of a mountain a large hollow square was formed by throwing out the 1st or Gen^l Sully's Brigade on the right and front to the right of the Batteries, this part of the forces consisted of the 6th and 7th Iowa, Bracketts Battalion and two sections of the Prairie Battery, the Left and front, left of the Batteries was formed by the 2^d Brigade, consisting of the 8th Infantry and 2^d Cavalry and two Sections of the 3^d Battery. the rear was Guarded by two companies, the Teams and Led Horses being in the centre of the Square. we advanced in ^{this} form till we were within range ~~then~~ the Batteries opened on them ^{surprise} we had taken them by ~~surprise~~ for just so soon as firing commenced the Warriors Mounted their Ponies and rode out around our forces being bold at first untill they discovered that our guns were long rangers and in the hands men capable of making a good shot ~~they~~ then became more carefull, in fact keeping out of range of the Springfields they rode all around the outside seeking an opportunity to cut off our Train or Stampede it. at one time they made a dash in the rear driving in the Guard but a 6 pounder which had just been sent to the rear, fired

Thursday July 28th Continued Two shells fired at them sent them back faster than they came in. our boys were

driving them before ^{them} ~~them~~ in all directions, a large part of their force were busy in incampment taking down Tepees hiding their property and getting the women and Children out of the way ^{###} a very large Party of them had collected at the Bottom of the Mountain when Bracketts Battalion made a charge on them, ^e and for a few minutes the fighting was desperate, ^o it was in this part of our forces that our loss occurred he having two men killed and five wounded (one of whom died that night) the Battalion killing 27 Indians. this charge drove them into the Timber in the Ravines which ran up the ^{Sides} of the Mountain. the Batteries ^{Isic} were brought up and planted on another Hill within reach of them. now commenced the work of death among the Indians. Shells were thrown into the Timber driving them out of it, then others would be thrown among, till they broke and ran for the Top of the Mountain, ^o here the deadly ^{Shells} ~~Shells~~ followed them, ^[1] thrown up to the top by the 6 Pounders, ^o night came and they had fled in all directions, leaving their Property behind hid in the Ravines. Buffalo meat dried and packed in bales by the Ton, Bundles of Robes ready for Market, Berries, ^{###} Cooking Utensils of different a very sultry day in the ravines almost suffocating

Thursday July 28th Continued Brass Kettles, Some of which were quite large Tepee Poles by the Thousands, a ^{their} large number of Dogs were left behind in* flight. this

is the Unkpuh Bands, Territory. they are a large band belonging to Sioux Nation ^{###} it is supposed from appearances that the Warriors belonging to the other Bands were present at this fight ^{###} it is estimated that there was between 1200 and 1500 lodges, which according to the usual estimate would make their number between 6 and 7000.

Friday July 29th Last night we camped on the Battleground and early this morning we started in pursuit ^{###} we followed their trail 5 miles and the country was impassable for anything but Indians so we were obliged to give up the chase, ^o we went back to their encampment. one ^{###} regiment was sent to burn their Property late in the afternoon 4 Companies more were sent for the same purpose while others were either on Guard or Shooting the Dogs some Ponies and Colts were Captured. the Property is ^{###} immense it would have sold for a number of thousands of Dollars if it could have been brought off, but we could not do so and therefore we destroyed it. it will take a great years for them to gather together again as much as ^{we} have destroyed we camped about 6 miles south on our way back.

Saturday July 30th Last night just at dark a Party of Indians dashed into the Picket Guard Killing ^{###} ~~two~~ ^{two} of the three on that Post ^{###} they mistook them for the Scouts, untill the Indians got between them and the Camp they

shot the Horse belonging to the one that escaped and captured the other two and got the Carbines and Revolvers Sabres in fact the whole Equipment of those shot they were Cavalrymen. it created quite a stir in camp the Horses were tied to the line, in a few moments the men were deployed around the camp but they left without coming any nearer. the bodies of those shot last night were found this morning and buried. the Indians were in such a hurry to get away that they did not scalp them. we came back to a small stream between the Big Knife and Heart rivers, and camped, the Indians have been here since we left on our way up North

Sunday July 31st We have made the longest march as well as the severest one to day that we have made on the whole trip since leaving Fort Ridgely. we had a heavy Thunder Shower just before we arrived in camp. we are camped on the North side of Heart river about one mile from the remainder of the Train that we left behind. dis^t to day 33. m whole distance up and back 150 miles. this in 5¹/₂ days besides fighting six hours and killing from 150 to 200 of the Indians. Ponies have followed us back to camp.

Monday Aug 1st We lay over in camp to day getting ready for another move Nine Ponies were captured to day by the Guard. our Ponies feel this rough usage as well as we do.

Tuesday Aug 2^d Still in Camp it seems that during our absence the Idaho Immigrants got scared and allowed some of their cattle to stray off they imagined that the Indians were in the vicinity but it proved to be a false alarm. the scouts found their cattle making back tracks towards civilization they made a cannon out of wood putting Iron bands around it which they fired several times.

Wednesday Aug 3^d Started again Westward this time with the Idaho Train along. when I go to Idaho I want to travel by rail road to drag women and children in this way it seems like suffering more than the gold will repay even if they find it in abundance. Camped on Heart river grass and water plenty & good today distance 20 miles.

Thursday Aug 4th The Heart river runs very near East therefore we are following* it this afternoon we came into a ravine where the Indians had been this summer gathering Berries. grass very good with plenty of water. we came down a very steep Bank to get down to the river on which we are Camped again. distance 19⁰ miles

Friday Aug 5th To day we left the Heart river it bearing off South We Crossed the Head of Big Knife river about six miles from this camp. Yesterday we crossed a spot

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of drifting sand about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile wide ~~###~~ it looks as if
the wind shifted it every that blew very hard ~~###~~ there was
nothing growing on it. almost dark we arrived at the
Edge of the World, and a wilder looking scene never greeted
the eyes of mortal man, than the scene that we looked
upon from the Edge of Prairie or Table Land that we have
been traveling over for a day or two past. We crossed
one of the numerous ravines and camped on piece of
land just large enough for our Camp. No water except
such as we find the holes where it has collected after
the rains, ^{very} muddy at that, and not enough to water
the Animals. distance 25 miles.

