Excerpt from the Diary of James Garfield

Library of Congress

Saturday, April 17, 1875

Dictated a large number of letters. Went to the Capitol and arranged for sending off a large number of public documents. Went to the D. [O.?] Treasury and War Departments and finished a number of errands and uncompleted matters. In the afternoon looked over my accounts since October last, and arranged for sending off documents ready for distribution in the Interior Department. In the evening Colonel Rockwell and Dr. [Lindermann?] called and talked of California. Left fully detailed arrangements for paying shop bills and for expenses of the family during my absence, and at 11 p.m. bade good by to the dear one's at home. At [11:10] took the Baltimore and Ohio train for the West and was soon in my berth grieving at the separation

Sunday, April 18, 1875

Awoke near the summit of the Allegheny Mountains amid a snow storm. All eight to breakfast at Grafton. At twelve crossed the Ohio at Benwood. At three took dinner at Lanesville. Supper at Shelby at 7 p.m. At 9.30 reached Sandusky. At 9.55 took the train west. Reached Toledo at midnight and finding no sleeping berth, stopped over night at the Boody House. During the day I read Henry V and was greatly pleased with the power of the great dramatist. I regret that I have not with me a history of England covering the period of his reign. If I get time I will write the story of the play for the children to supplement Lamb's volume.

Monday, April 19, 1875

This day I ought to have spent in Lexington Mass in celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of the opening of the Revolution. I was to have responded to a toast to the Great West but the Pacific Coast called me away. After breakfast I read the papers and wrote a letter to Crete and the children. At noon took the train for Chicago. The day was cold and unpleasant. I slept some on the way and reread portions Henry V. Many of the current literary quotations find their origin in this play. On passing South Bend, I was reminded of the day when Colfax was so much of a power when I campaigned in this district and he was so beloved. It is sad to think how soon he has dropped down from his high place in the public esteem and how unjustly he has been treated. Reached Chicago at 9 pm and stopped at the Grand Pacific Hotel.

Tuesday, April 20, 1875

Called on several friends and acquaintances among others Col G. S. Hubbard Jr. After lunching at Thompson we drove to see my lots on Armitage Street near Milwaukie Avenue. They lie about

half a mile beyond the present termimus of the horse railroad, and near the city boundary. Their value is small at this time, and I don't think they can be very valuable for many years, but if I keep them till Jimmie is of age they may be worth $30,000, now they would not sell for more than $5000. In the evening called on Mrs. Ralston and her party with whom I am to make the journey to Frisco. They are Mrs R, a lady about 45 years of age, Mrs Petty, a lady of 55, Miss Leland, daughter of Warren Leland, Miss Stone and Miss of N. Y. Finally Governor Edw McCook, Henry Hart and I make up the party. Wrote letters and read Shakespeare until eleven.

Wednesday, April 21, 1875

It is now nearly certain that we cannot leave before Saturday. It I had know this sooner I could have gone to Cleveland and to Hiram, but now I might sit still and wait it out. Read the first and second parts of Henry the VI, which (the first especially) are the least powerful and attractive of any of Shakespeare's works I have read. Had a long visit with Frank Palmer of the Inter Ocean and with Joe Medill of the Tribune. The latter gave me the particulars of a long conversation he had with E. B. Washburne in Paris about the Presidency and the reasons W gave why he would not run. Medill also gave me some curious gossip about the early like of Blaine, and its relation to his availability as a candidate for the Presidency. Casino and Shakespeare in the evening

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1875

Took a long ride with young McKeeler a student who crossed the ocean with me in 1867. He was then on his way to Berlin to study. He told me his history since that time. He drove me to his place in Hyde Park and introduced me to his wife. They are comfortably situated and have one child. He has been very successful in business as a builder and seller of houses. In the evening our party attended the Theatre and heard Maggie Mitchell in "Fanchon" The little woman as a strong hold on her auditors, though I think her voice is losing something of its old sweetness. Read the second part of Henry VI until a late hour. It is readable as a historical work, but it must have been a failure as a drama on the stage.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1875

Went shopping in the fore[after]noon with our party, who were making preparations for the journey. In the afternoon had a long visit with Senator who leaves for Washington tonight. Not thinking it prudent to write to Blaine the subject of Medill's conversation, I communicated it to Allison who has agreed to see Blaine in New York. I then wrote to Blaine telling him to see Allison without fail. It is one of the Satanic characteristics of our journalism that it leaves no part of private life sacred from its touch. Wrote many letters and prepared to leave for the West in the morning. Saw Governor Cadwallader Washburn of Wisconsin. Talked of the Delano Scandal as it appeared in the newspapers this morning.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1875

Our party were seated in the Director's car of the U.P.R.R. at 10 a.m. and started by the Burlington and Quincy Road. The air of the prairie was chilly and skirts of snow lay along the fences and in the ditches by the road side. During the day I read Henry VII and played Casino. We took dinner at Mendota Illinois and had supper in the cars. At sun down we crossed the Mississippi at Burlington on the new iron bridge and entered Iowa as the shaddows were gathering over us. The Director's car has a kitchen in one end a sleeping berth adjourning and next to that a parlor or sitting room in which Governor McCook and I slept on bed lounges. At the rear end is a gentlemens toilet and smoking room. The party is a pleasant one with enough variety of character to make it possible for each to find novelty in the rest. At half past ten we were all asleep.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 1875

