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INSTRUCTOR LITERATURE SERIES

# THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

BY

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*Lewis and Clark Expedition*



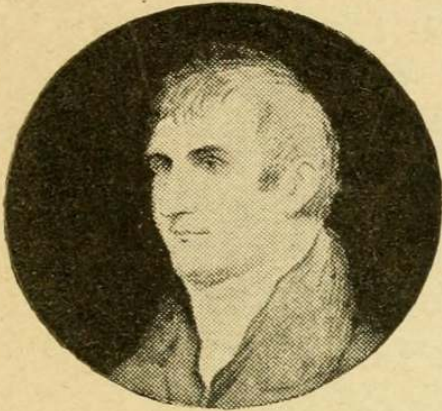
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## The Lewis and Clark Expedition



*Meriwether Lewis*

If we should take the Great Northern Railway and travel into the Dakotas and Montana in wheat harvest time, what sights would meet our eyes! A single field containing a thousand acres or more of golden grain stretches away just as far as the eyes can see. A dozen harvesters and more than a hundred men are busy caring for the grain in one field. If we have gone into Montana, where no dew falls, a giant power harvester is cutting, threshing and bagging the grain ready for market. It is very hard, as we view all this, to think that a hundred years ago thousands of buffalos roamed over these same fields chased by half-naked Indians, but such is the case.

Jefferson was our President at that time and he knew that though the country was wild there was much wealth there. The French at one time had owned all Canada and the Mississippi Valley, stretching from the Appalachian to the Rocky Mountains. Of all the white men who came to our country the French entered best into Indian life. They loved the woods and roving life of the Indian. From the mouth of the St. Lawrence to this Missouri River country of the great wheat fields was a



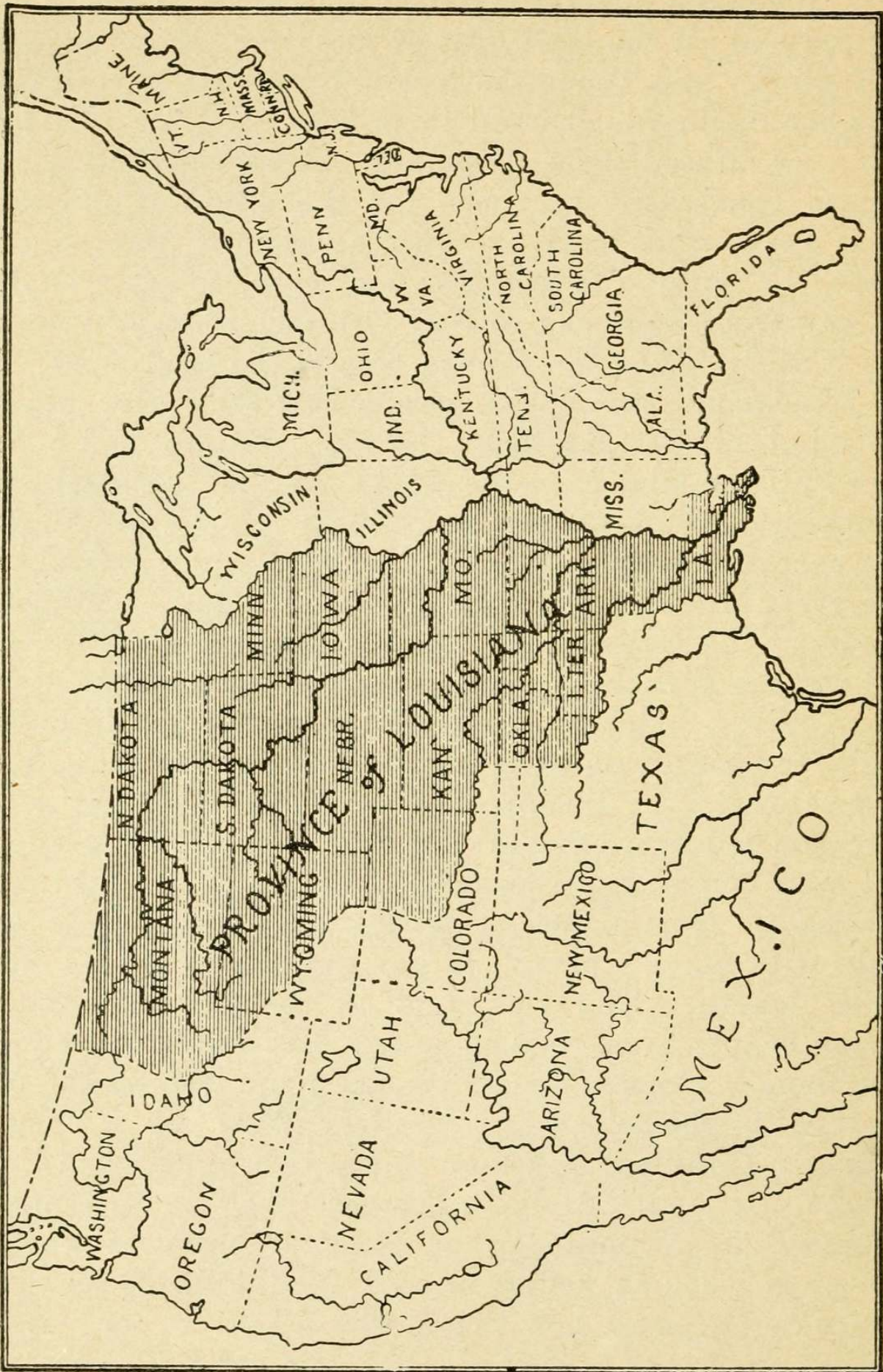
*Wm. Clark*

two thousand miles' journey. Yet the French had traversed this field thoroughly, and had carried away thousands upon thousands of dollars' worth of valuable furs. Jefferson reasoned this way: the great Missouri empties into the Mississippi. From the mouth of the Missouri at St. Louis it is easy to reach the Ohio. This river Ohio leads to our eastern country. Why should not Philadelphia or Baltimore grow rich from the trade in fur instead of Montreal, in Canada? Our men are bold and strong. Daniel Boone in Kentucky, and George Rogers Clark in Illinois and Indiana, have handled the Indians quite as well as the French. If we could have some one go up the Missouri from its mouth at St. Louis far into the Northland and carefully map out the journey so our traders would know the road, we could capture this wealth in furs which is now drained off through Canada. Ideas of this sort had been in Jefferson's mind for years. He saw far into the future and wanted every good thing possible for his people. Early in 1803 Congress, at the president's advice, appropriated \$25,000 for the purpose of opening up this trade to the United States. Jefferson declared, "An intelligent officer with ten or twelve men fit for the enterprise and willing to undertake it, might explore the whole line even to the Western Ocean, have conferences with the natives on subjects of commercial intercourse, get admission among them for our traders, as others are admitted, agree on a convenient deposit for an interchange of articles, and return with the information desired, in two summers."