Saturday Aug 6th We have been winding and twisting
around traveling all points of the Compass following the
ravines first down and then up, making our road as we
advance. this land has been washing away for ages and
every rain, Changes the face of it. old ravines down
which the water has run have become choked up and new
ones cut by the water in its downward course seeking its
level. We finally reached a ravine large enough for a
Camp, water muddy, grass good distance 15 miles

Sunday Aug 7th From the appearances of the valley where
we are camped it is a Mountain torrent after the rain^{ed}
on an examination of the soil we are surprised no longer
at the color of the Missouri and the streams emptying
into it. it is a mixture of quicksand and clay,

Strong Diary-26

which mixes with the water very readily and is carried
off to make some change on* ^{the Earth surface in,} its course in the shape
of Islands in the rivers, and these in turn are carried
off into the Gulf of Mexico. This morning ^{we} ~~our~~ were
detailed to go out on Guard for the Pioneers who were
cutting down, the perpendicular sides of the ravines and
filling up holes for a road. during our absence a few
Indians made a dash into the Valley where the Horses and
Cattle were grazeing and got out in safety with a couple
of Horses. after we got ^{into} * camp, the Indians drove in
the Pickets on the West side of the river. we formed in
line around the camp immediately and lay on our arms all
night, just inside of the Picket Guard. A few shell thrown
by the Battery, sent them Back as fast they had come. we
came down the Bluffs on the East side of the Little
Missouri river. it looked now as if we had reached the
end of our trip, but the Blackfoot Indian who was acting
as guide showed us a passage ~~###~~ we have crossed the river
twice, and will have to cross it again to get on the
opposite or West Side. there some trees growing in the
valley of the river. dist 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Monday Aug 8th This Flat we are camped upon we find in
daylight is a Bed quicksand, as is also the Bed of the
river, ⁱⁿ the water we have to keep moving or down we
go. ~~###~~ crossed the river for the third time ~~###~~ immediately
after crossing dismounted the 8th on the right and the

2^d Cavalry on the left. one half were dismounted, the others * ^{taking} charge of the Horses. those that were dismounted, had to climb up the Hills, and deploy, while the Horses and Teams followed which was up the Bed of a creek that was almost dry. this we followed for about one mile, when just as we were coming out of it, on the right hand side, with the head of the Column the sharp crack of the Guns was heard in all directions ~~every~~ ^{###} peak in sight was covered with Indians. we kept on over the roughest country that * ^{ever} a Train of Wagons was taken over. in some places our road ran along the edge of Bluffs that had been washed down on the side to the depth * ^{of} 200 or 300 feet almost perpendicular ^o in other places we crossed chasms where our Wagons were almost up endwise in going down and coming up out of them ~~our~~ ^{###} guide was shot in the shoulder, he was in the advance with the Scouts. he was brought in and put into an ambulance ~~the~~ ^{###} Train was halted and Corraled just as soon as there was room to do so, and half of those left in charge of the Horses were ordered out the assist those already there, who were holding the Indians in check. the Batteries were got into position and commenced throwing Shell among the groups gathered together on the hills. our Boys ^{###} were driving them out of the ravines ^{###} occasionally one was seen to fall from his Pony. Several Ponies came inside our lines ^{###} they were covered with blood, and as they were not wounded it was proof there rider was either Killed

Monday Aug 8th

or wounded ~~there~~ ^{###} weapons were Bows and Arrows but few of having guns, ^e they were driven back in all directions, and the train moved on again, they rushing in every chance they could get, but they could not do us much damage. When we fell back toward the Train they would rush up bravely and make their boast that at the other Battle we had it all our own way, but now they would show us, that * ^{they} were not cowards and that they had been joined by 500 more Warriors. we drove them and when we reached * ^{our} ~~our~~ camping ground we found but very little water or thin mud, in a ~~couple~~ ^{of} Holes. We were surrounded with hills and these were covered with Indians. our Ponies had no water, and nothing to eat during the day. a strong guard was thrown out, and the Ponies taken out to graze. the Indians an attempt to cut off one party, but the rear * ^{guard} happened to be coming into camp at the time and they made a charge upon them, ^{dist 6 1/2 miles} but not before they had wounded 6 of our men 5 of them with Arrows and the other with a Bullet ms p. 31

Tuesday Aug 9th The men were deployed and lay on their arms around the camp ~~early~~ ^{###} this morning firing commenced, ^o their was Indians all around us and back so far as we could see they covered the Hills ^{###} they made a bold dash on the camp but when we opened fire their Bravery forsook them and fled out of range of our guns. once in awhile the Batteries would get a chance to throw a shell into

 them we commenced moving out of Camp early in the morning and about noon they were fleeing every direction. ###
 in the afternoon we crossed their camp ground and we were one hour and a half in crossing it. the estimate that from what they saw at least 200 Indians were killed in this Battle. We have dealt them a severe chastisement this year, without much injury to ourselves. good water and grass today in the ravines but on the upland the grasshoppers have destroyed everything that was green eating off the grass close to the ground. this Country bordering the Missouri and so far as we have come this of it abounds in Berries and Choke Cherries. There is very little timber some places a few Ash & Elm but what timber there is, is principally cottonwood. Camped on a Creek of pretty good water, which we call anything that is drinkable dist^t 18 miles

Wednesday Aug 10th This has been another day of climbing of Hills and Crossing and great Gullies washed out like a canal, deep enough to float a Steamboat if the water was there. ### grass very scarce and the Horses are beginning to drop in the road. Water very poor Alkali and other foreign substances in it the men also feel the effects of poor water and salt food and scant allowance at that, and not having water we are getting pretty well acquainted with dirt, it being just possible in a good many instances to get thin mud for

ourselves and Animals. Camped on Running Water which is quite a treat. grass is very poor. dist 12 miles.

Thursday Aug 11th This is the severest day of the expedition. our company was rear Guard to and we had a good chance to see the results of the last few days marching without feed for our animals. ### Horses Mules and Oxen were left behind. they would down and lay there, and when we came up to them if they could not be made to travel, our Orders were to shoot them, and our road of to day will be marked with their skeletons. We did not arrive in camp till 11 o'clock at night. after dark we did not dare shoot the Animals for fear of shooting the Idaho

Emigrants who were trying to coax their cattle into Camp. ###
 Left. Thurs. Aug 11th ###
 Camp about 30 mules were left after dark we saw Women belonging to the Idaho Train pulling grass among the Brush in Ravines forgetting in * their anxiety to save their cattle, the Indians they watered them out of the Kegs they had in the wagons and after all were obliged to leave some of their cattle behind. the water where camped was very strongly impregnated with salts.
 Distance 28 1/2 miles.