Rose at seven and at 8 o'clock we took breakfast in the Pullman Palace bar adjoining ours. At mine we came in sight of Council Bluffs where, 72 years ago Lewis and Clarke landed from their canoes and held a council with the Indians nations who then possessed this country. I think of their [expedition] explorations with pride and admiration and with a feeling of regret that there are no more such [expeditions] explorations to be made on the globe. We crossed the swollen Missouri to Omaha at 10 o'clock, where I touched the soil of Nebraska for the first time. Dispatched a long letter to Crete. At nine we had stocked our car with provisions and were away to the Westward leaving at Omaha 1500 [migrants?], bound for the Pacific, who are detained by a break in the road. We go in advance to make the first crossing. Spent the afternoon in reading and in looking at the country watered by the broad and shallow Platte.

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1875

Awoke on the broad waters of the Platte and near the line of Wyoming Territory. Our route is near the old overland trail, and, though it is still a wild and desolate country, here and there a cabin appears and the usual [seens?] scenes of a pioneer land. Towards noon we came in sight of the Rocky Mountains covered with snow. Soon Long's Peak and Pike's Peak appeared in the southwest and the sun lighted up with glory the snowy tops of many peaks. The soil is barren for want of water. No life appears except the Gophers a multitude of which sat on end near their holes to stare at us as we passed. About [ten] one in the afternoon we reached Cheyenne and stopped an hour. [Wh] Wrote a long letter to the children. Governor Thayer, late U.S. Senator, came on the train and talked a long time. Saw Lieut Hayden Delany of the Army, an Ohio boy from Ropedale, named after A.S. Hayden. Several old Army friends also called at the station. Major Wolcott rode with us for an hour and I had a long talk with [

Tuesday, April 27, 1876] him in regard to John Delano's affairs here in the Territory, which are shameful enough and ought to make a change in the head of that Department. We stopped a

few moments at Sherman 8200 feet above the sea -- the highest point on the road -- and then commenced to cross the Larabee Plains which are beginning to bloom into a green, [and] like a vast meadow. Before many years they will be covered with sheep and cattle enough to supply the markets of the East. Just as night was coming on we saw a small herd of antelope bounding gracefully across the slope.

Tuesday, April 27, 1875

Awoke among the Alkali Plains. No vegetation except sage brush. At ten o'clock we reached Rock Springs. After waiting an hour our train [sl] moved slowly down to the one remaining break in the road. The snows of the mountains melting a few weeks ago and an unusual flood filled the channels of Green River and Bitter Creek and in many places covered the track to the depth of several feet, embarkments were washed away and bridges swept off. The great energy of the company had already restored the road to a passable condition except one bridge and that will be done so that we can pass over it tomorrow. Hundreds of wagons drawn by mules are transferring passengers and baggage around the break, a distance of 2 1/2 miles. After spending an hour or two at the bridge we ran back to Rock Springs where we spent the remainder of the day and night. Wrote [the] to Crete and read Richard III, which is a much more powerful play [and able] than either of the three parts of Henry VI, but Richard is such a despicable character that I wonder the piece could ever be popular on the stage.

Wednesday, April 28, 1875

We lay at Rock Springs awaiting for orders until near noon. At one the train moved forward and in an hour we had passed slowly over the break and were on our way. The night closed in upon us as we entered the Weaver Canon and by starlight we saw the high cliffs and crags that looked down upon the train. A little after midnight we arrived at Ogden, where we where detained an hour transferring baggage and passengers to the Central Pacific Road. In this shallow mountain basin, a wierd strange nature exists -- and a strange people, the Mormons dwell, both affording interesting materials for thought. As I retired to rest near one o'clock we were passing [Cossine?] further to the west than I have ever been on this line.

Thursday, April 29 - 1875

Awoke in the Great American Desert on the banks of the Humbolt River. It would be difficult to find a more desolate prospect than that which surrounds us on all sides. Alkali dust rolling in white choking eddies, stunted sage brush and burning sand in the foreground and the bold mountains in the distance. The little railroad towns along our route are the brave symbols of the struggle of man against savage nature. Late in the afternoon we passed Winnemucca named after the late Chief of his tribe who lives in this region. Not far from here the Humbolt River sinks mysteriously into the sand and is lost. So, also, do several other rivers in this region. It is

still uncertain whether they perish by evaporation or escape in a subterranean passage to the ocean. This day has been the most uncomfortable one of any day of the trip. At Elcho dispatched a letter to mother. Passed Humbolt Station as night was closing in upon us.

Friday, April 30, 1875

Rose early and found we were ascending the slope of the Sierra Nevadas along the Truckee River. The hills and valleys are thickly wooded with pine and the clear stream flowing from Lake Tahoo rushes down with foam and roar past Truckee and through bright looking towns, whirling through miles of snow sheds catching glimpses of Lake Donner and [at] at 7 a.m. stopped a few moments at Summit Station, the highest point of the road of Sierras. The show lay deep on all sides, but the birds were singing in the bright sunshine and pure air; then we descended rapidly and by ten oclock were among the mines, where the waters from the great flumes were washing[ton] down the hills to enable the workmen [to] to catch the particles of gold. A little later passed Colfax and then Rockland, where are granite quarries and then we were among the roses and vines. Before noon we had passed through Sacramento and after a delay of half an[d] hour were streaming down the broad and beautiful valley of that river. The farmers were cutting their hay (they call oats and barley hay) and the country was in its harvest season. Passing to the south east of San Francisco we turned to the north west through a gap of the Coast Range and reached [the ocean] Oakland a little after dark. Crossed the ferry where our pleasant party broke up. Cook and I going alone to the Grand Hotel.

