

they continued through the "New Park," and fell into a broad and excellent trail made by buffalo, where a wagon could pass with ease. On the fourth day, or the seventeenth of June, they crossed the summit of the Rocky Mountains, through a pass which he says was the most beautiful he had ever seen. This elevation was about 9,000 feet above the level of the sea, and the grounds were richly covered with grasses, and afforded, besides, some scattering aspen trees.

We have now reached the utmost westerly bounds of Nebraska, and find the purest waters, fine pasture, sublime mountain scenery, crystal lakes and rivulets, bounding brooks, and roaring torrents, a pure, bracing atmosphere, and easy, natural thoroughfares, leading from the Pacific toward the Atlantic, and *vice versa*. Any country, watered by streams as fresh from pure, cool fountains as those which make up the wonderful Missouri, must be rich in that indispensable element. We cannot contemplate the vast distance from the mouth of the Mississippi to the sources of that and the Missouri, and take into account the grand ocean of waters which those streams and their tributaries annually carry to the sea, without wondering that the briny deep has not long ago overflowed its bounds. The ancient inhabitants of the old world, who did not, like Solomon, understand that "unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again," had they seen the "Father of Waters," and this monster tributary, would have been overwhelmed with apprehensions of a second "Noah's flood," without the process of pouring water from the clouds.

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