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FROM UTAH.

The *National Intelligencer* publishes the following letter from Camp Floyd:

CAMP RUBY VALLEY,
233 miles S. of W. from Camp Floyd, }
TUESDAY, May 17, 1859. }

We have reached thus far in our explorations west from Camp Floyd, in order to find a new and shorter wagon-route to Carson Valley, and there connect with a known route by way of Genoa, across the Sierra Nevada, to California. We left Camp Floyd May 2, and nothing has happened to mar in any degree the expedition, and the results thus far promise to prove of the most valuable character to the army and country. You are aware that by direction of Gen. JOHNSON I was fortunate in finding last Fall, for a distance of sixty-three miles southwest from Camp Floyd, at the head of the Great Salt Lake Desert, the commencement of a good wagon route to California, of which the California Mail Company immediately availed themselves, and which they have, by dint of great exertion, in the depth of Winter, extended in as direct a course to Ruby Valley, whence I write, as probably is practicable. The larger portion of this route they had worked to make it available for wagons; the remainder of the way, for the last fifty-three miles, we have, when required, which was but seldom, worked ourselves. The road to our present camp from Camp Floyd, excepting a scarcity of water over a portion of the desert, and for a drive of thirty miles, between Steptoe Valley and Murray's Cañon, considering that the route is frequently a mountain one, is quite a good one, and is, in connection with the link hence northwest to the old Humboldt route, quite an improvement over that route. But a very considerable detour and loss in distance is occasioned by the route making this detour, and it is my purpose, instead of striking northwest, to strike hence, south of west, and passing between the sink of Carson River and Walker's Lake, by a very direct course thence to Genoa, be enabled to shorten the route very considerably. This I am now hoping to accomplish in my outward journey.

The expedition has been ordered by Gen. JOHNSON, under the authority of the Secretary of War, and like everything the General does, it has been so militarily organized that I feel there is nothing wanting, on the score of protection, equipment, and supply, to insure its success.

The country we have passed over from Camp Floyd was first the Great Salt Lake Desert, around its head at the southern extremity, and since then a series of desert valleys separated by mountain ridges ranging generally north and south. All these valleys, with scarcely an exception, are worthless for any purposes of agriculture, on account of their aridity, and the absence of sufficient water for irrigation.

The Indian tribes we have met are the Coshoots, a branch of the Utes, and the Sho-sho-nees, or Snakes. The former are probably the most abject wretched objects living on the face of the globe. They live without any shelter overhead, either in Winter or Summer, and wear the most of them, male and female, Winter and Summer, (except children at the breast, who literally have nothing on to protect them from the cold,) only a sort of cape made of rabbit skins, which leaves the legs and a portion of the chest and shoulders when they use their arms exposed.

I have already intimated that as soon as I connect my route with a well established route in Carson Valley I shall return to Camp Floyd, bettering or entirely changing for this purpose the road as I do so. The same orders direct me, on my return to Camp Floyd, after refitting, to proceed to Fort Leavenworth, via the headwaters of the Arkansas and Bent's Fort, and explore and open a wagon-road in that direction. The whole extent of exploration will not be much short of 2,500 miles, and as it must, if possible, be accomplished before Winter, you perceive that we will have to be very industrious, and blessed by a kind Providence, to be able to effect it.