Friday Aug 12th Here we are at last on the Yellow Stone river but not at the point we started for, but nearer the Mouth of the river. we have been obliged to keep off more North on account of the impassability

of the country. a singular coincidence occurred here in the meeting, the Steamboats at this point, loaded with rations for us. the Steamboats could not get any further up the river on account of the lowness of water. ### the Yellow Stone River is a large river with a very swift current. the last four days travel has been over a country desolated by Grasshoppers. The only thing that this whole country contains necessary for the White Man is coal, and with the exception of the right of way across the country the White race have no business settling west of the Intpah River. the country taken as a whole is only fit for the Indian, and they had ought of right to possess it they and their children forever, and no White Man allowed to travel over it except by Rail Road or Steamboat, there is but few places where the water is fit for use, and the land is a mixture of quicksand and clay and not timber enough on the whole route sufficient for one farm, except on the Missouri river. The country abounds in coal which crops out in numerous places some veins being 8 feet thick. from the appearances of the Hills in some places it looks as if enormous great coal beds had been burned out, the dirt having washed off it has left the sides covered with a kind of Red Shale. in other places there is what appears to have been the mouth of the Furnace, or Crater. Petrefied wood also abounds throughout this region. some of the Stumps with the

roots attached are sticking out of the sides of the Hills, at least 100 feet above our heads, while on the other side of us it is down, down full as much or more. We dug our way through a country where white men never had traveled before, but the first heavy rain storm will wash away trail, and we, unto those caught in these Bad Lands of the Little Missouri river, dist^t 11. miles.

Saturday Aug 13th This camp in on a very large Flat piece of Bottom Land, and it would look pretty, if the Grasshoppers not ate all the grass off but as it is now it looks Barren. Prairie Dogs occupy considerable of the land. the lower bottom is covered with a very heavy growth of Cottonwood. on this bottom we find a little grass for our Animals. these woods abound with Elk, Antelope and Black Tail Deer of which a number were shot. one Elk, was estimated to weigh when dressed 800. lbs. We lay in camp. the 1st Brigade commenced crossing the River this forenoon.

Sunday Aug 14th Last night we lay, but before we got to sleep we were ordered up, to pack up our things saddle our horses, and march to the river. the 1st Brigade did not all get across till 11 o'clock, and we lay around till daylight. when we commenced crossing. we unsaddled and put our saddles and Equipment on the Steamboats to be taken across while crossed with the

Horses by fording the Bar was very crooked and the Current ran very swift. each man that rode across led another Horse. the Wagons were unloaded before crossing and their loads put on the Boats. ~~Some of the Mules got scared and kept too far down, and about 30 Mules were drowned, and a horse team was also carried off down the Stream. the men were saved dist 3 miles~~

Monday 15th Aug The Idaho ~~Immigrants~~^e took their Pontoons which they have in the place of wagon bodies or boxes and ferried, their stuff over in them swimming their cattle. two of their men were swept off the Bar and drowned ~~one was a single man the left a wife and five children in Shakopee. We started again down the River which runs due North here, our route was over a level piece of ground, with everything eaten off by the Grasshoppers except now and a piece in the low Bottoms where it wet. after getting into camp 25 of our Company were detailed and sent back to the Boats which had grounded and to be lightened before they could get over the Bar. 20 Teams were sent to take of as much as they can carry. the river is falling good grass and water with plenty of both Camped on the river bank. distance 19 miles.~~

Tuesday Aug 16th Started early as usual, about daylight. made a short march. were ordered into camp at 7¹/₂ o'clock the Scouts report no grass between this and Fort Union

and as the grass and water is good we remain here till the 1st Brigade have crossed the Missouri river, the 25 men that went back to the have arrived. the are in sight distance 6³/₄ miles.

Wednesday Aug 17th The Yellow Stone river, like the Missouri is a muddy stream and is constantly changing its channel. the Bottom here is very wide and a heavy growth of Cottonwood covers the most of it which as the Banks are cut away takes the trees therefore the Banks and flats are covered with drift wood which excellent firewood. the new formed land is covered with a young growth of Cottonwood, which looks very handsome.

Thursday Aug 18th Again we move. the same desolate appearance. What the Grasshoppers have left is parched up. nothing green in sight as we approach the Missouri the flats are covered with willow Brush, with a Scattering growth of trees Camped on the Missouri river dist 15 miles.

Friday Aug 19th About 9 o'clock last night we were called upon to load and unload boats we did not get back till 2 o'clock in the morning. about 6 our Regiment commenced crossing Saddles and so forth, were carried over on the boats, The Horses fording there was nothing for our horses to eat but Willowbrush. We are

now on the North side of the Missouri which at this place does not as large as the Yellow Stone. There was a man drowned in crossing at this place. the Idaho folks separate from us at this place. many of them are sick of their bargain they are going to Fort Benton, this fall and likely they will winter there.

Saturday Aug 20th We are in camp about one mile below Fort Union. This Fort is a Trading Post, but there is one Company of the 30th Wis to be left here they came up on the Boats. the place has the appearance of being an old place and also one of considerable Trade with the Indians. there is some Crow Indians here. the Fort is a Stockade incloseing about 2¹/₂ acres with Bastions at two corners. the Buildings inside are very good and quite neat. the Buildings are clapboarded and painted. the Stockade is Built of hewn Timber it is about 20 feet high.

Sunday Aug 21st Marched to day down the river in search of grass. our Ponies are growing poor very fast, and unless we find more grass, there will be but few live to reach Minnesota. camped on a bend of the river. grass good. distance 8, miles.

Monday Aug 22^d We waited here till the Boats were over the Bar at the Mouth of the Yellow Stone. We left camp

at 11, O'clock. Bracketts, Batt^x was sent out to scour the country, it being reported by the Crow Indians that there was a large body of Sioux's in this vicinity but they did not find any. Company E of the 8th were sent after the Idaho Train which had started from Fort Union before we did with some cattle and Deserters. they have returned with some of the cattle, but they did not find the Deserters, who will probably join the Idaho Train farther up on the Milk river for they are going through to Idaho on Captain Fiske's Trail of last year. We have passed some more of those bare peaks which we have seen so often in this country. distance 17 miles. camped * on the Missouri.

Tuesday Aug 23^d Made a very short march we struck off from the river to cross a Bend camped on Sandy Creek. water very clear but somewhat alkilied. grass getting a little better. Land rolling no wood. distance 4¹/₂ miles.

Wednesday Aug 24th To day we traveled over some very level country but on approaching the river it was rough and broken again washed out into those great gullies, and we were obliged to hunt some time, and make a very crooked Trail to get down to the river bottom. A large Herd of Buffalo was started out of the Ravines. Several of them were shot. grass the best we have seen since we left Beaver River. camped on Rush Bottom Creek at its mouth. distance 26 miles.

Note to ed. The "s" on "its" was added in W.K.