Saturday, May 1 - 1875

Awoke after a long and sound sleep feeling well, except when I have indications of an attack of the piles probably resulting from the long railroad jaunt. Telegraphed to Crete of my safe arrival. Wrote several letters and spent a portion of the day on the streets taking in the strange sights of this curious city. Received several calls, among others, among others an invitation from Mr Ralston to go with him and his family to Belmont which McCook and I accepted. At 4.40 p.m. met him at the South Pacific Railroad Station and in an hour we were at Belmont Station, where his great stages drawn by splendid horses whirled us a mile away by the beautiful ravine which led to his country residence, one of the loveliest suburban homes I have ever seen. Twenty-five guests accompanied him and after an elegant dinner the evening was spent in music, promenades and pleasant conversation. Retired at eleven and soon the bracing air brought sweet and refreshing sleep.

Sunday, May 2, 1875

Rose at 1/4 before 7 and after taking a cup of coffee and two eggs joined Mr. Ralston and a party of ten on a splendid drive of twelve miles along the Bay passed Redwood and stopped at several fine country seats, among others that of Mr Selby and that of Mr Atherton, where I saw

the glory of this semi-tropical climate, in their shrubery and flowers in their great Eucalyptus from Australia, almond trees from South America, oranges half ripe, lemons nearly ready for picking. English walnuts growing beside the Northern apple and peach and a wonderful luxuriance and variety of vegetation. Returned to Belmont at half past ten and at 11 sat down to a bountiful breakfast. At two o'clock we drove ten miles to the northward passing through the grounds. Stopped a short time at the residence of D. O. Mills. Then took the train at his station and reached San Francisco between 5 and 6. Found letter from Crete and wrote a long letter home.

Monday, May 3rd, 1875

At eleven o'clock Senator Sargent called at the hotel and I went with him and Governor McCook to visit the U.S. Mint. Dr. Lindermann, the Director of the Mint, had given me a letter of [Intr[introduction to General La Grange, the Superintendent and was desirous that I should examine the character of the building and the operations of the Mint. I spent several hours in a careful study of the processes by which parted bars are assayed and converted into coin. I think I fully comprehend all the steps in the process, [and that] The Trade Dollar which we are now coining, has proved to be a great success. They have met the want of China and Japan, particularly the latter country who have heretofore used the Mexican dollars. This mint is producing six hundred thousand of them a month. I have promised to visit it again and discuss the wisdom of establishing a refinery in pursuance of an appropriation made last Winter. Spent some time in the afternoon at the bookstores and in receiving calls. A large number of U.S and state officials called.

Friday, May 4 1875

At half past 9 o'clock, by a previous appointment Mr. Hart brought Mrs. Ralston and Miss Leland and took us with them to visit the steamer "City of Pekin" which is to sail for Yokahama on the 15th. We spent an hour on board her. She is the second largest steamer in the world, the Great Eastern exceeding her in tonnage. At half-past eleven went to the Cosmopolitan Hotel where I joined Senator Sargent for a visit to the Chinese Quarters. We procured the services of Captain Leese one of the city officials and a Chinese interpreter and spent several hours in going through their Josh houses, their manufactories, restaurants and private dwellings. The small space into which so many thousands of human beings are crowded would insure pestilence but for the fact that the purifying breezes from the ocean which daily visit this city, have a decided sanitary effect. During four or five hours of the afternoon they [pl] blow steadily. I am not surprised at the two sharply contested opinions in regard to the Chinese, one in their favor, the other in their detestation. Their modes and thoughts of life are utterly unlike ours. I see no reason why they cannot drive us out of all the smaller forms of hand manufacture at any time they choose. Governor McCook and I took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Ralston at their rooms on

California Street and in the evening we went with the ladies to the Theatre to hear Mrs. Bowers, in "Mary Queen of Scots."

Wednesday May 5, 1875

In company with General [Burns?] of the Army, who lives at the Grand Hotel, I made the tour of the Bay in the Quartermaster's Boat. We stopped at Lyme Point, Alcatraz Island and at Angel Island. At the latter place took a lunch with Col. Nelson - a brother of General Nelson, who was killed by General J. C. Davis. We then climbed to the highest point in the vicinity of the Post, where I had a fine new of the Bay. On our way to and from Angel Island I obtained the first full view of the Golden Gate_the narrow strait which connects this beautiful bay with the main ocean. I rejoice in the magnificent future which certainly awaits this City and Bay. I am glad of the part I have taken in making liberal appropriations for the various public works in this country. Returned to the City suffering greatly from a renewed attack of the piles.

Thursday, May 6, 1875

Remained in my room all day writing, reading and nursing my malady. It is very trying to me to have this affliction when I want to use every waking our in travel and observation. The marvelous rapidity with which this city has been built up; the rare energy of the people who by the law of natural selection are among the foremost from all our states, make this coast a study of the deepest interest to me. They tell me and I think it is true, that in this pure bracing air, a man can do more work than in the Eastern states.

