

same parallels of latitude, storm, and tempest, hail, snow, and sleet hold sul-
len sway.

When Lewis and Clarke took their departure from the coast of the Pacific ocean in the month of March, the surface of the earth was dressed in flowers; the embryo buds had expanded into leaves, whilst the grass in the river bottoms was 12 or 18 inches high.

The following statement of the weather, during the winter and spring they spent there, will not, perhaps, prove uninteresting to the Senate. The temperature changed as they approached the mountains, the highest peaks of which were covered with everlasting snows.

January 7. The loss of the thermometer sincerely regretted. The parties confident that the climate is much warmer than in the same parallel of latitude in the Atlantic ocean. There has been one slight white frost since the 7th of November. We have seen no ice, and the weather is so warm that we are obliged to cure our meat with smoke and fire to save it.

January 12. The wind from any quarter off the land, or along the northwest coast, causes the air to become cooler.

January 14. Weather perfectly temperate; never experienced so warm a winter as the present.

January 25. It is now perceptibly colder than it has been this winter.

January 28. Pretty keen frost; the coldest night of the season.

February. Fair 6, rain 16, cloudy 5, snow 1 day.

February 8. The feeling of the air indicated that rigor of the winter had passed.

February 24. Quite warm.

March. Fair 8, rain 16, cloudy 7. So warm that fire was unnecessary.

March 13. Plants began to appear above the ground.

March 15. Plants put forth their leaves.

March 25. Gooseberry bushes in leaf.

March 26. Humming birds appear.

March 30. Grass sixteen inches high in river bottoms.

Mr. Prevost says that "the climate to the southward of 53° assumes a mildness unknown in the same latitude on the eastern side of the continent. Without digressing to speculate upon the cause, I will merely state that such is particularly the fact in $46^{\circ} 16'$, the site of Fort Gregory. The mercury, during the winter, seldom descends below the freezing point; when it does so, it is rarely stationary for any number of days, and the severity of the season is more determined by the quantity of water than by its congelation. The rains usually commence with November, and continue to fall partially until the latter end of March or the beginning of April. A benign spring succeeds, and when the summer heats obtain, they are so tempered with showers as seldom to suspend vegetation. I found it luxuriant on my arrival, (October 1, 1818,) and during a fortnight's stay, experienced no change of weather to retard its course."

Mr. Irving, in his *Astoria*, says: "A remarkable characteristic of the country west of the Rocky mountains, is the mildness and equability of the climate. That great mountain barrier seems to divide the continent into different climates even in the same degree of latitude. The rigorous winters and sultry summers, and all the capricious inequalities of temperature prevalent on the Atlantic side of the mountains, are but little felt on their western declivities. The country between them and the Pacific is

blessed v
parallel
through
the grou
mountai
months,
cessant,
winds p
usually
bingers
from th
seven
through
by nigh
are not
whites
and bla
and rid
with pe
shining
most ac
vast lan
is attri
extend
of sum
also so
that th
The
ding, v
the Co
"W
oarsme
tained
by the
ducted
us to
of the
dings
laid o
and fl
ates, c
thing
on the
schod
civiliz
when
is the
of wh
corn
horse