Thursday Aug 25th We have had the Dustiest time to day that we have had at anytime^{###} when Marching^{###} on starting out at ~~camp~~ we had a spendid road over a level piece of high Bottom land which in some places was like a Marble floor. it kept growing narrower till finally it was just wide enough for a road. Bluffs 200 feet high, in some places they look like Gothic Church^{###} in others you can imagine some great building, or fortification. ~~Camped~~ at the mouth of the White Earth river, which was formerly the Boundary line of Minnesota Territory, it scarcely deserves the name of river, there is no water running in it now. distance 21 miles.

Friday Aug 26th Marched along the river, some parts of the road was very ~~###~~ We had to climb high Bluffs and deep ravines. We were in want of water and in some of these ~~ravines~~ there little Streams fed by springs but the water was the color of lye and smelt like it. We were obliged to walk up and down these places and lead our horses. all along the road to day there has been an abundance of cherries, and June Berries which are dry but the very nice fully equal to dry currants. about 1/2 a mile before we came into ~~camp~~ passed the place where the Indians we fought with on the Little Missouri. crossed the Missouri river and the Woods here where we are camped is full of trails, also bark all along the paths where they have cut new Tepee poles. ~~Camped~~ on Knife River. distance 12 miles.

Saturday Aug 27th To day we have marched over a better country than we have seen before since leaving Minnesota. about 10 miles of our route was through a Beautifull Valley, ~~###~~ grass has been getting better for a day or two but to day it was abundant and of a good quality. We crossed a stream to day which deserves the name of river more than the one we camped on last night. ~~Camped~~ on the Missouri. in places along the river there is nothing but Willow Brush, while in others it is Large Cottonwood, Ash ~~###~~ dis^t 22 Miles

Sunday Aug 28th We Marched to day just enough off to clear the rough Bluffy land near the river. in some places this washed land extends back into the country along the Streams, at other places the Creeks and rivers have good bottom land and the Side Hills as well as the Valley, is covered with good grass. ~~###~~ We passed some more of these Alkali Springs, ~~Camped~~ on a creek near the Missouri, dis^t 26 Miles

Monday Aug 29 In ~~camp~~, We were Visited to day by some Chiefs belonging to Mandans, Rees, and Gros Ventres who live at Fort Berthold, ~~###~~ they came to hold a Council with General Sully. they are troubled, a good by the Sioux, who their enemies. the Sioux made an attack on them last week, ~~###~~ they tried to steal some of their Ponies. these Indians say they Killed a Sioux and scalped him.

they brought in some Corn and Squash to sell.

Tuesday Aug 30th On the move again toward home We passed Fort Berthold another Trading Post also an Indian Village containing about 1500 Indians. the Fort being built on a point of land which we went across, We were just in sight. We were about 2 miles from it there is a large level Prairie considerable above the river covered with good grass and plenty of Timber on the river Bottom distance 10 miles

Wednesday Aug 31st The men that went up to the Fort, gave a very glowing description of the prosperity of these Indians they were busy getting their corn crop, Men Women Children and Dogs all made to work in getting it in and Stowing it away. they break it off and braid it together then hang it on the Backs of their Ponies or lay it on the frame made upon two small poles which are fastened to the Dogs one end dragging on the ground. their Tepees are built very large poles are laid across overhead and the corn hung up on these poles to dry. the field is on a piece of Bottom Land and is about 2 miles long and 1 mile wide kept very free from weeds. We were told that we would not have water to day So some barrells were filled, at the river and put on the Wagons, but we had the best Water he have seen for two Months it was clear and cold. We had good grass to day the Country is

more wood. the
1500 of grass in
work above the
crossed out
600

getting better as we go down the river distance 21 miles.

Thursday Sept 1st We again Strike off from the river on another Indian Hunt our course is nearly North. we saw a Cart Trail leading towards the Red river Settlements. We ran on to large Herd of Buffalo, when we were nearing the camp the men were perfectly wild they dismounted and ran off after them shooting them down in all directions it was continued, till about 25 of them were shot down the Balls flew around us thicker and faster than they did in the Indian fights. We have Buffalo Meat in abundance it was much better than the meat of the cattle we have been driving along with us. We are camped on the Banks of Lake. Water not very good. No Wood. dist 23 m.

Friday Sept 2^d To day a part of our force was sent on in advance to feel carefully for the Indians, which were expected to be found here in force, near a large Hill, called Dog Mountain. We have seen droves Buffalo to day, but we were not allowed to fire at them, and they got so bold that they came inside of the Flankers. the Banks of the Lake where we camped to night are all trod up by the Buffalo. Water good, no Wood, some Brush Land rocky distance 15 miles.

Saturday Sept 3^d Just after we left ~~Camp~~ we had quite a smart shower of rain, which lasted about an hour and a half. ~~We have traveled South East to day we did not find any Indians, but we crossed Several red river part trails running North. on approaching Camp we saw large Herds of Buffalo the restrictions about shooting being removed the Boys have gone out to drive some of them into Camp. We passed a number of lakes to day the water was not very good. Camped on the Banks of large Lake the Water looks green, and dont taste very good distance 23 miles. No Wood, but we got some Brush~~ ^{Saturday Sept 3^d Continued}

Sunday Sept 4th This has been called a day of rest. ~~We have remained in Camp more on account of the Animals than ours although we both need rest, yet we are so apt to feel fatigued when homeward bound this part of the country is covered with a kind of grass called Buffalo grass which is very fine, if we can judge by the way the Horses eat it. land also getting better there is but one drawback to its settlement for farming purposes and that is wood there is nothing for fenceing or for Building. last night we had quite a rain Storm. this morning it was slow work getting a fire started. Buffalo chips are very good in dry, but poor firewood in wet weather~~

Monday Sept 5th on the March again in a Southerly direction ~~passed over a very handsome Prairie, on which enormous Herd of Buffalo have been feeding lately. as we approach Camp we come in sight of them again. one was driven into camp and one was shot about 100 men standing ready Knife in hand to cut out a Steak it has been a cold disagreeable day the wind blew hard from the East and it was cloudy. we found overcoats quite comfortable to day. Camped on a creek in a Deep Ravine a very deep ravine running into the Main Valley, or ravine where we are Camped with almost perpendicular sides where the Indians have run Buffalo for the purpose of capturing them and by the bones laying at the bottom, they have caught a great many of them in that way. Water good. dist 21 Miles.~~

Tuesday Sept 6th A very uncomfortable day ~~it commenced raining just after we left Camp and continued till sometime at night we were obliged to camp on account of the Teams giving out a number of horses gave out also and were shot. Our Co. was on rear Guard and we had the job to do. We crossed a Stream called Painted Wood Creek. being on Guard we are Camped outside on the banks of little ravine whose banks are full of Springs of good Water our chances for Wood and grass are also good. Camped about Miles from the Missouri. distance 20 miles.~~

Wednesday Sept 7th A Beautiful day ~~###~~ We have traveled very slow on account of its being very slippery in some places, and our Teams are getting poor and weak, ~~###~~ hard marching without sufficient rest begins to show itself. Man and beast are feeling its effects. our route to day has been over a good Level Prairie ~~###~~ we have crossed some rolling land just before reaching ~~###~~ Camp, this is place where General Sibley fought the Indians, which was called by those that fought there, a very rough country but it was a perfect level in comparison with the country we fought them over. we are camped on Apple river. the water of the this river was represented to be very poor, by the expedition of last year, but we call it good water in comparison with some that we have had on our routes ~~###~~ grass good ~~###~~ distance 18 miles.