In April of 1803 we purchased from France the vast region known as Louisiana. The people of the Mississippi Valley were filled with joy. The people of Kentucky and Tennessee had much flour and pork, corn, cattle and tobacco to sell. These they carried down the Mississippi. They sold their goods in New Orleans or loaded them there on a vessel bound for some Atlantic

port. When the Spaniards owned the mouth of the Mississippi and all the land west of the river, these people of Kentucky and Tennessee received all sorts of insults. Haughty Spaniards charged them heavy toll for storing goods, or refused them altogether. Americans had their cargoes confiscated at times for the slightest offense. What use to work hard to raise a crop of tobacco or wheat, to build a flatboat for your crop, to carry it all the way from Kentucky to New Orleans, when you may lose it all? When the French bought the land west of the Mississippi from Spain, greater fear than ever filled the mind of the Kentucky farmer. France had once owned all the land from the Rocky to the Appalachian mountains. Suppose she reconquers her former territory east of the Mississippi. And why might she not? The great Missouri River valley was still full of French traders. The Indians were much attached to the French. Did not the French buy their furs and supply them with guns, knives, hatchets and kettles? Surely the Indians might be counted on to assist the French in retaking her former territory. Imagine the joy of the Kentucky settler when he learned that all the land west to the Rockies had been bought by President Jefferson, and that the Mississippi from source to mouth was ours to use in trade with never a penny to pay though we travel its entire length. The rich furs of the great Missouri Valley belong to us, belong to any man who will go and take them. Homes for thousands upon thousands of families might be had in this great West for a song.

Surely President Jefferson did a wise thing when he bought this land. A single business block in St. Louis, Kansas City, Minneapolis or St. Paul today is worth almost as much as Jefferson paid for the whole region. Notice on the map how much was added to our area by the purchase of Louisiana. The one great river shown on the map in the Louisiana Purchase Territory is the



Map I. Present Map of United States showing the Louisiana Purchase

Missouri. When you see how splendidly this river reaches its branches into all parts of the region, you will understand why Jefferson decided that by exploring and making a map of this river, we might be able to guide our fur traders and settlers into this great unknown land. You will see, too, that before the day of railroads the Missouri furnished the only road into this territory.

If a region is to be explored and mapped, a suitable man must be found to take charge of the enterprise. Jefferson selected for the undertaking his secretary, Meriwether Lewis of Charlottesville, Virginia. This man was wonderfully well fitted for the task. It is said that when a lad of eight he used to take his dogs and go alone into the woods to hunt for coons and 'possums. While on these trips he stopped at nothing. He waded or swam the coldest streams, climbed the roughest hills. Others grew tired and gave up. Not so with Lewis. He knew neither fear nor fatigue, and when once he set his heart on doing a thing he knew no such word as fail. He knew the woods and streams of his own section like a book. He loved trees, and plants, and animals, and was never so happy as when searching for their secrets. Jefferson said of him, "He is honest, disinterested, of sound understanding, and has a fidelity to truth so scrupulous that whatever he should report would be as certain as if seen by ourselves. He is steady in the maintenance of discipline and as careful as a father of those committed to his care." To this man, Jefferson committed the task of winning the Indians in all this vast land. He was to make them believe that the United States was their friend, that it was able and willing to protect them and that it would pay well for their furs. To cement our friendly relations with the Indians, Lewis was to bring some of the chiefs back to Washington. The second task of Lewis was to learn all he possibly could about the climate, soil, plants, ani-

mals, curious remains and Indian legends. He must also take the exact longitude and latitude of each river mouth, bend, and source, so that his data might be used in making a map to guide traders and settlers. The task of Lewis was not confined to the Missouri River valley. We did not own the lands to the Pacific in the Northwest, but we might own them some day. Besides, the mountains furnished the homes of the beaver whose glossy coat was so much prized that it passed as money in Kentucky. Our trappers will hunt this little creature, hence they must know the mountain passes. Some route must be found that leads from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific. We may need this outlet for our trade. The task of Lewis, then, is to ascend the Missouri to its source, cross the Rocky Mountains and descend to the Pacific Coast. We cross the continent so easily today on the train that it is hard to realize how gigantic was the task set for Captain Lewis. The time required then may be appreciated when I tell you that Sacajawea, the Indian squaw who was so valuable as interpreter, gave birth to a child on the journey, and he was a chubby child almost two years old when they returned.

For so great a task a second leader must be found, for should Lewis be killed by a hostile Indian or die of hardships the journey would prove a failure. As his fellow captain, Lewis chose William Clark of Kentucky. Certainly a wiser choice could not have been made. He was a brother of the famous George Rogers Clark. That man, by his unheard of pluck and good sense, took Kaskaskia and Vincennes from the English in the Revolution and won the Northwest Territory for us. To him was due the fact that we got the Mississippi and not the Appalachian Mountains as our western boundary at the close of the Revolution. William was but ten years old when his brother George Rogers performed his Herculean task. Now William is a man in the very prime of

life, strong of limb, sure with the rifle, of undaunted courage, used to all the hard frontier life of Kentucky, a warm friend to the Indian and understanding his nature as few have understood it. This was the man to accompany Lewis and to share the responsibility with him.

The men that made up the party were selected with great care. They, too, must be men of courage and willing to undergo great hardships. At last they were chosen. Four sergeants, twenty-three privates, nine Kentucky hunters, two French interpreters, Sacajawea the Indian wife of one of the interpreters, and Clark's burly negro, York, made up the party. Sixteen soldiers and watermen were added to go as far as the Mandan Indian lands in Dakota. Kentucky means 'Dark and Bloody Ground.' In that land, before the whites came, was the choicest hunting in all the region east of the Mississippi. No Indian tribe was allowed to own that land. All might hunt there. Many Indian quarrels and wars were developed on that hunting-ground. The white man in Kentucky must win the rich blue-grass lands from the many Indians who contended for it. It is little wonder they were called the Long Knives. As many as three thousand buffalos were seen by Daniel Boone and his friends at one time in Kentucky. Kentucky was famous all over our land for its splendid hunters and Indian fighters. Clark was himself from Kentucky, hence he chose many of his trusted friends from Kentucky to help make up his party.