Friday, May 7, 1875

Today was in the main a repetition of yesterday except that I went with Jessie Healy, formerly of Newburgh, Ohio, to the office of his company and gave them some advice in regard to a threatened suit for interference with their rubber paint patent. Also saw, in the upper story, the process for making mirrors, which was very interesting. I should have mentioned also, that I went with General Burns to Army Head Quarters and called on several officers. In the office of General Robert[s] Allen, Quartermaster, I saw a series of remarkable portraits, alleged to be portraits of bible characters, such as Moses, Aaron, Mary and Christ. Whatever may be said of the pretense that they were taken through the hands of a house carpenter and his wife, who possessed no knowledge of art, the pictures themselves are very remarkable, some of them most impressive and in my judgment superior to those of the great masters. General Allen is himself now absent across the sea. His daughter is about to be married to an Asiatic Nobleman, at Beirut.

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1875

I had supposed that I was out of the reach of politics and patronage, but this morning William Richards Jr. of Warren Ohio called with letters of introduction and asked me to assist him in procuring employment. I promised to do what I could for him for he is a bright, intelligent young man recently married. His father is broken up in the iron business. At 4.40 this afternoon went with Governor McCook to Belmont to visit my friends the Ralstons. They had a very large and interesting party; among them Junius Brutus Booth (brother of Edwin) who formerly spent some time in San Francisco and is now temporarily here on some business. He gave me a great many interesting reminiscences of his father and also anecdotes of his own career as an actor. Also discussed the fitness of the different historical plays of Shakespeare for the stage. John W. Young and wife of Salt Lake were also guests and I had a long conversation with her in regard to the institution of polygamy. Retired early still suffering from the piles.

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 1875

I did not take the morning ride with Ralston down towards San Jose but rested and read and visited the beautiful grounds of Belmont. Among all the elegancies of their table, Mr and Mrs Ralston have not forgotten to serve a homely dish of generous buttermilk to all who like it. I was among the number. At two oclock we took a drive to Mr Mills' place and then back to San Mateo where we took the train for the city. At half-past seven in the evening General McCook and I dined with Ralston at his rooms on California Street. The ladies had not yet come up from Belmont. Mr Ralston gave me the most clear and satisfactory account I have ever had of the great business depreciation in California from 1867 to 1872. The causes may be summed up -- first -- a series of bad seasons, producing short crops, -- second -- the granger movement among the farmers inducing them to send their grain direct to Europe, without the aid of middle men, and their failure to get a good price for it, -- third -- and chief -- the Great Earthquake, which led to a general distrust of the physical stability of the state. Ralston's description

MONDAY, MAY 10, 1875

of the earthquake and his efforts to overcome its financial effects at home and abroad, was most graphic and interesting. At nine oclock this morning Dr Ellinwood, Supt of the Marine Hospital, called by previous appointment and drove me through the city up its steep grades to the park and the heights westward and thence across the peninsular to the beach of the main ocean. We drove for nearly half a mile on the smooth white sand (the water gently whetting our wheels, and thence mounting by a steep way we reached the Cliff House, where we spent some time in studying the curious scene on the Seal Rocks, where hundreds and thousands of the sleek lazy sea-lions (cows and pups) were basking in the sun on the rocks and barking in full chorus. Returned by another route and visited the new Marine Hospital near the Presidio; thence drove into the city arriving about noon. Dr Ellinwood sent me some pile remedies before evening but everything I use seems to be only a palliative.

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1875

Wrote letters in the morning and about ten oclock visited the officers of the Central Pacific Railroad and was very kindly received, especially by General Colton. While there met with William Rhodes (Harry Rhodes brother) who was so homesick a few years ago when he was a student at Hiram. He is a relative of Mrs Crocker of Sacramento. In the evening dined at General Coltons. He has a very beautiful residence on the Heights of the town. Mr Crocker was also a guest. After dinner played a couple of games of billiards with Colton and then returned to the Hotel to make ready to start for the Yosemite tomorrow.

Wednesday, May 12, 1875

In the [afternoon]forenoon [road] [I] wrote letters made and received calls and at half past three o'clock started by the Oakland Ferry on the [ ] Railway for Stockton on the road to the Yosemite Valley. Our party consisted of General Burns and wife and two daughters. Mr and Mrs George Wells, General Hardenburgh and wife, Mrs Burton and son, Edward McFarland of San Francisco, Mr Manning of Boston and myself. We dined at Stockton, then took the train to Mercede where we arrived at half past ten and spent the night.

Wednesday, May 12, 1875

Though still suffering from the piles I can not forego the pleasure of seeing Yosemite.

Thursday, May 13, 1875

After an early breakfast our party took the stage at half past six o'clock along the San Joaquin Valley, by the way of Hornitus and Marriposa. We dined at the later place, which was founded by Fremont, in 1847 or 8], in the expectation that it would be a great city and that his tract of land would make him one of the wealthiest of Americans. The spot was pointed out near our dining place, where he erected a little adobe office. The streets still bear the names of his Jessie and her father. The town is steadily decaying and is a mournful monument of great hopes never realized. Fremont was really a citizen of Marriposa when the young Republican Party made him its standard bearer in 1856. After dinner we continued our journey along the foothills. I suffered very greatly from piles during the latter half of the day and when we reach Clark's Ranch[e] in the dusk of the evening I could scarcely sit up so great was my pain.