Thursday Sept 8th We were late starting out of our camp this morning ~~###~~ a road had to be built across the river, before we could cross ~~###~~ the teams had to crossed over, before we could leave the ground. A Party was sent to take up the body of Lieut Beever who was on Gen^l Sibley's Staff last year. he ~~###~~ ^{was} shot by the Indians, on his return from the part of the force who had drove the Indians to the river when he missed the trail and turned down the river when he was shot and also a Soldier who was with him ~~###~~ their bodies were and buried ~~###~~ this Lieutenant Beever was an Englishman, who was a Volunteer, on the

Expedition. he went out for the purpose of a Hunting Excursion ~~###~~ his body was taken up to send it to England. grass poor on the route to day, but better where we have camped which is on the Missouri ~~###~~ Distance 14¹/₂ Miles.

Friday Sept 9th Here we are at last back again to the point from which we ~~###~~ ^{we} started on the Indian Hunt. ~~###~~ We have Marched 773 miles over a very rough Country forded Streams and crossed Mountains where the foot of White Man has never trod before, and the most of hope we that we will not be called upon again to travel over the same route. on arriving ~~###~~ ^e here we heard that Captain Fiske had arrived here in our absence with a large party bound to Idaho. he followed our trail as far as the camp just north of Cannon Ball river. he followed that ~~###~~ ^e river instead of the Heart river. about 140 miles from this place ~~###~~ he was attacked by the Indians ~~###~~ he corraled his Train and was waiting for reinforcements from this place ~~###~~ he took 60 men from this place, who belonged to our forces. this man Fiske, had ought ~~###~~ ^{not} to be allowed to lead Silly Men and Women over these unexplored routes ~~###~~ this party will have to return and as there will be no hay to winter their stock, at this place they will probably have to return to the States where such things can be had and they will ~~###~~ ^{lose} their summer, s work besides their outfit ~~###~~ it may learn them a lesson with regard to these gold diggings which may do them good. distance 10 miles.

Saturday Sept 10th A detail has been made of about 1000 men, 200 of them from our Regiment. our men were sent out on foot, ~~this is going to be a very severe trip on these men. they went across the river this afternoon and camped.~~

Sunday Sept 11th The detachment left this morning early to relieve Capt Fiske's party. among the party is several from Anoka. ~~In Camp. Very Windy and dusty.~~

Monday Sept 12 To day we moved up the Creek on account of grass. We expected to get corn but we did not get any. ~~grass is failing fast. we find good grazeing for our animals in the ravines distance 3 miles.~~

Tuesday Sept 13th Still in camp there is a large party of Indians camped near us. Some of them have been into camp, ~~they are said to be Friendly. 15 men have been detailed to go back to Fort Rice and build flatboats for those who have gone out to assist Fiske's party to go down the river on.~~

Wednesday Sept 14th Still in camp, ~~the weather continues warm which is favourable for us.~~

Thursday Sept 15th Moved to day at 12 o'clock made a short march, and camped on the same stream which is Long

Lake Creek. grass good. no wood. ~~two men died on the road today one of them leaves a wife and three children and the other a wife and seven children another man dropped in a fit. the Ambulances are full of sick men, and the number increases every day the men begin to feel the effects of the bad water we have had this summer distance 7 miles.~~

Friday Sept 16th To day we traveled up a level piece of land this is following the same Creek, we crossed a sandy ridge of land today we crossed Fiske's trail that he made this year in going from Fort Wadsworth to Fort Rice. grass pretty good, ~~good water to night no wood distance 12 miles.~~

Saturday Sept 17th We have made a long march to day without water, and when we arrived in camp, which is between two very large Lakes one of which is Alkili and the other Salt, some water was got by digging wells but they proved to be brackish. this great Long Lake we have been looking for, which was said to be about 30 miles long, we have been traveling on what appears to be the Bottom of the Lake, for about 10 miles it is grown up with weeds and grass. the Banks show that the water is sometimes 8 feet deep, these Lakes on which we are camped are * part of the same Lake. Land sandy. grass poor. no wood. dist 23 miles

Sunday Sept 18th Again we have marched over a dry country the land continues sandy, with some rough gravelly knolls and some large Boulders. yesterday we had a very strong West Wind and at night we had a severe frost last night it froze water over in a tin cup. good water in springs but no wood To day has been quite Pleasant distance 16 miles.

Monday Sept 19th To day we have been marching over a good looking country so far as grass is concerned, but water is scarce all the places where there is generally small Lakes are now dry we passed one large Lake the water of which was poor land rolling the most of the way to day about 5 miles smooth Prairie Camped on a creek water scarce some springs, not very good. no wood distance 25 miles.

Tuesday Sept 20th We have marched to day over a level Prairie. Land heavier the grass is quite green, and good. another man died last night there is considerable sickness in the force at present. Buffalo are killed every day, but we don't see many because the Scouts go ahead and they have all the sport to themselves. Camped on a Creek grass plenty and good also good water. no wood dist 9 miles.

Wednesday Sept 21st We moved this morning at 4¹/₂ o'clock our road has been over rolling Prairie, with good grazeing on the most of it. yet there is very few places where it grows high enough to cut for hay. Water is scarce also, and no wood. it look as if had been dry here for the last two years. we are again a cross the James River about 75 or 80 miles North of where we crossed it in Spring. there is very little timber on the river at this but some willow brush. there is also an abundance of Hops growing here the being covered with them. we are camped on the river Bottoms dist 17 miles.

Thursday Sept 22^d We have been traveling down the river, today on the East side. the land on both sides is very high above the river, which is rolling Prairie a sandy Loam, but the land is heavier on the bottoms. the grass is excellent, but the timber is scant on the James river, to much so for farming purposes. two more men died night before last thus one by one they drop off. there is a large number sick some of them very low. We are camped again on the James river distance 15¹/₂ miles.

