

West Butte/74



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West-Butte.

Sept 3. 1874.

My Dear Anna

Here we are on the way East again having finished all the field work. We had our last view of the Rocky Mts yesterday, then 115 miles distant & just showing as faint blue peaks above the horizon.

There is just a large camp here at present nearly all the U.S. parties being congregated previous to going home by the Missouri. They hope to reach Benton in 3 days & will then be 20 days going down the Missouri to Bismark in Mackinaws, or flat-boats.

Of our side, the two astronomical parties went East yesterday, having work to

do in erecting mounds & also
in depositing "Soup plates" 10 feet
E. of each mound. We, that is to
say Sear, Capt. A. & party. Ashe &
party & East with the scouts
constitute the rear guard & are
lying over here for a day to get
some repairs & expected to pick
up the remains of the depot. Sear
the remains for the Indians have
got most of what was left here. Only
3 men were left to guard the place
& when some 400 Peagins came &
camped down beside them they did
not feel particularly strong. The Indians
did not actually take anything by force
but came in & examined these things
& said they must have so & so & they
got it. In this way the whole of the

tea & sugar was disposed of & most
of the matches & a good many other
things besides. The chief presented the
deputeman with various whips, lariats, &c.
& the whole thing was perfectly amicable
but much to the disadvantage of the Commission.
Fortunately we are ahead your time &
consequently have plenty of your depôts
at East Fork & Woody but are safe
will be all right.

There are a good many buffalos here now
but only in small scattered bands. One
was killed yesterday, an old bull of pretty
thin, but not so bad as some beef I
have tasted.

We have a regular marching routine now,
& the waggons & carts go off in a
certain order & at night draw up
in a semicircular kraal on the border
of some cove or stream. The tents are
then pitched outside & the animals all
tied up to the waggons at dark.

The camp is called by the watchman at 4 A.M. when it is barely light, & always remarkably chilly. Breakfast before 5 & all packed up & off punctually at 6. March till about 10 or 11 according to distance necessary to make for water & feed. Halt for two hours & then travel on again for two or three hours. Making every day something over 20 miles.

If all goes well we will reach Dufferin on or after the tenth of October, much more probably after than on.

I have got a few sketches among the Inuits, but very few. One seemed always to be doing something or fong somewhere from daylight to dark & when you did take out your pencil it was only to get down some view that

Happened to be seen from some
camp or stopping place, & not
one chosen as characteristic or
Remarkable.

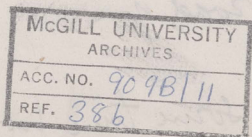
I have become the happy? possessor
of an Indian pony, bought from the
traders for \$25. It may be a very
nice beast when it learns a thing
or two, but anyway will answer my
purpose in enabling me to ride or drive
as I may please on the way in, &
make it easy to leave the road if
occasion requires.

We have had no letters for some time, but
hear that the U.S. people have sent a
waggon down to Benton to bring up all
the mail. It is to arrive here day after
tomorrow & Scouts & pack animals
will be left behind to bring on our
portion. There will probably be no

Chance of Sunday letters & after
this & when next heard from it will
be from Suferin, whence I will
probably telegraph or arrival.

Enclose a forget-me-not from
the opposite Rocky Mts, of which
I cannot furnish you the name.

Your loving brother
George



Dear Ann
I have seen the
forget-me-nots
you have sent me
I am so glad to
hear from you
I am well & hope
you are the same
I am your affectionate
brother
George