The winter of 1803-4 was spent at Camp Du Bois, opposite the mouth of the Missouri. Lewis spent the time purchasing supplies and questioning every Frenchman he found. He must know about the lands they were to traverse and the nature of the Indian tribes they would encounter. Clark drilled the men, for they must be ready at a moment's notice to repel an attack of the Indians. At last all was ready. A keel boat fifty-five

feet long propelled by twenty-two oars and a fine sail was their pride. In it was stored their food, guns, ammunition, kettles and knives, blankets, clothing and a fine lot of trinkets, such as bells, beads, fancy feathers, paints and the like for the Indians.

On May 14, they started up the Missouri. The great keel boat was followed by two small boats, one of six the other of seven oars. It seems late in the season to start when the journey was so great. You must not forget, though, that great floods and dangerous ice-floes are in this section well into April in our own times. Besides, the journey to the Mandan Indian Land was to comprise the first summer's work. Plants, animals, soils, streams and tribes must all be studied and reported to the great President.

Soon the party passed the home of Daniel Boone. When game grew scarce he had left Kentucky and pushed well up the Missouri where he could have elbow room, as he said. On June 5, they met two canoes of Frenchmen from the Kansas River with a rich cargo of beavers that represented their winter's catch. On June 26, they reached the mouth of the Kansas and found abundance of goats, wild turkey and antelopes. It was hard to get near the antelopes for they are very fleet of foot and can scent an enemy from afar. The Kentucky hunters soon observed that they had a weak point. They were very curious. The men accordingly slipped into the long grass and hid. Very cautiously they raised a hat surmounted on a stick. The curious little creatures crept up to find out the nature of this hat animal. The hunter lay quite still till the antelope was within gunshot, then a crack of the rifle and the poor little fellow lay quivering in the grass.

If you can find a large map of the Missouri and follow the journey of Lewis and Clark you will find many creeks to which they gave names. I think you



will know why they selected the names Turkey Creek, Lark Creek, Buffalo Creek, Fourth of July Creek and Independence Creek.

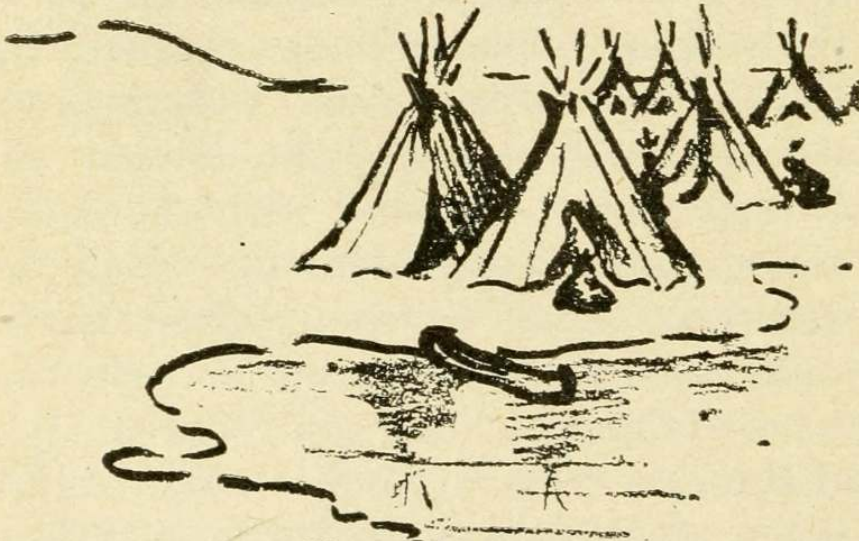
The July weather was intensely hot. Men every day fell a victim to sunstroke, hence they had to proceed very slowly. Chemical tests of the river water proved it unhealthful. They had to seek deep places in the river bed to procure pure water. Food was scarce. Yet Indians might be seen almost any time. Lewis decided that he should begin to win the friendship of these men. He accordingly sent out runners to invite them to council. Just after he passed the mouth of the Platte he selected a place for the meeting, on a bluff overlooking the river. (Can you find on the map a modern city that will tell you where they met?)

Flour, meal and pork were sent the Indians to prove the good will of the whites. The Indians returned the courtesy by sending to the whites some watermelons. The Otoe and Missouri Indians came to the council and accepted the flag of our country, together with the gaudy garters, medals and paints presented them. They declared that they would be loyal to the United States providing they should receive help from us in their wars against the Omahas. (Can you find on your map a modern city named for this tribe?) Lewis noted in his journal that this was a good place for a fort and trading station. It was at the junction of two great rivers. The soil was good for brick. Timber was convenient. The air was pure and bracing. Lewis and Clark were well pleased with their first Indian council.

Soon the party was in the land of the Omahas, but instead of a fierce and warlike people only blackened and charred remains of a former village were found. Great Blackbird, their chief, had fallen a prey to the dreaded disease, small-pox. Instead of vaccination to conquer this awful enemy, the poor Indians, seeing their

wives and children dying by the hundreds, had, in despair, killed them. They had then set fire to their villages and fled for their lives. Despairing of a council with these Indians, Lewis and Clark were soon on their way to the north. They examined the plants, birds, and soils and had wonderful success in their fishing. A single haul of their drag made of willow twigs landed three hundred fish. But delightful as this sport was they had to leave it and push on up the river.

Then they came to the land of the Sioux Indians. (Can you find a city in Iowa named for this tribe?) The hunters realized that autumn was coming, for although the sun was still very hot, ripe grapes and plums were now to be found in abundance. Soon they were in sight of the Sioux village, which was a pleasant sight indeed.