Thursday, May 13, 1876.

Friday, May 14, 1875

Refreshed by sleep and a good breakfast of mountain trout, I was able to go with the party on horseback, and we left Clarkes at 8 [?] in the morning to visit the [bill] big trees in Marriposa Grove five and a half miles away. Miss Zada Palmer of Steubenville joined us, and the party

ascended the mountain by a narrow zigzag trail and at 11 oclock we were among these marvelous Sequoias Giganteas. It is consoling to our American pride that the English Botanists did not succeed in affixing to this tree the name "Wellingtonian," but that it was named after the Indian who made himself a second "[Cadmus?]" by inventing an alphabet for the language of his tribe. The trees grow on me the longer I stay among them. Our 18 horses, standing nose to tail, complete the circle around the Grizzly Giant, as near as we can reach the roots! We had a pleasant lunch in the second grove (near the foot of the General Grant) and drank pure cold water that flowed from the roots of a neighboring "Sequoias"

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1875

To look upon a tree that antedates the Christian Era; that was in lusty vigor when Rome was founded; that is older than the Iliad--is a thing not to be passed over lightly. I came down from the mountain feeling as though I had communed with the monarchs of the classic days. We arrived at Clarkes at half past 4 pm, and after enjoying our dinner spent a pleasant evening and night.

Saturday, 15, 1875

Breakfast at six and the stages ready to take our party at half past six onward to the Yosemite. But when we awoke the ground was covered with snow. During breakfast the storm increased and when the stage drew up at the door there was three inches of snow on the ground and the air was thick with the largest flakes I ever saw General Hardenburgh insisted that it was dangerous to attempt the journey; that we would probably be snowed in so that the stage could neither go forward nor return. Most of the party determined not to go, but an old Scotchman from near Glasgow

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1875

and Miss Palmer of Ohio, quietly took their seats in the stage. I followed and finally General Burns and family joined us, and at half past seven we started out against the warnings and protestations of the remainder of the party. We ascended the mountain slowly and the storm increased so that by half past ten oclock there was eight inches of snow and it seemed doubtful if we could make the journey. When we were ten miles out a horseman met us to order all stages back that [might] may have started, and our driver immediately turned his team to go back. We interposed and forbid him to go, telling him we would take the lines ourselves if he did not obey us. The horseman was ordered back to Yosemite to get saddle horses to meet us at the end of the stage journey and we started on. In a few moments more a Mrs Wells and Mr Manning of Boston, led by the Mexican Guide "Stephano" overtook us on horseback. They were soaked through with the melted snow which now began to fall in heavy masses from the trees. We gave seats in the stage to Mr Manning and Mrs Wells and Miss [

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 1875

] Palmer and I took the horses and joining Manning and the guide rode forward. From the slopes of the mountains the scene was one of peculiar grandeur fine pine forests stretching away to the limit of vision white with its burden of beautiful snow, which under the heat was falling in immense masses upon our track. About three oclock we reached the end of the stage route and began to descend by the Mariposa trail. Just as we were reaching the bottom a heavy thunderstorm came on and a few splendid peals reechoed from the opposing cliffs of the Yosemite. After a sharp shower of ten minutes the sun burst forth in full splendor disclosing the wonderful beauty of Bridal Vail Fall and the grand doorway to the Yosemite formed by the El Capitan on the left and the Cathedral Rocks on the right. At four oclock we reached the first hotel which was full to overflowing. Went to Black's and after much difficulty secured rooms for our ladies. At 1/2 past five o'clock the remainder of our party who were in the stage arrived. I slept at night in a narrow bed put up in a bathroom across the road from Black's Hotel. [

MONDAY, MAY 17, 1875

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Sunday, May 16th, 1875

At nine oclock, our party mounted our mustang horses and started up the valley. We entered the Central Canon, and climbed along a zigzag route, which led to the foot of the Nevada Fall, and we stopped for two hours, at Snow's, close beside the Cap of Liberty. The view at this point is wonderfully grand and beautiful. After taking dinner, at Snow's, we slowly returned, reaching our hotel at half past six. This evening and night I suffered dreadfully from the piles and was able to sleep but little during the night.

Monday, May 17th, 1875

This morning visited Mirror Lake spending an hour around its shores, returning to Blacks to Lunch. At one oclock we started on the tour to the foot of the Upper Yosemite Valley, the distance by the trail being about 6 miles. This was a long journey, but the display of heighth and depth of the various points along the trail was very remarkable. Returned to the hotel at 6 o'clock. The effect of the moonlight as the nearly full moon arose over Signal Rock was very beautiful. I am suffering too much tonight from the piles to make

Tuesday, May 18, 1875

any comments on today's journey. Uncomfortable as I was I could not forego the trip which our party was to make today; so at 7 o'clock we started by the trail towards Glacier Point. One can have no conception of the tremendous heights around this valley until he has passed over them and made the long climb necessary to ascend them. At Glacier Point we stopped for lunch

beside a snow cold stream and then passed on to the top of the Sentinel Dome, tying our horses a quarter mile below the summit we crossed a bank of snow five or six feet deep and reached the bald top of Sentinel Dome, which commands the valley, with a full view of all the leading features, including all the waterfalls except Bridal Veil. In my letters home I have attempted to sketch the general features of this wonderful valley. But I find it impossible to convey to words its [wonderful beauty] its real grandeur. I will here refer to the letters of about this date giving a general outline of the scenery. In the evening a meeting of travelers was held at the hotel. I was called to preside. [

Wednesday, May 19, 1875

] Some resolutions were passed with reference to the ejectment of Mr Hutchins, which were perhaps unwise. I should not have drawn them in the shape they were when passed.

