

families, the heads being generally young and active, though a few of them were advanced in life, more particularly one poor woman, upwards of seventy-five years of age, who was tottering after her son to his new home. This venerable wanderer was a native of the Saskatchewan, of which, in fact, she bore the name. She had been absent from this, the land of her birth, for eighteen years; and on catching the first glimpse of the river from the hill near Carlton, she, under the influence of old recollections, burst into a violent flood of tears. During the two days that the party spent at the Fort, she scarcely ever left the bank of the stream, appearing to regard it with as much veneration as the Hindoo regards the Ganges. As a contrast to this superannuated daughter of the Saskatchewan, the band contained several very young travelers, who had, in fact, made their appearance in this world since the commencement of the journey.

"Each family had two or three carts, together with bands of horses, cattle and dogs. The men and lads traveled in the saddle, while the vehicles, which were covered with awnings against the sun and rain, carried the women and young children. As they marched in single file, their cavalcade extended above a mile in length, and we increased the length of the column by marching in company. The emigrants were all healthy and happy, living in the greatest abundance, and enjoying the journey with the highest relish.

"Before coming up with these people, we had seen evidence of the comfortable state of their commissariat, in the shape of two or three still warm buffaloes, from which only the tongues and a few other choice bits had been taken. The spectacle gave us hope of soon seeing the animals ourselves, and accordingly it was not long before we saw our game on either side of the road, grazing or stalking about in bands of between twenty and a hundred, to the number of about five thousand in all."

*July 20.*—The first complaint of the scarcity of water—only one supply, from Turtle River, during thirty-six hours. Game abundant, buffalo, beaver and deer, besides wolves, badgers and foxes. Returned to the immediate valley of the Saskatchewan, reaching Fort Pitt about dark.

*July 21.* Crossed to south bank of the Saskatchewan and traveled about thirty miles through bolder scenery than formerly. At night, first apprehensions of Indians expressed, by hobbling horses and mounting guard.

*July 22.* No water till eleven o'clock, and again, in the afternoon, passed over a perfectly arid plain of about twenty-five miles