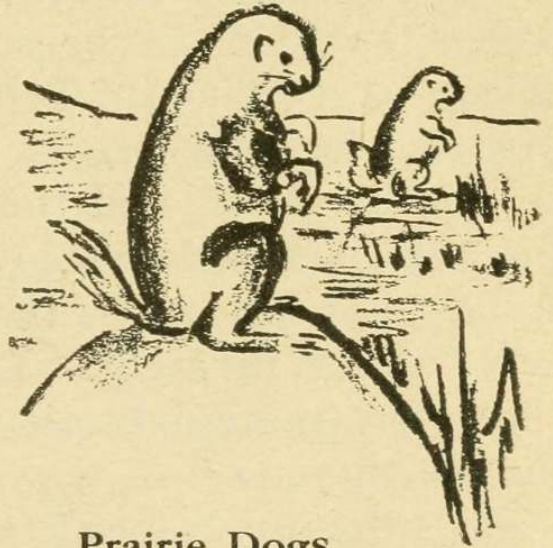
Sioux Village

The lodges were made like our circular tents and were kept in place by thirteen long poles. These at one end were securely tied in a cluster about eighteen inches

from the top. The opposite ends of the poles were spread apart, making a great circle on the ground. The tent covering was of skins painted in a very gaudy fashion. Fifteen to twenty persons could be accommodated in a lodge, so large were they. These Indians proved very friendly, offering to carry the white men on buffalo skins and feasting them on dog meat. The Indians entertained the whites with target shooting and the war dance. Lewis and Clark distributed freely bells, bright tape, knives and tobacco. Lewis was glad to have won

the friendship of this tribe for they were fine specimens of the Indian race. They were tall, strong and fearless and elegantly dressed in buckskin and blankets. For adornment they had a plentiful supply of paint and feathers, and necklaces of bears' claws. Autumn was advancing. The leaves were now all brown and red and gold. Nuts might be heard constantly dropping in the woods. Deer, buffalos and antelope were quietly grazing in the glades, while over all hung a blue haze. Sometimes villages of prairie dogs came in sight and the saucy little fellows actually dared to climb to the very dome of their houses and sit on their hind legs while the boats moved silently up-stream.

The Teton Indians were next visited. They professed friendship and received the presents of the whites gladly. But when Clark attempted to put out from the shore, a Teton gave the signal and instantly his followers seized mast and rope. Others made ready for war. Clark and twelve of his followers began to load the



Prairie Dogs

small gun on board the keel boat and others of the party made ready their arms. The Indians now swam out to the boat and professed the greatest friendship. They declared their desire to detain the whites was due to a wish that their women might see them. Clark was induced to stay, but how gladly may be guessed from the name he gave the island nearby. He called it "Bad-humored Island." The Indians now prepared to entertain the white men in royal style. Before the chief were placed two flags, the Spanish and American. To these flags the chief extended a bit of the fat dog prepared for the meal. This meant he desired to be friends

with our country. Then he took the long peace pipe decorated with bunches of bright feathers. He pointed it to the heaven, to the four corners of the earth, to the earth itself; made a fine-sounding speech, lighted the pipe and gave it to Lewis and Clark. Then followed supper of dog meat, dried buffalo pounded and mixed with fat, and a queer vegetable dish of which our Irish potatoes seemed to be the chief part. After supper came dancing and the horrible music of the Indians. For instruments there were sticks to which were tied hoofs of deer and goat, and dried skins filled with rocks. If you think you can make a joyful noise with such things, try it. The policeman of this tribe may be interesting to boys. Instead of a bright star on his coat to show his office, he wore at the belt in the back three raven skins with the feathers on. A fourth was placed as a sort of cap on his head, and the fierce bird head projected from the policeman's forehead. At last our party started up-stream, but for miles the Tetons followed, begging for every thing in sight. Lewis and Clark were glad to shake off these beggars and to steer on up-stream into the Northlands.

As autumn advanced, the water in the river became low and sand bars often blocked the way. Men must climb from the boat and wade, tugging and pulling at the ropes, to get the boats through the sand. Later, ice began to be troublesome and Lewis and Clark knew they must tie up for winter. They were now among the Mandans, and the place marked Fort Mandan on Map II was selected for winter quarters. This was a well chosen spot, for five villages of friendly Indians were within easy reach. Sixteen hundred miles they had traveled since they left the mouth of the Missouri. You must remember, though, that they followed not a straight line, but all the curves and bends of the river. Sixteen hundred miles of rowing up-stream or of walking

along the banks, plunging through brush, weeds and heavy grasses in search of food would certainly fit one for rest. Yet there was no rest in sight for our men. Boats must be built to carry back to Washington the maps of this sixteen hundred miles of water road. Houses must be built to shelter our men. Winter is coming and they are in a region where the thermometer may fall to forty below zero. Fortunately, our men are used to hard work, and they set to work with a will. The ax may be heard in the forest and sparks fly merrily from the hammer of the busy blacksmith. A series of warm log houses were soon built in the form of the letter V. On the inside of the hollow triangle was ample room to store away supplies under the sheds built there. The doors of the cabins all open upon the enclosed centre. In the rear were driven stout posts, so close together that no enemy could enter from that side.

The blacksmith found his shop popular with the Indians for he fashioned arrow-heads, tomahawks and ax-heads. These things were exchanged for a goodly supply of corn. This gladdened the hearts of Lewis and Clark for they knew snow would soon cover the land, perhaps many feet deep, and lie on for weeks at a time, possibly for months. But with corn stored away for a wintry day they need have no fear. They hunted too, starting out at daylight and returning only when dark drove them to shelter. The buffalo meat was also dried and stored, for a family of forty-five men will need much food for winter. To buffalo meat the hunters added the flesh of the deer, elk, and beaver. But these were not preserved for the future as carefully as they should have been.

Life was not all hard work at the camp, for on November twentieth the home was completed. It was named Fort Mandan. Indian women sometimes called on our party, but instead of coming in a carriage and sending in a card, they bore on their broad shoulders

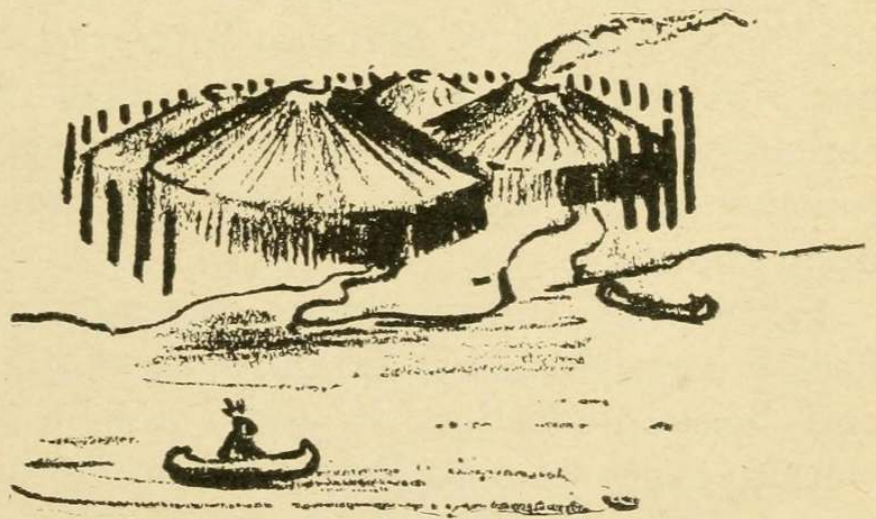
heavy baskets of corn and beans. Instead of being treated to a cup of tea and a wafer, these rugged women gladly accepted the gifts of iron kettles and cornmills. You will remember that these women did all the hard work of the Indian family. (What sort of kettles and corn mills had they used before the white men came?)