Wednesday, May 19, 1875

Mr Hutchins, one of the oldest residents of the Valley, accompanied us on a trip to El Capitan in the neighborhood of the Bridal Veil. After all El Capitan is king of natural objects in the valley. -- a perpendicular rock half a mile wide, one mile long and 3300 feet high-- fills the primary conditions of grandeur. We returned to the hotel in the forenoon and having taken lunch rode down to the photograph gallery where a picture of our group on horseback was taken. Rested and wrote in the afternoon. I have formed many pleasant acquaintances during my stay here in the Valley. I would only say in conclusion, that it is one of the few things I have ever examined which has not been overpraised. All description fails adequately to exhibit its greatness. Its language addressed the Eye and the mind, more than the Ear.

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1875

After an early breakfast we took the stage at 1/2 past 6 am. and drove out of the valley crossing the Merced River before we reached El Capitan and following the stage route along the cliffs on the right bank of the river. Took dinner at a Station twenty miles out and stopped for the night at [?] within eight miles of Coulterville. The day was pleasant and the company had become so thoroughly well acquainted that a large common stock of experience furnished abundant materials for pleasant conversation. Have suffered less during the day than I expected. Mr Shoemaker and family of Cincinnati Ohio, spent the night with us.

Friday, May 21- 1875

Started again at seven o'clock passing Coulterville at an early hour. Took dinner at [?] and rested an hour. During the afternoon crossed the Merced at Knights Valley were twenty years ago N. S. Grant was employed with his brother-in-law pushing over wagons and passengers. He had left the army, had broken down as the proprietor,

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1875

and keeper of a Billiard Saloon, and, also, as a drayman and came here to make another attempt at business. This is a remarkable comment on vicissitudes of American fortune. We reached Merced at Sunset and passed a pleasant evening at the Hotel.

Saturday, May 22- 1875

Took the train at 7 am for Stockton then [?] by the Central Pacific to San Francisco, where we arrived at one o'clock p.m. Found letter awaiting me from home. General McCook had gone East and left us information as to his programe. I was suffering too much from the pills to accept Mr Ralston's invitation to go to Belmont this afternoon and so I remained here to answer letters and to rest. Received cards of invitation inviting me to accept the courtesies of the three leading clubs of the City. Found Judge Clifford of the Supreme Court here and also Dr Woodworth and wife of Washington. In the evening several members of our Yosemite Party assembled at General Burn's room at the Grand Hotel and had a pleasant reunion. I was called for about 8 o'clock by Mr Gould a lawyer of this city whom I had met in Washington and New York

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1875

and went with him to hear Macbeth rendered by Mrs Bowers and John McCullough at the California Theatre. The play was very well performed especially by Mrs Bowers. McCullough played the part of Macbeth with effect. He had less of the stage rant than usual and rendered some portions of his part very effectively. I noticed that he used this reading "My May of life / is fallen into the pear, [and] the yellow leaf". The usual reading is "Way". Retired at half past eleven suffering considerably from the piles.

Sunday, May 23, 1875

After breakfast went with General Hardenburgh to Woodwood's Garden and spent several hours in studying the interesting Exhibition. Besides the performance in the amphitheatre, the collection of wild animals was very full and the seals kept in a large resevoir exhibited themselves to good advantage. While there met with Governor Ogden of Kansas with whom I visited for sometime. Remained in my room during the evening still suffering much pain. I ought to lie by, for a week or two till I am wholly recovered; but I cannot consent to the time for it while I am on this coast [

Sunday, May 23, 1875

Monday, May 24-, 1875

, By previous arrangement with Dr Woodworth, I called at Dr Ellinwood's office on ["?"] St, who made a careful examination of my malady. He say that a portion of the intestine on one side of the rectum has come down in a fold of about two inches and is permanently displaced and that the only remedy will be to cut out about an inch and a half. I doubt the necessity of this coure and at any rate shall postpone action upon it until I reach home. I was to day to go to San Rafael to see General Rosecrans, whom I supposed was at home. But on arriving this morning I found his name recorded as a guest at the Occidental, sent to him at once and found he had gone. I telegraphed him and requested him to return and see me Found that he had gone Vallejo. I then telegraph him to Sacramento but the dispatch reached him so late that he answered me he could not return I was very anxious to see him, and let him know that I feel a deep and affectionate interest in his life and welfare.