Friday Sept 23^d We have made a very long march our course has been South East we passed a large Lake the water of which was good we also crossed the East Branch of the James river we also passed a number of places where good hay can be cut the whole Prairie is covered with the best of grass, but there is no wood and but little water. We had snow squall today the wind blew very

hard, and it was cold and disagreeable. ~~Camped~~ at
 sunset on the Banks of a Large Lake which was quite
 salt but there was ~~good~~ ^{no wood} water in springs ^{distance, 31 miles}

Saturday Sept 24th last night we had a severe frost.
 this morning at sunrise we could see the Coteaus of the
 Prairies. it did not look over 10 miles to the timber
 on the ravines running up their sides, but traveled all
 day before we reached them. the atmosphere was so clear,
 and then the Prairie between the hill we were on and
 the Coteaus was very level. We have suffered for water
 on the route to day. None to seen till we went into
 Camp on the Edge of the Coteaus. here we have both
 water and wood. good grazeing for our Animals ^{distance}
 26 miles.

Sunday Sept 25th To day we lay in camp for a two fold
 purpose ^{one} of which was to let our Animals rest, and the
 other that the Scouts could have a hunt for Fort Wadsworth
 which we are supposed to be near. the Boys have been
 about two miles North of Camp and found some Plums which
 are very good. the land here is very good, and we find
 that water is plenty in all ^{these} ~~three~~ ravines, with considerable
 timber Ash and Oak.

Monday Sept 26th our course to day has been south traveling
 along the edge of the Hills. passed a number of Lakes

after a rambleing march in order to get around lakes
 and marshes. We have arrived at Fort Wadsworth which
 is Beautifully located between what is called three
 lakes but it looks as if there was a dozen of them, as
 we look across points of land covered with oak trees.
 A mail arrived here from Abercrombie which brought
 good news from the South. We draw rations to morrow
 and then start for home which ^{meant} ~~meant~~ Fort Snelling ^{distance}
 18 miles.

Tuesday Sept 27th We are laying over to day ^{last} night
 it was very cold ^{it} made us wish ourselves home instead
 of sleeping in these Shelter Tents, or rather trying to
 do so, but this is only the Commencement of what we shall
 see and feel this fall. Four Companies of the 2^d Cavalry
 are to remain at this Post and the other two Companies.
 also the four Companies of the 30th Wisconsin who have
 been here this summer, are to go with us. We hear that
 we are ordered South ^{Windy} to day ^{quite} cool.

Wednesday Sept 28th As the Almanac, s disagreeable
 windy weather about these days, rather to cold to be
 called comfortable. We are in camp. our are loading
 with rations for the trip to Fort Ridgely. there is very
~~little done as yet on the Fort at~~ little done as yet on the Fort at
 this place, and but little work on the Quarters. the
 Timber is short and therefore there will be great

amount of Labor expended before the Works will finished.
 the men have Built small loghouses in instances and
 others have dug holes in the ground covered the Both
 with Canvass, or their Shelter tents the houses are
 built with scraggy logs and then daubed with mud. a
 few of the huts are covered with bark.

Thursday Sept 29th again We are on the move towards the
 rising Sun, very foggy till late in the forenoon.
 Cloudy most of the Day. We have been Winding around
 and between Lakes all day. there is a good chance for
 a large settlement and each man have a Lake of his own.
 a large number of them have Some timber on their Banks
 which is principally Oak. these Lakes have Sandy or
 Gravelly Beaches. there is considerable meadow on which
 good hay can be cut. this is on the Coteaus, or rather
 among them. the Frost has injured the grass in some
 places. in others it is quite green yet. Camped on the
 Bank of a very large lake. water good. dist 24 miles.

Friday Sept 30 About six miles from Camp we crossed
 the Minnesota river. it has its rise in these Coteaus
 on the East side. it was very small at this point. We
 on the prairie again to look back at the Coteaus they
 form a very handsome background to a beautiful scene.
 there rise is gradual from the Prairie, to the Summit, and
 the Ravines crooked, and branching off as they ascend

the hills lined as they are with timber, the leaves
 of which are a very dark green, forms a Picture that
 can hardly be beat by Nature herself. Camped on
 what is said to be a branch of the Minnesota. dist
 15¹/₂ miles.

Saturday Oct 1st Our march to day has been over a
 rolling Prairie. We crossed three wagon roads some of
 which were made by General Sibley, s Indian Expedition
 of last year, to find these roads is somewhat encourageing,
 although far from civilization, for we know White men
 have been here and that though the road be a long one,
 yet at the Eastern End our friends are waiting patiently
 for our return. the scowl on the countenance disappears
 at the mention of Home, and a smile lights up the Face,
 at the anticipated Meeting of those loved one, s at Home.
 Camped on the Whetstone river. plenty of good grass.
 land also good. only a few scattering Trees on this
 river. distance 23 miles.

Sunday Oct. 2^d We crossed the Whetstone river nearly
 4 miles below the camp. some person set the grass on
 fire. this is contrary to orders, but there is some
 that are forgetful or thoughtless enough to do it
 sometimes not thinking of the consequences. there is
 others on the road besides our party who want this
 grass to feed their Animals on. the grass is quite

dead on the Prairies along this part of our route. land rolling, we crossed the Yellow Earth river and camped on the East side, ~~Water~~ good. distance 18 miles.

Monday Oct 3^d To day we have made a long march. passed a large Lake, met one of Bracketts Trains loaded with supplies for Fort Wadsworth, escorted by a detachment of the 2^d Cavalry, and a company of Infantry belonging to the United States, Regulars, ~~they~~ were inlisted in Alabama and are sent back on the Frontier, for the purpose getting them into some place where they can be used, on Garrison duty. the Rebels hang all men that are found in our service, who have been in their Armies. they will have something to if they build up Fort Wadsworth, and it will be far enough from the front to insure them protection. Camped at the Old Indian Village at the Mouth of the Intpah river, distance 27 miles.

Tuesday Oct 4th Here we are on our road that we came out on in the spring. We crossed the river immediately after leaving camp this morning, this river empties into the Minnesota river at ^{called} what is * Lac qui Parle, which is an enlargement of the Minnesota into quite a Lake.

This was formerly a celebrated trading Post called McLeod's Trading Post or Red Iron Village so named from a Creek of that name which runs on one side of the Village. there is several buildings yet standing and

some * ^{of} the fence remains although it is fast disappearing being taken by the trains for use on the road over the Prairie. Camped on our old camp ground * (on the Minnesota) which we occupied on our way out, distance 17 miles. [?]