Sometimes, too, when the day's work was done, Indians and whites sat together around a great fire and told stories to each other. The story of the origin of the Mandan Indians was very amusing. They told the whites that their first home was far down in the earth beside a great lake. Here all was dark and dreary, for no sunshine came to make them glad. One day a youth found the root of a grapevine hanging over his head. He seized it and began to climb. On and on he went till he came to the surface of the earth. Here he saw the sun, and the trees, and the birds. He gathered grapes, and carried them back down the grapevine root to his friends. All tasted the fruit and liked it very much. They decided to go up and find this land of sunlight for themselves. They began to climb up the root. One after another they climbed, till there were enough people to build nine villages. All might have come to the land of sunlight by this road, but at last a very fat squaw began to climb the root. She was too heavy. The root broke and down she tumbled. The earth closed in about the broken root and shut up the passage-way so the rest were destined to stay forever in the land of darkness. When the Mandan died he believed he returned to this underground land. If he had been good he crossed the great lake to the happy hunting-ground. If he had been wicked he could not cross but must remain in the land of gloom.

The hunting of the winter offered the greatest spice to life. Clark went hunting one day alone. Good luck must have followed his tracks for in a single day he

shot and skinned seven buffalos. Night came on and with it a snow storm. It was useless to try for home, and you or I might have felt there was nothing for us but to perish in the snow. Not so the valiant Clark. He made himself a nice place on the earth and covered it with a buffalo robe with the fresh meat still clinging in bits to the skin. Then he wrapped himself in his one blanket, lay down and covered himself with the robes. If one robe keeps a buffalo warm, surely seven should be enough for a man. It was, for in the morning he arose from his bed, trudged back to the fort and sent men to bring the meat. The Indians had a great device for capturing buffalos. A man would find for himself a crevice large enough to let his body drop through, near the banks of a stream. He would cover himself with a great buffalo robe; letting the head be raised high in the air. The buffalos would follow this queer buffalo creature wherever the man inside might desire to lead. He would lead them to the bank of the stream, drop into the crevice selected for himself, while the great clumsy beasts would come plunging on, forcing the leaders of the herd over the bank into the stream below. The Indian hunters were near to shoot the wallowing beasts. The squaws would dress the meat and bear the heavy burdens home on their shoulders. The women were ever the burden bearers among the Indians.

The Mandan Indian village was interesting. The great houses were round at the base and contained rooms for a number of families.



Mandan Village

The general appearance of each round house resembled a great hay stack. At the exact centre of the roof, that sloped away in all directions like the top of an umbrella, was a hole from which smoke came. This was from the great fire place in the ground immediately under the hole. At this central fire all the families of the great round house cooked. Each family occupied a room the shape of a slice of pie, and the common fire occupied the tip end of all the slices. Had the Mandan Indians been quarrelsome this round house life must have been very hard. They were not quarrelsome, however, but the kindest of friends. If a man were lost the whole village went in search of him. If a friend died they cut off a toe to express their grief. Even the aged and infirm met with kindness among them.

Bitter winter came and at times corn was the only food of our party. Fortunately, the wares of the blacksmith shop always brought corn from the Indians. In April the first rain fell that they had seen in five and one half months. The ice was now gone from the great river and the men prepared for the journey westward to the Pacific Ocean.

Take a slip of paper the length of Kansas on Map No. II., page 21. This represents 400 miles. Apply it to the map from Fort Mandan across to Fort Clatsop, and find how far Lewis and Clark must travel the second summer, if they are to complete the second half of their journey before another winter in the west shall come upon them.

Sixteen of the men were delegated to take the great keel boat back to St. Louis, for, as the river narrowed and became shallow it could not be used. These men were to carry back to President Jefferson the news of the first half of the journey, together with all sorts of stuffed animals that had been secured in the sixteen hundred miles of hunting. Roosevelt's collection of wild animals



from Africa will not be more greatly admired than was this collection first brought from our own far western land.

In April the thirty-two men left behind started on their long westward journey to the Pacific. The weather was fine. Game was plentiful and the mouth of the Yellowstone was reached without adventure. (Find the mouth of this river on Map II.)

But now a serious experience was theirs. Sand, or rather dust, blew from the dry alkali lands. It blew in such clouds the men could not see across the river. Dust sifted into the food. It filled the clothing and even the drinking water was full of it. To our hardy travelers this was disagreeable but soon forgotten, for they loved the blue sky and green plants that greeted them directly.

