

vessels was setting sail for England. Dr. McLaughlin extended to them his ever ready hospitality, and furnished them with necessaries for the prosecution of their proposed journey up the Fall river and over the mountain country to California. This was a serious enterprise at the beginning of winter, with a party of twenty-five persons, comprising Americans, French, Germans, Canadians, Indians and negroes, but all confided in their leader, and the journey was commenced in a spirit of bravery, obedience and cheerfulness, which all the hardship they suffered failed to derogate from. Circumstances forced them to deviate somewhat from fulfilling the whole plan they had laid out, and they passed far to the south and near to the Pacific Ocean, and along the western base of the Sierra Nevada. Their route brought them to traverse a number of the salt lakes of California. From one of these, near the great Sierra, a remarkable rock rose six hundred feet above the water, presenting from the view the expedition had of it a pretty exact outline of the great pyramid of Cheops. Like other rocks along the shore, it seemed to be encrusted with calcareous cement. The resemblance suggested a name, and it was called Pyramid Lake.

Nearly the whole of this journey was made over ground covered with snow, without forage for the cattle, who when they starved to death were eaten by their famished owners. The Indian guides would pilot them for short distances, then point with their hands the direction they should take, and desert them. They persevered, however, against every obstacle. With too good an American for a leader, to go in any other direction than that pointed out by duty, too brave men to be discouraged by hundreds of miles of untrodden snow, too familiar with death to quail at his embrace, they persevered. But famine was their worst opponent. To form an idea of their condition, to learn how much is due to