

have determined to move to-morrow in any event; we can stop the canoes with mud for a makeshift, and halt the first fair day to put them in better order."<sup>26</sup>

<sup>26</sup> This programme was carried out, and Fort Clatsop was evacuated at 1 p. m., on Sunday, March 23d, 1806.

Thus far in the Biddle edition of the History, the last formal entry by date is Tuesday, Jan. 21st, beginning Chap. vi. of Vol. II. This is merely *pro forma*; for, after a few words of narrative, the chapter is occupied with ethnology to its last page, when a few more words resume the narrative, without date. Then Chapter vii. follows, entirely devoted to botany and zoölogy. Many have wondered why this matter happened to be interpolated just here, and the M'Vickar ed. of 1842 relegates it to the Appendix. Mr. Biddle was quite right. This natural history chapter is in its logical order and proper connection. It was prepared by Lewis and by Clark during their enforced residence at Fort Clatsop, as we have seen in studying Codices I and J, where usually a few words each day dispose of what little journalism the explorers had to indulge concerning their monotonous life, during which they had ample leisure to fill these codices with ethnology and natural history, on the basis of which were wrought Chaps. vi., vii.

After these, in the Biddle edition, Chap. viii. opens without date, but with a skillful *résumé* of the situation of the Expedition during the period from Jan. 21st to March 22d inclusive, and with an account of the way a copy of one of the muster-rolls left at the mouth of the Columbia reached Philadelphia from China. Whereupon, the regular narrative is resumed at date of March 23d. I think this was excellent editing of the Clatsop codices. If I have thought best now to do a little differently, and bring forward the dates *seriatim* from Jan. 21st to March 22d, it may be attributed to the change of historical perspective from 1814 to 1893. Neither Lewis nor Clark, nor Biddle himself, could fully realize at the beginning of this century the weight that their words would carry at its end.

"Probably no two men ever had a task given them of greater difficulty and magnitude, and involving the exercise of more skill, wisdom, intrepidity, discretion, and all manly attributes, and which after an 'experience epic in the grandeur of its unwitnessed valor,' was carried to a complete and successful termination." (Symons.)

END OF VOL. II.