

therefore, conclude with a summary account of the expedition of one who is entitled, perhaps, to outrank even the great McKensie in the list of accomplished and fearless travellers, Colonel John C. Fremont. No journal of a traveller has yet been produced abounding more in the most interesting and valuable information relative to the climate, soil, geology, and natural history generally of the countries traversed, than the well-written, practical journals of Captain Fremont.

His party consisted of himself, Mr. Prens, a German, as assistant surveyor, a hunter named Maxwell, the famous trapper Kit Carson, two youths as adventurers, and some twenty men, chiefly Canadian voyagers and half-breeds brought up in the service of the fur companies, and habituated to life in the wilderness. After a journey of extraordinary fatigue, Captain Fremont arrived at the ascent of the southern pass of the Rocky Mountains. The perils encountered on the rivers, the hostility of the Indians, and the disturbed state of the north-west territory, the hunting of buffaloes, the various phases of trapper life, and the sufferings of emigrants on their way to Oregon, the descriptions of the trading posts, the manner of getting fresh horses in the place of those worn out by the sufferings of the journey, are all described with an eloquence and fidelity which must be read to be appreciated.

The party reached Fort Laramie on the 15th of July, 1842, a post belonging to the American Fur Company, built of clay after the fashion of the Mexicans. Captain Fremont endeavored to bring up the map of the country as fast as he passed over it, by means of astronomical observations, but he was sadly interrupted. A succession of visitors generally occupied his tent. The war spirit was abroad, and various tribes were warring with each other, without any objection to turn their knives against the white travellers, if a keg of rum or a couple of horses