

After the severe hardships and narrow escapes from wholesale disaster experienced by Colonel Marcy's ~~entire~~ ^{its} command in ~~its~~ ^{its} ~~new~~ ^{new} ~~battling~~ ^{battling} ~~the~~ heroic winter march over the Rocky Mountains, the Colonel having proceeded from Fort ~~Massachusetts~~ ^{Massachusetts} to ~~Yabs~~ ^{Ruado}, and Fort Union, New Mexico, and having procured "animals and other supplies sufficient to enable the troops at Fort Bridger to make an early march into Salt Lake Valley", and the original portion of his ~~main~~ ^{main} now augmented escort having scarcely had time to recover from its ~~exhausting~~ ^{exhausting} ~~fatigues and privations,~~ ^{fatigues and privations,} ~~he started on the 15th of March,~~ ^{he started on the 15th of March,} ~~to return~~ ^{to return} from the post last named, to the relief of General Johnston's army in Utah; ~~his return route being~~ ^{his return route being} ~~around the eastern~~ ^{around the eastern} base of the mountains near Pike's Peak, over the Arkansas-Platte divide by ~~the~~ ^{the} old Jimmy Camp trail, ~~to the mouth of Cherry creek (now Denver),~~ ^{to the mouth of Cherry creek (now Denver),} from there to ~~Cache a la Poudre~~ ^{Cache a la Poudre} ~~and thence by the Cherokee trail and Bryan's road through Bridger's pass to Fort Bridger.~~ ^{and thence by the Cherokee trail and Bryan's road through Bridger's pass to Fort Bridger.} But when he had reached the Arkansas river, at ~~Fort Pueblo,~~ ^{Fort Pueblo,} ~~around whose~~ ^{around whose} ~~lonely,~~ ^{lonely,} ~~spirit~~ ^{spirit} haunted ruins the mountain breezes ~~were wont~~ ^{were wont} to cause a shudder as they moaned and whispered of a terrible massacre less than four years past, he received an order from General Garland, commanding in New Mexico, to go into camp at the nearest suitable place and to await reinforcements under Colonel W.W. Loring, from Fort Union.

The order, it seems, was caused by information which had reached General Johnston, that the Mormons ~~designed to~~ ^{designed to} ~~send out a force to~~ ^{send out a force to} intercept the party, and ~~to~~ ^{to} stampede, scatter and steal the animals.

"I regretted the delay caused by this order", says Marcy, "as I felt confident we were sufficiently strong to cope with any force the Mormons would be likely to send against us. Moreover, I had anticipated that the "Saints" might take it into their heads to pay their respects to us before we reached Fort Bridger, and had made such dispositions in the organization of the party as in my judgment would have rendered us perfectly ~~safe~~ ^{safe} secure against any molestations from them. I had about a hundred of the best trailers, hunters and Indian fighters in New Mexico, and I intended, as soon as we reached a point where there was any probability the Mormons would come, to keep these ~~men~~ ^{men} continually scouting at least a ~~day~~ ^{day} in advance of the main command with the animals and supplies. They would, I believed, have discovered the presence of the Mormons before the latter were aware of our proximity, and my plan was to have the Mexicans, who were perfectly ~~au fait~~ ^{au fait} in all such matters, either take or stampede all the Mormons' animals, thereby turning the tables upon them, and placing them on foot. But I had no

On severity of winter of 1857-8

in R. Ms. ^{I at Ft Kearney,} 1, see pp 611 & 613 of

Cornelley's Dispatch, Exped (more -
head in 'Recollections').