

*May 27.* The dove [*Zenaidura carolinensis*] is cooing, which is the signal, as the Indians inform us, of the approach of the salmon. The snow has disappeared on the high plains, and seems to be diminishing fast on the spurs and lower regions of the Rocky mountains.

*May 28.* The river from sunrise yesterday to sunrise this morning rose 22 inches; drift-wood is running in considerable quantities, and the current is incredibly swift, though smooth.

*May 29.* The river rose 6 inches in the course of yesterday, and 17 inches in the course of last night; it is now as high as there are any marks of its having been in the spring of 1805; at 10 a. m. it arrived at its greatest height, having risen  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches from sunrise to that time; in the balance of the day it fell 7 inches. The natives inform us that it will take one more rise before it begins to subside for the season, and then the passage of the mountains will be practicable.

*May 30.* The river continued to fall until 4 a. m., having fallen 3 inches by that time since sunrise; (*p. 519*) it was now at a stand until dark; after which it began again to rise.

*June 2.* The river from sunrise until 10 a. m. yesterday rose  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, from that time until dark fell  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and in the course of last night rose again 8 inches; the Indians inform us that the present rise is the greatest which it annually takes; that when the water subsides to about the height it was at the time we arrived here the mountains will be passable. I have no doubt that the melting of the mountain snows in the beginning of June is what causes the annual inundation of the lower portion of the Missouri from the 1st to the middle of July.

*June 4.* Yesterday the water was at its greatest height at noon; between that time and dark it fell 15 inches, and in the course of the night rose  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches; from Indian information the water will now subside, and may therefore be said to be at its greatest annual height on the 3d inst. at noon.

*June 5.* The river fell  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in the course of the day; this fluctuating state of the river is no doubt caused by the influence of the sun in the course of the day on the snows on the mountains; the accession of water thus caused in the day does not reach us until night, when it produces a rise in the river. The river fell 10 inches in the course of this day. The wild rose is in bloom.

*June 6.* In the course of last night the river rose a little, but fell an inch by morning lower than it was last evening; the seven-bark and yellow vining honeysuckle are just in bloom; a few of the does have produced their young.

*June 7.* The river fell 3 inches last night and 7 yesterday; the gooseberry is fully grown; also the service-berry.

(*p. 520*) *June 10.* The river fell 1 inch last night and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  yesterday; it appears to be falling fast, and in the course of a few days will be as low as it was when we first arrived here; it is now about six feet lower than it has been.

*June 16.* On the top of the hills the dog-toothed violet is just in bloom; grass is about two inches high; small huckleberry is just putting forth its leaves.

*June 22.* Strawberries are ripe at the Quamash flats; they are but small and not abundant.