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earnest gestures made him understand at last that this young man was considered by us all as a half-witted fool, unworthy of the notice of any sensible man; and that we never paid attention to what he said, as we hardly considered him responsible for his language. The moment the chief comprehended my meaning, I saw a change come over his countenance, and he went away perfectly satisfied. He was a clear-headed man; and, though unlettered, he understood human nature.

**July 18**

**Newby:** A very bad road. Joel J. Hembree's son Joel fel off the waggeon tung & both wheels run over him.

**July 19**

**Newby:** Lay buy. Joel Hembree departed this life about 2 o'clock.

**July 20**

**Nesmith:** I came on ahead with Captain Gantt and an advance guard, passed over some very rough road, and at noon came up to a fresh grave with stones piled over it, and a note tied on a stick, informing us that it was the grave of Joel Hembree, child of Joel J. Hembree, aged six years, and was killed by a wagon running over its body. At the head of the grave stood a stone containing the name of the child, the first death that

has occurred on the expedition. The grave is on the left hand side of the trail, close to Squaw Butte Creek.

**July 22**

**Nesmith:** Trailed six miles and camped on the Platte about noon, and endeavored to find a ford. Several men sick in camp, afflicted with a kind of fever. The company discontented, and strong symptoms of mutiny. Some anxious to travel faster, some slower, some want to cross the river here, some want to go ahead, and others want to go any way but the right way. This will always be the difficulty with heterogeneous masses of emigrants crossing these plains.

**Newby:** We fordid the North Fork, tho it was with some difficulty. We first drove over a branch of the river on to a sand beach, then we took 2 large rops & tide them in the ring of the leed cattle, then there was from 30 to 40 men on a nouter sand beach that puld at the end of the roap to keep them strate & pull them out, as it was nearely swimming & up streme & a current like a mill tale. This was a bout 50 yards wide. Thin we had to forde a nauther branch a bout the same width, tho not so deepe. I took the most of my thing out of my waggeon & tide it to a nother one and it turned over & over & come luce & washed down the river. A Mr. Lee & Mr. Williams & my self follerd after ia a bout one mile & had all like to got drowned. We made our

escape, & that was all in the morning. We found it a bout 3 miles down the river. We got it out with out much damage. I lost my gun & shot pouch, ax, tare bucket & oxyoake. So much for the 22(nd).

**July 23**

**Nesmith:** This is my birthday, being twenty-three years of age and upwards of 3,000 miles West of the place of my birth. Edwin Otey and myself struck out toward a large mountain South in quest of game...returned to the company about noon. Found them nooning on the ground near the ford, where Applegate's company had crossed the river the evening previous. Two men from Childs' company met us this evening, informing us they were all across the north fork about ten miles ahead.

**July 24**

**Burnett:** July 24 we crossed the North Fork of the Platte by fording, without difficulty, having traveled the distance of one hundred and twenty-two miles from Fort Laramie in nine days.

**Arthur:** The train crossed the middle Platte on a ferry boat at Fort Laramie and forded the north Platte, Green river and the various crossings of Snake river by coupling a train of teams one to the wagon of the other and placing an extra driver to each team below on horseback to guard the teams into line. Occasionally the train would stop a day to give the women a chance to do some washing.

**Nesmith:** Got up to the crossing about noon. Applegate's company on the opposite side. Drove across in the afternoon without difficulty.

**July 27**

**Burnett:** we arrived at the Sweetwater, having traveled from the North Fork fifty-five miles in three days.

**Arthur:** On Sweetwater the train rested three days in order to lay in a supply of buffalo meat before leaving the region inhabited by that animal.

**July 28**

**Nesmith:** Started for the company about 8:00 o'clock in a very cold rain. Howell took sick and threw

away his meat. Got up to our wagons in the evening. They lay at Independence Rock, our company having split. Colonel Martin, with most of the wagons, had gone ahead. Our wagon and some others of his company fell in with some deserters from Applegate's company, making in all nineteen wagons.

**August 3**

**Burnett:** while traveling up the Sweetwater, we first came in sight of the eternal snows of the Rocky Mountains. This to us was a grand and magnificent sight. We had never before seen the perpetually snow-clad summit of a mountain.

**August 4**

**Nesmith:** Mr. Payne, a man in Martin's company, died this morning at 3:00 o'clock. He suffered severly, being unwell since we left Fort Laramie. Died of inflammation of the bowels, leaving a wife and four small children. He was decently interred on a rise of ground at the left of the road.

**August 7**

**Burnett:** we crossed the summit of the Rocky Mountains, and on the evening of the 7th we first drank of the waters that flow into the great Pacific. The first Pacific water we saw was that of a large, pure spring.

**August 11**

**Burnett:** we crossed Green River, so called from its green color. It is a beautiful stream, containing fine fish. On the margins of this stream there are extensive groves of small cottonwood trees, about nine inches in diameter, with low and brushy tops. These trees are cut down by the hunters and trappers in winter for the support of their mules and hardy Indian ponies. The animals feed on the tender twigs, and on the bark of the smaller limbs, and in this way manage to live. Large quantities of this timber are destroyed annually.

**August 12**

**Burnett:** we were informed that Doctor Whitman had written a letter, stating that the Catholic missionaries had discovered, by the aid of

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