

Rocky Mountains, June 27th, 1850

Dear Father and Mother:

I take this opportunity to inform you that David and my self are well. David has had the Diarea but he has got well. As for my part, I am as Stout as a horse and as fat as a bear. We have got along very well, better than I expected; except we got our oxen poisoned 3 days ago but it hurt none of them but broad he is drupy but getting better. We are on Sweete water River; past the devels hole last Monday morning. We are most in Origan, Pervisions are verry Saarce a long the road but we have plenty. Old Ball and lion stands it very well. The cows l ok verry well and give about Six quarts of milk a day, we had had have not used the milk for a week and won't for a few days yet. I have the hole controle of the team and fix every thing my one way. I cut off the end of our waggon bed a bout 20 inches it runs much better, Seven weeks yesterday Sance we left St Josephs, in 7 more weeks we will get Some Gold if no bad luck. We can go if we have our health, team or no team in a few days. I amnot affread while old Ball and lion lives, there is none of them lame yet. The road has been Sandy for Several days, grass scarce. Teams that are two weeks behind us will come verry short for grass. We have seen plenty of snow, for several days on the mountains, warm days we have and cool nights. Some rain occasionally, there is Six wagons of us to gether now and will go through to gether.

I suppose, June the 28th. Storm last night of rain and wind. Clear this morning and an cool. I have know place to write but on a board on my lap. It is done and it is porely done.

Tell M^{rs}ter Margaret she must be a good girl and lern to be a lady. Tell Charles I will give him Some Gold if he will be a Good boy and do what Edward tells him and will not get out of humor any more. I know he will be a good boy.

I want you Edward to take good care of my horses Calves and Sheep and always Say Come Charles and Charles is always there. Thomas and Harriot dont work too harde. Save all you have, keep all you get and take care of your healths, kiss ~~Wm~~ Wm. and Leander for me. I want you all to live wright and to consider the importance of being Prepared when God ~~call~~ cawls us From this ~~troude~~ troublesome ~~world~~ world , death is Certain , and we may never See each others faces again in this world . Let us live So that our last days may be our best days. Farewell

James Campbell

June the 28th Friday morning.

Dear Elizabeth I am quite well and hope these lines will find you and John Sidney enjoying the Same blessing . I want to See you So bad my min is a pon you all the time both day and night. While we are away from each other we have a Friend that is always with us if we live as we Should live or wish that we had of lived when we come to die to think of eternity eternity. Elizabeth, I am trying to make my way to heaven and I want you to help me by your prayers. Dear and affectionate Wife, Farewell.

James Campbell

June 28th . I was on a snowdrift 20 feet deep and snow lasted some within 100 yards of the road. I her today a man say that his brother went last year and made 27 hundred dollars in one day. I would not be Surprised if I ~~had~~ picked up that much money ~~and~~ my Self in a day. The ~~road~~ ~~road~~ road over the mountains has not been as bad as the rode through the state of Missouri. The rode has been generally very good . Better than I expected. I have not much to write but when I get home I will take John on my lap and tell him all about it. C

Rocky Mountains Friday June 28th A.D. 1850.

Dear Father and Mother. We are in good health. Brother James has written most everything to you that we have to write but I thought I would fill up this place with something.

"e came on the Black Hills at Fort Laramie though we took what is called the River road. It is not so stony nor hilly. "e had tolerable plenty ^{grass} (grafs ?) all through them. On the 18th of June we came to Platte River.

There was a great many people scattered along for several miles wanting to cross and a great many at the ferry which was 12 miles above us. There they ~~changed~~ charged \$5 dollars for a wagon 4 dollars a yoke for cattle and one dollar for a man.

All this made me feel a little blue but as we were going a long we found some men who had a raft to sell. We gave 3 dollars for it. The next day we crossed all over safe and of course I was quite cured of the blues. We then sold our raft for 2 dollars so that it cost us 16 2/3 cents so that is what one seemingly very great difficulty dwindled down to. We then started to cross to Sweet Water river a distance of 62 miles and scarcely any grass and but little water in this desert.

