

Leaving the course of the Platte they crossed over to the Sweet Water, and passing by Rock Independence, and a place called the Devil's Gate, where the Sweet Water cuts through a granite ridge, they came, on the 9th of August, to the summit of the Wind River Mountains, 7490 feet above the level of the sea, three hundred and twenty miles from Fort Laramie. On these mountains are the head waters of four great rivers of the continent; the Missouri and Platte rivers flowing to the east, and the Columbia and Colorado to the west. After spending some days in the effort, the leaders of the party succeeded in gaining the top of the highest peak, 13,510 feet above the level of the Gulf of Mexico. They mounted the barometer in the snow of the summit, and fixing a ramrod in a crevice, unfurled the national flag to wave in the breeze, where never flag waved before.

This point terminated the journey of Captain Fremont, on his first expedition. In the succeeding year, he came again to the same region upon a second tour of exploration, for the purpose of connecting his previous surveys with those made by Captain Wilkes and the officers of the United States Exploring Expedition. In the prosecution of his mission, he had the pleasure of making the first voyage ever made by a white man on the waters of the Utah lake. When they looked from the summit of a peninsular butte upon its waters, and regarded it as an object of their anxious search, and as one of the great points of the exploration, they thought they experienced nearly the same feelings which must have stirred the breasts of Balboa and his men when first they looked upon the waters of the Western Ocean.

After leaving the lake they proceeded on their way towards the Columbia, suffering the greatest privations and hunger. They took in their way Fort Hall, Lewis's river, the Grande Ronde and Wallawalla, and reached Vancouver just as one of the Hudson's Bay Company's