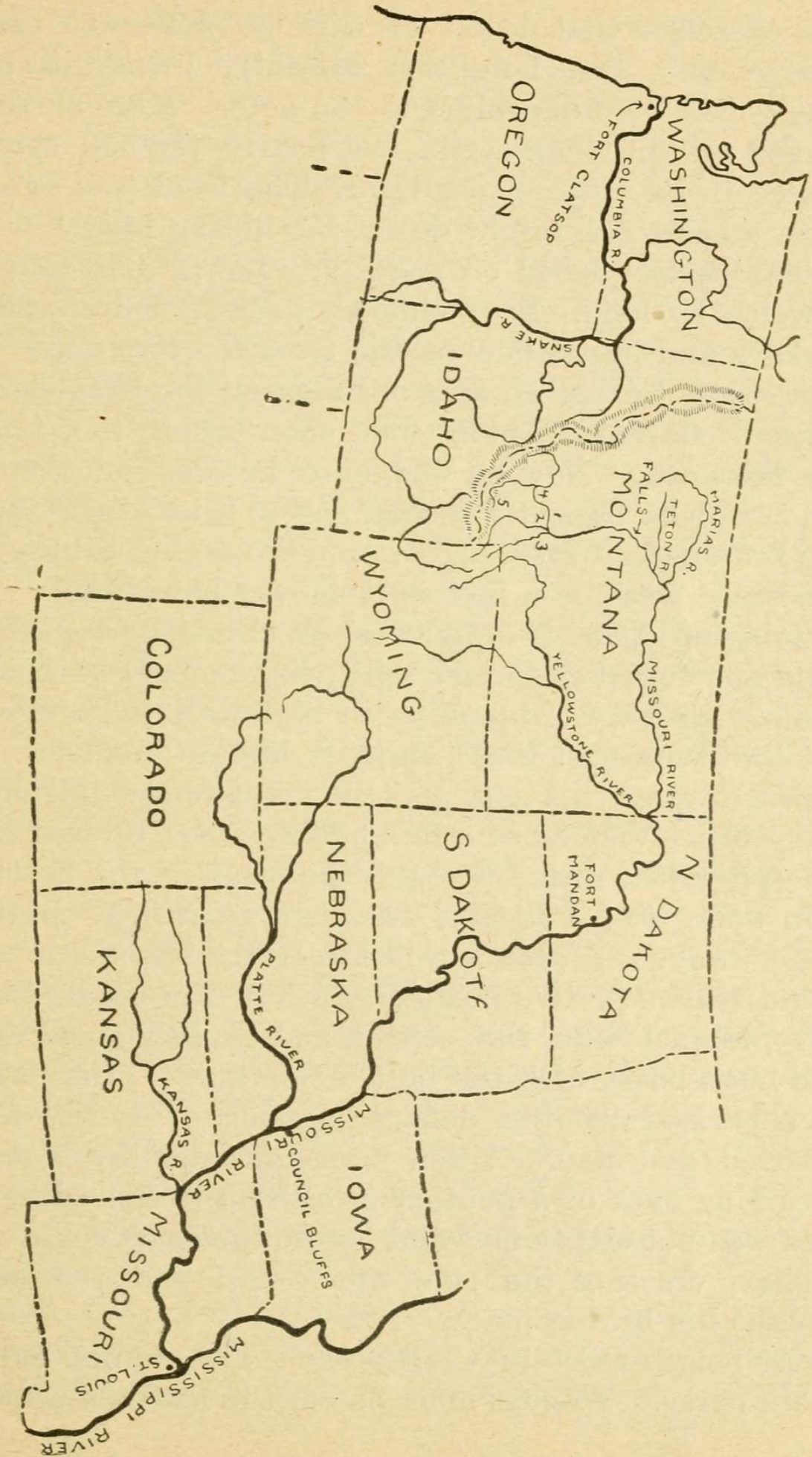
Soon worse things must be encountered, for the country reached now was infested with all sorts of fierce animals. Wolves and bears were seen every day, and now and then a panther or an American tiger. The grizzly bear of all these is most to be dreaded. No Indian dared attack this savage creature unless backed by a party of Indians. Only shots through the head or heart are fatal, and "they have been known to run a quarter of a mile with a shot through the heart before they fell dead." Captain Clark once encountered a grizzly. Ten shots were fired into his body before he reached the river. Even then he swam half-way across the river before he fell dead on a sand bar. At another time a single grizzly terrorized a party of six. The beast was gigantic in size and all six men landed from their canoe to engage in the fight. Two men fired. The shoulder wound they caused only goaded the bear to madness. It sprang at the two with such ferocity that they were glad to spring down the bank into their canoe. The four hid behind trees and shot at the great, maddened creature. Though wounded seven times, the bear

made at the four in so determined a fashion that they, too, plunged headlong for the stream. Three escaped. The fourth was in the clutches of the great beast when a shot from the canoe hit the bear squarely in the head and stretched him dead on the shore.

From the mouth of the Yellowstone on Map II follow along the Missouri. You will see we are approaching the mountains. Many rapids now occur and the men are often waist deep in water, tugging at the boats to get them over the rapids. The stream is constantly growing narrower. In some places the banks were three hundred feet high. Following the Missouri you will see on the map that it soon divides into three branches; the Marias, Teton and Missouri. When the Lewis and Clark party reached the junction of these three rivers they were very much disturbed. Which of the three should they follow? If they took the wrong one they might never succeed in crossing the mountains. They might climb ridge after ridge of the hills till they were exhausted. And as the mountains afforded but little food they might all starve, and perish miserably. Most of the party were for taking the Marias. They said that the water was yellow like that they had gone through. Lewis and Clark said that the southern branch was clear and cold. It must rise high on the mountain ridge. By following the bed worn by this river they believed they could avoid climbing the mountain ridges. A stream probably rose near the source of this river which would lead them through the western slopes of the Rockies and into the Columbia. They followed the southern branch, not the Marias. (Which was the best road to the Columbia?)

For fear a mistake might have been made and that many weary miles would have to be retraced, they decided to hide one boat and a large part of the supplies. To do this a cache was made. The sod was very care-

Map II. Showing Missouri and Columbia Rivers, and General Route Followed by Lewis and Clark.



fully removed. A deep hole was dug. The utmost care was exercised that no bit of dirt be scattered through the grass. The hole was carefully lined with skins. The goods were deposited in the hole. More skins were spread on top, then earth, and finally the sod carefully placed in its original position. The work was so nicely done that no one might detect the hiding place.

The party pushed on merrily. Lewis and four men traveled by land. They shot abundance of deer and wild turkeys and hung them on the trees for the main party that were toiling up stream dragging the boat and supplies. Captain Lewis was soon upon the falls of the Missouri. Now he was sure he was on the right road, for he passed a second and a third fall, just as the Indians had said. Yes, even the eagle-nest they had described was there just as it should have been.

Imagine Lewis' delight as he climbed past all three falls and found the water still deep enough to float his boats. As he was planning in his own mind how best to get the boats past these falls a buffalo bounded past. Lewis leveled his gun and the great fellow fell dead in the grass. Visions of a fine buffalo steak broiled by the camp fire just flitted through the mind of the brave captain when, to his horror, he saw a great bear not twenty steps away. A glance told him there was not a tree he could reach. His unloaded gun left him no alternative. He plunged into the stream and made a stand against the huge beast with the butt of his gun. The bear was so surprised by the defiant manner of Lewis that it whirled and fled. A few moments later Lewis saw the gleaming eyes of a panther crouching in his path. The gun was not empty now and before the beast could spring a sharp crack of the rifle was heard and the panther sought his hiding place.