We got our oxen poisoned by drinking Alkali water. It did not hurt any of them but broad. He is about well. We got a cross to Sweet Water in three days. Since then we have crossed it seven times. We are now within three miles of the highest point of the South Pass.

The road has been much better than I thought it could be to be such tremendous mountains on each side. It has been sandy for several days which makes it very good on the oxens feet. None of our cattle are lame but most every team has more or less lame cattle. We take the best of care of our cattle. We walk most all the time while a great many persons are so miserable indolent that they are piled up in the wagons and finally their oxens show the difference between

between those who ride and those who walk. Our cattle are in very good order and if nothing happens I think there is no doubt but we will get through early . Good night.

Saturday 29th

This is a pleasant morning . We had considerable wind last night . Our cattle are now in first rate grass and we are not going to start very early. We expect to drive slow now for a few days in order to let our cattle pick up a little. It is eight miles from here to the Pacific Springs and 16 miles from there to the forks of the road going to Salt Lake City and Fort Hall. We will take the Fort Hall road but I expect we will go to California as there is a sufficiency of grass. I think it is pretty certain that we will be in California at any rate between the 15th of August and first of September. We will get into diggins some two hundred miles before we get to Sacramento city/ and we expect to prospect along to find the best places and make something to lay in our winter provisions. We have plenty to last 2 1/2 months yet very plentiful. We bought a small keg of pickles for two dollars and one bushel of beans for one dollar. These we got from men who were going to pack through. We could get \$8 dollars for the lot. It is our business to see what can be done and if there is any specters ?? to be made we generally have a part in it.

I want you to be happy, contented and cheerful and don't be sad when you hear bad reports but depend upon Him who can help in time of need. Dear brother Edward, be careful of the farming ~~things and seed~~ things and see that them oxen and keep moving/ I expect to be back before long with plenty of the gold and you must have plenty of hogs, horses cattle and corn. Then we will divide. Read God's word and act accordingly . Brother Charles you and I left home first together. We had a great deal of sport and considerable trouble. We have a kind of an average of the thing.

We have killed but little game . There is plenty of it but people keep it away from the road. The old gun shoots first rate. Read the good Book and follow it.

Dear Sister Margaret. Be a good girl and learn your book. Obey your parents and love God . Brother Thomas and Sister Harriet , William and Leander, be cheery and contented. I suppose you are doing well and I want you to continue to do so. Sister Elizabeth James is in good order and stout as the next fellow. He and I can drink a half pint of grease and never flinch. It sticks first rate. Farewell to all.

David L. Campbell

P.S. You must give our respects to Mr. and Mrs. Morey and such others as are worthy.

Saturday: June 29th

Started down the western slope of the Rocky Mountains . Traveled three miles to the Pacific Springs. We stoped at noon and in tend staying until Monday. We have plenty of grass . Three or four miles from the camp two men herd the cattle at a time. 48 head of cattle, so it don't come hard on any of us. 24 miles from here to the forks of the road 63 miles from here to the desirte.

We expect to stop when we get there and let our oxen rest two or three days. Then we will role through in double quick time .

Sunday, June 30th:

It froze ice in the bucket last night. Warm today. We have been baking pies today. We live fat on pies. Farewell to all.

James Campbell

Sunday June 30th:

We stoped here yesterday to noon and concluded to stay until Monday. We are now on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains and I

feel like I was something nearer the gold mines and I am in great hopes that we will not have any great trouble.

We will be on a desert of 35 miles after traveling 63 miles. There is grass but no water. I expect from what I heard that we will be through in from ⁶six to ⁸eight weeks though we will be able to hold out 10 or 11 weeks with provisions I bought this morning, a side of meat at 5 cents a pound most kinds of provisions are very high. I think that from all that I can learn that grass is more plenty from this on so when we come to grass we will fare well. I will not have another opportunity that I know of to write to you until I get to California though be assured that I will not be negligent about business. And if you don't hear from us for some time trust God and don't despair. The mail starts from here tomorrow. May the Lord assist us to do his will and permit us to meet once more in the flesh.

Farewell

D.L. Campbell

Findley undertaking parlors, Portland
Campbell who went to Oregon, his daughter or
granddaughter married the Findleys.