Wednesday Oct 5th We left camp this morning with the expectation of camping on our old camp ground at the Riggs Missionary Station which is called Hazelwood as is also a creek in its vicinity. this Station is Beautifully situated the land being very good in its immediate neighborhood for it can be called such for there appears to have been quite a settlement around it. we kept on, till we reached the Yellow Medicine river. when we camped it was near the ruins of the Agency Buildings which ^{WEDNESDAY OCT 5th Continued} were built of Brick the walls of which are still standing. this is a splendid chance for a settlement, the Land is very rich and there is plenty of Timber on the rivers also good clay for making Brick, and there is considerable land broke and it has been fenced but, they are down now burnt and carried away by the Trains for fuel. the Walls of the Houses built for the Indians are still standing and can be repaired, although the wood is burnt out new floors, and roofs can be be put in and upon them. distance 23 miles.

Thursday Oct 6th The chance continues good for making claims, the Timber is more plentiful than it was above.

the land is a rolling Prairie very rich Loam soil with a clay or hard gravelly subsoil. it has been quite warm and is now raining with the prospect of plenty of it before morning. We met another Train belonging to Brackett, who has the contract for hauling the supplies to Fort Wadsworth. 80 Teams in this and 110 in the one we met *^{last} Monday, all the Wagons drawn by oxen. We can see a number of deserted places on the opposite side of the river, among them is that of Major Brown formerly Indian agent, and for which he got \$22,000. as damages. dis^t 18 miles.

Friday Oct, 7th About 3 miles travel this morning brought us to the Upper part of the improvements on the Lower Agency and 3 more brought us to the mouth of the Red Wood river, where Camp Pope was situated. there is nothing there but one house. it became noted as the place where General Sibley's Expedition started from. # Colonel McPhail formerly of the Mounted Rangers, has laid out a Town, and is building a mill some 4 or 5 miles above the Mouth of the river. he has induced some thirty Families to settle, at this place. large quantities of Hay has been put up around the Mouth of the Red Wood river. # the California Wagon road, follows this river, and runs through Col McPhails new Town. We passed the ruins of the Lower Agency and crossed the Minnesota river. # it is very low. Camped on the North East Side on a very

handsome piece of bottom land. # the grass was 6 feet high or more. distance 16 miles.

Saturday Oct 8th We have arrived at last back to our starting point Fort Ridgely. we have made one of the greatest marches on record. it has been over an uninhabed Country, and over a new route. # the whole distance out and back, 1605 miles. we look upon this as the end of the Expedition of 1864. it was very cold last night, and this morning the grass was froze hard. the grass looks quite green yet although short. # distance 13 miles.

Sunday Oct 9th We remained in camp to day for the purpose drawing rations. # here the Organization as a Brigade ^{ceased} leaves. the two Companies of the 2^d Cavalry and the two Sections of the 3^d Battery are to remain here. # the 8th Regiment goes to Fort Snelling. Some Horses are left here, they being too poor to travel further.

Monday Oct 10th On the March again. We have passed some farms, to see which made us all feel better. the corn in the field and wheat in stacks looks more like living than to take our chances of catching game on the Boundless Prairie. Buffalo meat is very good especially when a person is hungry but *they dont look so well as a drove of Oxen and Cows feeding near the residence of man. this country we have traveled over to day is thickly

settled, and the is excellent with plenty of Timber along the road. our march was a severe one to day. it was dark before we got into Camp, which was on Swan Lake. it was very low therefore the water tasted very bad. it had a boggy taste. there considerable timber around the Lake/this whole Country is settled by Dutch, who are a poor class of settlers for the Frontier. the Indians are not afraid of them. distance 27 miles.

Tuesday Oct 11th To day we passed some very handsome farms. the Soil is of the best kind being a deep Black Loam with a Clay sub soil suitable for Oats and Wheat, but there corn dont look any better than that raised on the Sandy soil of Anoka County. we are camped at Traverse Des Sioux, which has been a flourishing place once but it was to near St. Peter, which joins it on the South, and St. Peter is doing quite a Business. it needs a rail road to develope the resources of the Country. there is wheat in the Store houses that has been waiting for two years the river being so low that Boats cannot run up to this point. distance 17 miles.

Wednesday Oct 12th We are marching down the river there is some very rich pieces of bottom land, but the most of it is sandy, and there is a great quantity of wet land, but it is not waste land, good hay being cut on most

of it. there is ^{some} land seeded down with tame grass passed through Henderson which is quite a large town the trees on the town site are very large. there is an abundance of it on the bottoms of the Minnesota. We camped on a piece of Level land, a very nice Prairie surrounded with heavy timber. High Island Creek runs through the timber on the North side near Camp. dist 17 miles.

Thursday Oct 13th This morning we passed the towns of Faxon and Walker, s Landing. there is some very handsome places along the road of to day. there an abundance of good meadows on the Bottoms, and a large amount of hay is cut on them. the town of Faxon is not much of a place, but Walkers Landing is a flourishing place considering that this is War times, and the Bussiness is with farmers. in the afternoon we passed through Carver. all of these river towns do a large Wheat Bussiness there is a Small Steam Boat running between this place and St. Paul. Camped on the Minnesota just below the town of Carver, dist 23 1/2 miles.

Friday Oct 14th We passed through Chaska. here we left the bottom land, and commenced climbing the high Bluff. our road to day has been very rough. the land through the Oak openings is sandy, but in the Heavy timber it is Loam very dusty to day. there is a great many deserted

places in this part of Hennepin, Co. I dont know but suppose them to be the lands of speculators, which *lands are not paying much at present, belong to whom they camped on nine mile creek # will distance 21 miles

Saturday Oct 15th We arrived at Fort Snelling at 9¹/₂ O'clock this morning, and went into camp on the the Minnesota river. here Ends this Indian Campaign so far as the 8th Regiment is concerned because here we give up our Horses. in the last four months and thirteen days we have traveled 1844 miles from the place we received our Horses to this. We are tired out, but we hear that there will be no rest for us. we hear that we are to go South # distance 9 miles.

Sunday Oct 16th In Camp # no furloughs are granted but we leave for the South so soon as the Boats can be furnished to carry us down the Mississippi to La Crosse. We turned over our horses to the Quarter-master

Monday Oct 17th Last night there was a general stampede from Camp the Boys concluding to go on their own responsibility # to day the Camp looks deserted # leaves of absence are granted by the Colonel, for 24 hours, and the Captains are ordered to get their men back by next Sunday or the men are to be considered Deserters.

Tuesday Oct 18th To day our clothing arrived, and in afternoon we had the pleasure of putting on a clean suit once more. in the morning Freeman, came up from St. Paul after me # went on a leave of absence in the evening to St. Paul

Wednesday Oct 19th Saw the Colonel # got my leave of absence extended till Sunday morning #

Thursday Oct 20th arrived at home at two O'clock in the afternoon.