At length Captain Clark reached the falls with the main party. Wagons must be built to haul the provisions

overland past the falls. For wheels they used cross sections of a cottonwood tree. For axles they took the mast of one of the boats. Not all could busy themselves with the wagon but you may rest assured all were busy. Captain Clark went ahead searching out the best road to follow and driving stakes to mark the way. The hunters were very active getting food. Buffalo meat here was plentiful. Through the narrow passes leading to the falls crowded the great bulky fellows. So eager were they to get water, and so very ill-mannered, that they shoved their fellows right over into the tumbling water of the falls. As they floundered about they were killed and the flesh was jerked for future use. At last the great wagon was done and the men began the very hard task of dragging it, heavily loaded, past the falls. A sail from a boat was used and the wind pushed as hard as it could. Men tugged and pulled till they dropped half dead. Eight miles were passed in this way when the wagon broke down. But by dint of mending it and carrying the provisions the last half mile they passed the falls.

Now before they could proceed by water a boat must be built. A huge tree was selected and a great log, a bit over thirty-three feet long, was cut from the tree. Then began the long process of digging and hollowing necessary to construct the dugout. As the river banks narrow I think you can see how great would be the danger of crushing a boat on the rocks that rise above the water's edge. You can see, too, how serviceable this log boat would be. Soon the party reached the three forks which are numbered on Map II "1," "2" and "3". These rivers they named Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin. (Can you tell where they got the names?) Captain Clark had explored the country ahead and now the party were left in no uncertainty which road to take. Clark had fastened a note in a tree telling them to follow

the Jefferson. As Clark was ill, Lewis now went in advance of the party seeking out the road. Soon the entire party reached the mouth of a creek. A beaver had cut down the tree to which Lewis had tied his note directing them. A short trip up the creek which they called the "Wisdom" soon showed them their folly. They had to pile brush on a swampy island to keep themselves out of the mud during a night's encampment. Next morning they were glad to retrace their journey back to the main channel of the Jefferson.

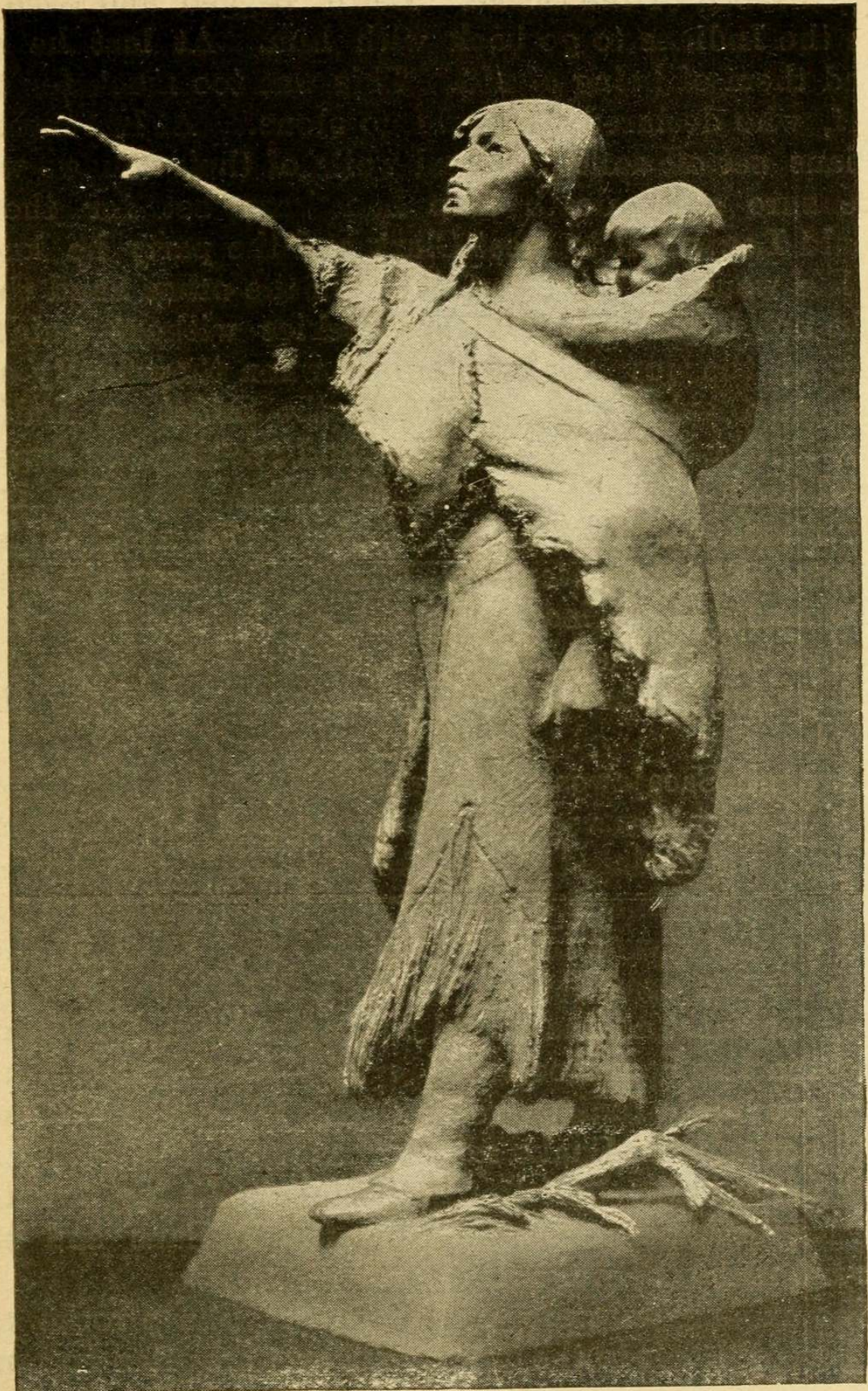
Our men now realized how much they were in need of Indian guides. Lewis set out into the mountain country to find some. The Indians however proved very wary. Again and again they came near enough to see presents hoisted on poles, or to see Lewis spread his blankets from two corners in sign of hospitality. Then they fled into the distance.

At last the Jefferson narrowed till it was but a tiny stream. A man of the party was able to stand astride the stream at the point marked "5" on Map II. This was indeed the head of the great Missouri. Is it not strange that the head is high up in the Rocky Mountains while the mouth lies far away at St. Louis?

On the map you will see how very short the trip from point "5" to the headwaters of the Columbia. A climb less than a mile led them to another tiny stream. It flowed westward and Lewis knew they had but to follow this widening stream to reach the Pacific. How far he had no idea.

The Indians proved friendly but had no meat to set before our party. Some cakes made of dried berries were offered and eagerly devoured. Our friends had not eaten since the day before and food of any sort would have tasted good.

