

velocity. A chilling sensation passes over the beholder as he contemplates in this wild and solitary region this fearfully majestic spectacle: and the time is not far in the future, when it will be visited by the curious as one of the wonders of the world.

The agents of the Missouri Fur Company, many years ago, followed up the valleys of the sources of the Platte to the opposite valleys of waters that fall into the great lake of Bueneventura on the other side. They found a good road all the way, and easily passable by loaded wagons; and were so struck with the feasibility of the pass, that they then prophesied, that, within half a century, the waters of the Missouri would be united with those of the western sea by navigable canals. Later explorers have found other passes through the mountains, that afford more direct and easy communication between Nebraska and the country beyond the mountains. Col. Fremont describes the route pursued by him up the head waters of the Platte (Nebraska), which divide the mountains, as peculiar and interesting. He passed over from the Republican fork of the Kansas river, and descended into the valley of the Platte, along the foot of a mountain, and over the long, low spurs which slope gradually down toward the broad valley of that river. He describes the country as being beautifully watered, and every hollow as having a clear, cool, mountain stream. The first morning after entering that valley, he and his party crossed seventeen branches, several of them being large creeks, forty and fifty feet wide, with a swift current, and tolerably deep. They were variously wooded, with groves of aspen and cotton-

wood, with  
Buffalo,  
day, and  
slightly  
they con  
presentin  
grass wa  
spread a  
bottoms  
pasture  
afternoon  
here a  
70 yards  
It was  
wooded  
narrow  
a gorge  
gate.  
it soon  
miles  
mountain  
with p  
The In  
flocks,  
grass,  
it, nat  
above  
as it  
and t  
the g  
lakes