Friday Oct 21st at home, and visiting

Saturday Oct 22^d Hattie and Husband came up. I had but a short time, to spend with my # wife and # Children. Orrin took me to Anoka. arrived St Paul in the evening by the cars.

Sunday Oct 23^d Charley went with John Cooper and myself to the Fort.

Monday Oct 24th Dress Parade. read an order that we would leave in the morning if the boats arrived from below.

Strong Diary-61

Tuesday Oct 25 Remained in camp. Rained in the night

Wednesday Oct 26th Up at half past three. Started at daylight, for St Paul. arrived there at 11 O'clock. Went on board of the Boat and Barges of which there was three. the river is very low. it has rained a little all day. it was impossible to follow the channel after dark so the Boat was tied up till day light. We Marched through St Paul, without any demonstration of any kind being made.

Thursday Oct 27th To day we passed quite a number of towns. entered Lake Pepin in the evening and about 9 O'clock we tied up at Lake City for the night. We were allowed to go on shore and sleep in a Warehouse which was better than standing around on the Boat and Barges it being impossible to lay down on board there being just about standing room. this is treating men called into the service of their Country more like Hogs. it would have been somewhat better if it had not rained all the time. We were wet, cold, and uncomfortable

Friday Oct 28 We are again moving down the river. Several Men were left behind at Lake City. a Lieutenant was left to bring them on. this is the reason why others have to be treated more like animals than men because there is
* some will stray off every chance they get and get drunk therefore all must be treated alike

Strong Diary-62

all. after "on" we + we words crossed out. Behind may are "the car" cannot be done.

Saturday Oct 29th at 12 O'clock last we were landed and to the cars like a drove of cattle. on * We passed off the boat between Sentinels. We left at 2¹/₂ O'clock in the morning. We passed through Portage Watertown Janevilles, and a large number of places that we could find out the name of. the country we came through was a very handsome farming country. Land well improved with plenty of wood. night shut out our view for now we travel in the night as well as in daylight

Sunday Oct 30th Last night at 12 O'clock we arrived in Chicago hungry as Wolves, but there nothing to eat. we were marched through Chicago to the Soldiers Rest a large Building which belongs to the Sanitary Commission, and a place for Soldiers to stop on their down or up. it is fitted up with Bunks. we lay down about three O'clock to sleep off our hungry feelings. We got a very good meal at 9 O'clock this morning and again at three in the afternoon. at four we were marched to the Depot. here we were furnished with first Class Live Stock Cars.

Monday Oct 31st At 8 O'clock, we left Chicago, on the Michigan Central Rail Road, to Michigan City Indiana where we were switched off on to the Michigan City and New Albany road. on this road we passed through Lafayette, Gosport, Bloomington and other places.

Tuesday Nov 1st This morning when within about two of New Albany our got off the track and our Reg^t was in two trains, the Second Locomotive on arriveing at the same place ran off and down an embankment. No body hurt, the men marched in, after their arrival. We marched through New Albany to the Ohio river, we crossed on a steam Ferry Boat to Portland Kentucky, in the afternoon we marched to Louisville about three miles and went into camp, in a few minutes after we got into Camp it was full of Women and girls with Bread Pies Cakes Apples and Tobacco. a pretty hard sett.

Wednesday Nov 2^d We lay in camp till three O'clock, then we marched to the Depot, and here we took 2^d Class Cattle Cars, or, freight, just which they want to put in them, we left at 5 O'clock on the Louisville and Nashville Rail Road, for Nashville, Tennessee

Thursday Nov 3^d All the Land we have seen on our route through Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee, is mostly clay, some yellow and the most of it red, some part of the country is very rocky. We passed through two tunnels. We crossed a river during the night which must have been Green river. War Shows its effects in that part of the Country we have passed this afternoon in the number of places deserted, crops were put into the ground but were not tended. What Corn is left standing dont

look any better than it does in Minnesota. We have seen some Cotton to day, small

Friday Nov 4th We arrived in Nashville last night, but were run back again across the Cumberland river to remain in the cars till morning, this morning we were allowed the privelege of building a fire and getting some coffee. then we Marched through Nashville, to take the cars again for Murfreesboro. John Cooper, had a chance to go through the town or City, and I got him to go to the Post office and tell George that, I was here, but being on Duty could not leave. he came to the Depot and brought Lieut Col John C Smith with him. they were both glad to see me, and so was I to see the faces of old acquaintances. the Streets of the City of Nashville were very muddy. We arrived at Murfreesboro about 9 O'clock at although it is only 30 miles, we were about 4 hours on the road. on our arrival here we built fires and made coffee, then we lay down on the ground with the gratification of stretching out at full length, it being the third time we could so since leaving Fort Snelling. it has * rained every day but two since leaving and we have not had enough to eat, our Rations got wet on board the boats, and that no chance to cook anything if we had an abundance which we have not

Ed. "rained" was written in m. K. Boat 1 m. is in pond.

Saturday Nov 5th This has been a place of considerable trade before the War broke out but the people have learned A lesson Which will not be forgotten very soon, and that is the Way of the transgressor is hard. Both Armies have had possession of this place. the ground has fought over, in some closely contested Battles, everything shows it, the number of embankments thrown up the trees cut down, Orchards destroyed, fields laid waste, thrown out to Commons, fences all gone, and yet the Country is infested with Guerrillas, men whose interest had ought to be in the restoring of a Government capable to protect them in their property, but they are blinded to their best interest, Slavery that Curse that has brought this War upon our once happy Country must be blotted out of existence, the lords of this land will have to learn, to eat bread of their own raising or in other words they must learn that they were not born to rule this nation. we are a Nation of Free People and we believe the Government is able to sustain itself, for we are all a part of it Free Citizens.

Nashville May 7th 1865 →

After writing to you the other day I went down to the River. And What A sight there was hundreds of Negro, s, Men Women & Children huddled together, with their Furniture waiting for A chance to go on to some place where they can earn their living, this Country will have

A serious job to do, in settling these liberated slaves where they can make A living. there is Land enough to, till, if they are willing to work and that they will be obliged to do or starve, but A great many of them will suffer before they settle down into an industrious class of producers, as we look around us and think, What A state of Society this is, at the present time, but the time will come when order will be brought out of Chaos, and we will see this Country in its Glory Prosperity will bloom on every side for we as A Nation will Shine out brighter than ever. We are bound to prosper. there was A Negro Standing there looking on. I, asked him where these Poor people were going, he said he did not know but he thought some place would be provided for them where they could earn their living. he said there was some among them that would not work but would sooner steal for A living, and he said he had seen the same among the Whites, but said he ———— You dont condemn all, because some steal for A living. give them A trial and he thought they would do well. So say I, and I Pray God it may prove A blessing to both Whites and Blacks, the giving their Freedom.