Monday, May 24, 1875

Tuesday, May 25, 1875

Suffering two much pain to do much else than to lie on my bed and reflect on this strange California life. The leading men here are of a singularly bold and daring character. There enterprises are vast their methods are of the boldest sort. It is probably the result of that natural selection which called out to this wild country the best elements of the East. The effect of this country on our eastern men who arrived here in the early days is very peculiar. On Kearney Street in 1850 stood a little billiard saloon, kept at that time by Ulysses S Grant and his former Captain in the Army. Leading citizens here in the City have told me that they have often seen him marking the game for his customers and taking in the four bits charged when it was finished. After he broke down at that, he and his Captain bought a mule and dray each with the remainder of their investment and undertook draying on the streets. General Hallock then a merchant bluffed them away when they asked employment [

Tuesday, May 25, 1875

] telling them he would rather have Irishmen do his draying. Thence Grant went to the Valley of Merced (Knights Ferry) to help his brother-in-law. General Sherman was here for several years during the days of the Gold Discovery and later 53-6 was a banker. Old citizens tell me they have seen him dunning boarding house women for their rents and forcing little settlements for his bank. When the war broke out General Hooker had become an abject utter drunkard and General Negley: now of San Jose, gave Hooker money enough to take him to N.Y. to offer his services to the Government The citizens considered it the best way to get rid of the nuisance. Stoneman was in business here during the war and is now proprietor of a large orange grove at Santa Barbara. I mention these things as curious exhibitions of our civilization and of the peculiar influence of this coast upon character. In the evening went with General Burns and

Edward Macfarlan to the Chinese Theater and witnessed the exhibition of the strange civilization the growth of good 6000. The music was [

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1875

] of the vilest part. A three stringed-fiddle - sounding for the world like the old cornstalk fiddle that I used when a boy, - a cracked clarionet, cymbals, Chinese gongs, making together the most idiotic and brainless clatter, grated on our ears during the evening. The orchestra was seated at the rear of the stage. There was no drop curtain, no scene shifting. The managers and sup'es smoked drank tea and walked about barefooted in the midst of the players and musicians. An[d] interlude between the acts gave us a fine exhibition. The acrobatic performance [of] was really very fine. But the play itself was the dreariest piece of stupidity imaginable, at least it appeared so to us who could understand no word of it. These solemn steady-going, quiet, intelligent, stupid, cultivated barbarians are a great puzzle to me. After Theatre we went to the Chinese quarter and saw some of the lower life exhibited there.

Wednesday May 26, 1875

In company with General Burns I took the boat at 8 o'clock for San Rafael for [

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1875

] the purpose of visiting the family of General Rosecrans. Arriving at the Landing, we reached San Rafael at sunset, found that Mrs. Rosecrans had that morning gone to San Francisco with one of the daughters and the remaining daughter was visiting somewhere. We sent out a servant to find her and when she returned we visited with her an hour. Rosecrans' eldest son, who was a mere lad when I saw him last at the close of the war is now a Catholic Priest, and has just been visiting this coast under the title of Father Rosecrans. The eldest daughter has entered a convent. Thus this family is being ensombred with the dark shaddows of a grim religion. Still they seem to be happy in that way of doing and I have no right to find fault with them. Reached the Hotel at five o'clock and telegraphed Crete to send my letters from now until the 30th to Salt Lake City. I have resolved to start eastward.

Thursday, May 27th, 1875

Suffering constantly from the piles and did but little except go shopping to pick up a few trinkets for the family [

Friday, May 28, 1875

] at home. In the afternoon however, Captain Hartshorn took me to the Club where we had a pleasant lunch. This is the most intelligent of the San Francisco Clubs and they have a

performance each year which they call the High Jinks said to be very fine. I am invited to attend the Annual Banquet of the High Jinks on

Saturday Evening next. Unfortunately I shall not be here.

Friday, May 28, 1875

This morning Mr Tisdale of Painesville Ohio called for me. He is the Agent of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and has just returned from a tour in South America on business for his company. He invited me to take passage for New York, by way of Panama in the steamship that sails tomorrow afternoon. I rode down with him to visit the steamship. An elegant stateroom was tendered and I was very strongly inclined to accept the invitation, but for my illness and the long journey on the water. On reflection however, I thought I might be compromised by accepting anything on account of their late rebuff by the H. R. [

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1875

] In the evening, in company with Genl Burns and Messrs Mcfarlan and Wells went to the Amphitheatre to witness a wrestling match between two celebrated professors of that art, Baur and Miller. They were stripped to the waist, were not allowed to trip and both shoulders must be held to the ground two seconds in order to constitute a fall. The contest was very exciting and a large per cent of the 5000 spectators were betting on the result. At the end of the fourth fall the knowing ones discovered that the wrestlers were playing off on them, and a row resulted and the match closed. I witnessed the affair as a curious illustration of California life. [

Saturday, May 29, 1875

] Wrote letters in the forenoon. Made a number of parting calls on my friends, and at 4 o'clock took the boat for Vallejo. On arriving there found Commander Rodgers with his gig from Mare Island. He invited me to go over and spend the night with him at the Navy yard. I went and spent the afternoon in examining the public works at that yard. In the evening Commander Rodgers and several of his officers called on me and we had a pleasant visit. The Commander is very intelligent and impressed me favorably. Spent the night with him. [

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 1875

] His mother and sister were visiting him from Kentucky. His mother is a daughter of the late Governor Crittenden of Kentucky and sister to General T. L. Crittenden.

