

Eastward, with devious course, among the Wind-
river Mountains,¹
Through the Sweet-water Valley precipitate leaps
the Nebraska;
And to the south, from Fontaine-qui-bout² and
1085 the Spanish sierras,
Fretted with sands and rocks, and swept by the
wind of the desert,
Numberless torrents, with ceaseless sound, de-
scend to the ocean,
Like the great chords of a harp, in loud and solemn
vibrations.
Spreading between these streams are the won-
drous, beautiful prairies,
Billowy bays of grass ever rolling in shadow and
1090 sunshine,
Bright with luxuriant clusters of roses and purple
amorphas.³
Over them wandered the buffalo herds, and the
elk and the roebuck;
Over them wandered the wolves, and herds of
riderless horses;
Fires that blast and blight, and winds that are
weary with travel;
Over them wander the scattered tribes of Ish-
1095 mael's children,⁴ .

¹ *Wind-river Mountains*. A part of the Rockies, in Wyoming.

² *Fontaine-qui-bout*. A stream flowing into the Arkansas.

³ *Amorphus*. Shrubs of the bean family, sometimes called bastard indigo.

⁴ *Ishmael's children*. Indians are thus named because in their nomadic habits they resemble the Arabs, who are the reputed descendants of Ishmael, the son of Abraham and Hagar.