Indian guides must be secured, both to bring Clark and the main party from the Jefferson, where they had



Statue of Sacajawea, the Indian Guide and Interpreter

been left and to guide the whole band through the rugged lands of the Snake. Lewis begged and tried to hire the Indians to go back with him. At last he accused them of being afraid. This was too much for the chief, who declared he would go alone. At last several Indians set off amid the loud wails of their squaws who were sure some death trap had been set for them. Should Lewis fail to meet Clark and the party he knew his life would pay the forfeit. On the other hand they could not hope to cross the Rockies without guides. Imagine the joy of the Indians when they finally approached Clark's party to find in the midst an Indian squaw. She was fairly dancing and sucking her fingers to tell them that she was of their tribe. Rushing into their midst she threw her arms about the neck of her brother. She had been stolen from this mountain band of Indians and carried far down the Missouri. She had married one of the two French guides of the Lewis and Clark party. What a fine interpreter she was for this party!

Through Sacajawea, the squaw interpreter, Lewis and Clark learned how very dangerous was the way beyond. The Indians declared the Snake could not be navigated. Great whirlpools and rapids filled the channel. High rocky walls towered up on the side. For ten days they would cross a desert where no food could be secured. Wild, brutal Indians would fall upon them. Had our men been less courageous all might have ended here. These mountain Indians had ponies. If Lewis and Clark could not sail the Snake might they not ride over the rugged mountains that lined its banks? At last twenty-nine horses were purchased from the Indians and the forward march began.

The mountains were very rugged. Sharp rocks cut the horses' hoofs to the quick. They were often so lame they could not go. At times a horse would lose its feet



and tumble down, down to the crags far below. Thick briars and underbrush tore the clothing of the men and lacerated their flesh. Food became very scarce. Horse-flesh was their only meat. The streams they passed now they named "Colt Killed Creek" and "Hungry Creek." A few dogs were bought from the Indians for a change of food.

Late in September they came to navigable water on the Snake. Trees had to be cut and canoes made again. Horses were branded and given into the care of the Indians and saddles were cached.

Trouble was not yet at an end. The Columbia has narrows and rapids. The boats must at times be carried past them. Heavy rains fell. The fog was so dense that the party could not see its way. Six days of continuous rain soaked men and baggage completely. Food was scarce for so long that when it was obtained all were sick from over-eating.

Finally salt water from the ocean was noted by our party. They knew they were nearing the sea. On Map II you will find Fort Clatsop where they spent the winter of 1805-6. For four months they must wait till the rains were over and the snow somewhat cleared from the mountains before they could return home.

Here they rested until spring, when they turned about and faced the vast expanse of mountains, rivers, and plains which must be covered before their report to their government could be made. Upon this return journey, they set out on the twenty-third of March, 1806. They proceeded up the Columbia and its branches until they reached "Travelers' Rest;" where they had left their horses. This river they had named Clark. Here the company divided into two parties, one headed by Lewis, the other by Clark. Lewis went down the river, and proceeded down the Missouri to the mouth of the Yellowstone, where he was to halt for Clark, who pro-

ceeded up the river: then entered the Yellowstone and joined his comrades with Lewis at the junction of the Yellowstone with the Missouri. Here the parties united and together travelled to the place of starting.

The journal of Lewis and Clark told plainly the road to the Columbia River country, or to Oregon as it was then called. You must not imagine, however, that settlers rushed into that country. In the first place there were no railroads and the journey was about four thousand miles from the Atlantic to the mouth of the Columbia. If land had been scarce in the East, men might have risked much to go to this far West. Illinois was then, however, almost entirely wild prairie lands. With thousands of farms in the Mississippi valley unoccupied, the settlement of the Pacific Coast, many said, could not take place under one thousand years. It was doubtful whether or not so remote a section could ever become a part of the United States. One senator explained that no state could send a Senator from Oregon to Washington, D. C., to take part in our national government. "The traveling expenses," he said, "would make the matter impossible. The life of a congress is but two years. A congressman elected in Oregon could not reach Washington, D. C., before his term expired." (How long does it take our express trains now to make this journey?)

The first to enter this far-away land was the fur trader, for the land was very rich in fur. Mackenzie, who was the discoverer of the river by that name, in Canada, said he found regions on the Pacific Slope in Canada, where "beavers had cut down several acres of large poplars." The English Hudson Bay Company pushed their fur-trading stations into the Columbia valley. The American Fur Company did the same. In 1808 they established headquarters at St. Louis, and hired some hundreds of men who scoured the mountains

for furs. In the autumn the furs were all carried to a green valley between the mountains called a "Hole." Here the agents from St. Louis bought them. Wyeth in his description of the trading at Pierre's Hole says: "William Soublet purchased and carried back to St. Louis furs, worth perhaps \$80,000, in a single season. The British propose to keep the Columbia for fur trading. In order to do this settlers must be kept out for they kill and scare away the game."

American settlers were the only ones to be feared. The British accordingly seized Fort Hall though it had been built by Wyeth, the American. This fort was on the Snake about one hundred miles north of Salt Lake City, and guarded the entry into the Columbia Valley. For a long time they succeeded in turning back bands of settlers by telling them that the lands beyond were miserable deserts where they would all die of starvation, or by the tomahawks of the Indian. At last appeared at Fort Hall two hundred wagons and 875 settlers from the Mississippi valley, led by Marcus Whitman. He had been seven years a missionary in that very Columbia valley and only laughed at the foolish stories of the British. Soon his party were tilling farms in this valley pictured by the British as a dreary desert unfit for white men. The news of this success passed from mouth to mouth as traders passed up and down the Mississippi. Others were encouraged to follow their lead, In 1844 White, our Indian Agent, said we had about 4,000 settlers in Oregon.

In 1846 a treaty was made between England and the United States, fixing our present northwestern boundary at 49°. It was not the fact that Captain Gray of Boston discovered the Columbia that gave us this territory. It was not because Astor of New York settled the first town at the mouth of the Columbia. We did not get the valley of the Columbia because Lewis

and Clark explored it throughout its whole course. All of these helped our claim. The strongest reason for our getting it was, that of the 12,000 settlers in Oregon in 1846, all but 1,000 were from the United States, Lewis and Clark pointed out the way, but the quiet home-builder with his wife and children won for us the present states of Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

In the spring of 1806 they set out for home, retracing their steps over the mountains and down the Missouri. The journey was long and hard, but so carefully did they map the way that all who followed them as traders and home seekers had a sure guide. Thousands, upon horseback, in wagons, canoes and on trains, have followed their maps into the great West.





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