Sunday, May 30, 1875

After a good night's sleep the Commander drove me around the Southern end of the Island and showed me the ground where the Admiral proposes to construct a dam to secure water for the yard. After breakfast [blank space] took me in his yawl across to Vallejo. Where I took the 10

o'clock train for Sacramento arriving there at one. Called at Mrs Crocker's (Harry Rhodes' Aunt) and dines with her. After a pleasant visit to her picture gallery, at three oclock took the overland train to the East. This is the hottest day I have seen on this coast. From one oclock to half past four it was sultry and oppressive but soon we were climbing the Sierras and I was glad to put on my overcoat.

Monday, May 31, 1875

Our sleeping car landed us at Carson City Nevada by half past five, where we changes to the day car and at seven oclock reached Virginia City. After [

MONDAY, MAY 31, 1875

] breakfast called on A.J. Ralston and then went to the office of the Consolidated Virginia Mining Company, where in company with Messrs McKee and Fair, I spent several hours in visiting their mills and mines. Went down with Fair to the 1500 foot level and spent [several hours in visiting their mills and mines] an hour and three quarters in the Consolidated Virginia and California Mines which are side by side. The richness of these mines is something marvelous. The Financial Month of the Consolidated Virginia does not end until the 6th of June but their balance sheet of today has yielded nearly a million and a quarter of dollars. At four oclock I took the train for Carson City. Called at the Mint and found young Hoffer the Chief, a Washington boy who showed me through the building. I used to think that this Mint was established a compliment to [???] and without sufficient ground. I am not satisfied that its capacity should be enlarged

Tuesday, June 1st, 1875

Took a pleasant breakfast with Haffer and his wife and at 1 o'clock he started with me in a carriage for Lake Tahoe. Drove through a wild canon beside a long water flume, by means of which lumber, timber, and fire wood are brought down to Carson City. This recent invention the result of necessity is very striking and interesting. To see a stick of timber 30 feet long shooting down the mountain side at the rate of 15 miles an hour supported only by a small stream of water in a triangular trough 20 inches deep is very curious. Arrived at the Glen Brook House at 2 o'clock, just in time to see Hank M[???]k starting out with his stage for Carson City. I suppose I have been told the story of his driving Greeley to Carson City, at least a hundred times. After a fine dinner of trout, Coffer took me in a skiff on little fishing excursion on the lake, but it was too late in the day and we caught nothing. In the evening wrote a long letter to Crete.

Wednesday June 2- 1875

I found that the proprietor of this hotel is an old resident of Painesville, Ohio. He was very courteous. Mr Rigsby Supt. of the great lumber and timber company together with his wife and

daughter and two or three other friends, took me in his steamer around the Lake. We had a very pleasant trip coasting around the northern and western sides of the Lake and stopping at bay, where Ben Halladay Jr. has a beautiful cottage. I found there Halliday's wife and a daughter of Senator Cole who know me. This lake is nearly 7000 feet above the sea and 22 1/2 miles long by an average of twelve miles wide. Half a mile from the short its sides drop precipitately to the depth 16 to 18 hundred feet. It is really a Yosemite under water. The Indians have some superstition in regards to it and will never trust themselves upon it. It is a singular fact that the bodies of men and animals when they once sink will never rise again. And even timber and lumber after being in the water a short time will sink to the bottom. We landed at Tahoe City, on the California side of the lake at 2 o'clock. There met an old lady - Mrs - who was born in Bazetta Trumbull Co., Ohio, who said she knew Crete. At four o'clock I took the stage at Tahoe City and drove down the Truckee River to Truckee City and thence changing to another stage drove past Lake Donner to Summit Station - a wild and beautiful ride. In one place, our road had been cut through a snow drift six or eight feet deep. Reached Summit Station at eight and had a fine dinner. At midnight took the overland train for the East.

Thursday, June 3, 1875

Awoke near Humboldt on the Alkali Plains, where we took breakfast. Found that General Rosecrans had left there three days before and gone two or three hundred miles south. Found Tisdal on the train. He brought me letters from the Grand Hotel. The day was hot and uncomfortable, but I found pleasant traveling companions and with Casino and conversation the day was passed very pleasantly. Among others saw a Mrs. Sherwood of New York City, who sings in one of the churches there and in the evening we had some pleasant singing.

Friday, June 4, 1875

Arrived at Ogden at eight o'clock. I had before telegraphed to John W. Young that I should be there at that time Governor Axtell, J. I. Cannon, J. W. Young and the Mayor of the City and the City Council of Salt Lake met me with a special train and took me home with them as the guest of the City. After a bath change of clothes and breakfast at the Townsend House, I was visited by a number of prominent citizens and old friends and at two o'clock an excursion carrying about four hundred people took me by the new railroad to the Southern end of Salt Lake, where we took a pleasant excursion on the Lake on board the Little Steamer "City of Corinne. On our return to the dock the name of the steamer was changed to General Garfield in compliment to me. Returned to the City in time for a good dinner and in the evening attended Oratorio of the Messiah in the theatre. Governor Axtell and I occupied the box with Mr. Wells and his wife. While we were seated in the box a telegram to Governor Axtell arrived from Mr. Delano asking him if he would accept the Governorship of New Mexico. This evidently means that the Gentiles of Salt Lake have expressed dissatisfaction with the administration of Governor Axtell.

Saturday, June 5, 1875

I should have mentioned the before going to I called on Brigham Young and had a pleasant interview of 3/4 of an hour. The old man has furled some since my visit here some three years ago, but he is still shrewd and affable and interesting