

side of the river. \* \* \* After making fifteen miles we camped on the south, on the bank of a high, handsome prairie, with lofty cottonwoods in groves near the river." Floyd says that they had "a jentell bree."

This camp must have been in the neighborhood of Florence, if they made fifteen miles. Floyd says that they traveled ten miles, in which case their camp must have been within the city limits of Omaha. Saturday, the 28th, about a mile above their camp, they came to a creek which they named "Indian Knob," because of a number of round knobs bare of timber, on the high lands to the north. "A little below the bluff, on the north, is the spot where the Ayanway Indians formerly lived." At their camp, ten and three-quarter miles from the previous night, their hunter of Indians brought in a Missouri, and on the 29th they sent him to his village, four miles back from the river, with instructions to the chief to attend a council above on the river. At two miles from this camp they passed the mouth of Boyer's creek on the north. They dined on the south side of the river, near a highland which bore traces of a great hurricane, and which had torn up trees four feet in diameter and snapped them off near the ground. Ten miles were made this day, which was Sunday.

The next day they traveled three and one-quarter miles and went into camp on the south (west) side, to await the coming of the Indians, who arrived, fourteen or more in number, on the 2nd day of August. On the 3rd the grand council was held and medals were distributed, six medals to as many chiefs, beside presents of paint, garters, ornaments, powder and whiskey.

Ten years ago Hon. J. Sterling Morton presented to the State Historical society documents which had been preserved by certain Missouri and Otoe Indian chiefs, the original certificates of good will presented by Lewis and Clark at this council. The names given in the report do not agree with those in the documents, but there can be no doubt about the identity of these certificates, religiously preserved amid the vicissitudes of Indian life.

When the party left what they named Council Bluffs, they had proceeded but a short distance up the river when they came to a place where the channel was confined to a space of 200 yards. Here, then, we have this data: Starting from camp White Catfish, fifteen miles brought the party to a camp, and, according to Cones, a mile further on the north near a bluff mentioned by Lewis, was later built a trading place called Fort Croghan.

Ten miles more the next day and two miles more the next brought them to Boyer's creek. A total of thirty-eight miles lay between the camp of piscato-

rial name and Council Bluffs. Can these localities be identified at this late date? In a foot note Cones says that "three miles above Boyer's creek, on the Nebraska side, Major Long established himself September 17, 1819, and named the place Engineer Cantonment. This spot was half a mile below a trading post called Fort Lisa and five miles below the Council Bluffs of Lewis and Clark." In 1811 there was a trading post in the vicinity of Fort Lisa. With what data is obtainable, it surely will occur to some public-spirited citizens to provide, by suitable monuments or pillars, for the marking of points that can never lose their fascination over the imagination of those who study the trend of those significant events.

The expedition passed Council Bluffs on its return, September 8, 1806, and camped at Catfish for the night. On their way down they passed an increasing number of boats and traders on their way to open up traffic with the interior of Jefferson's purchase. They found less water in the channels and more whiskey on land. But their persistent, judicious treatment of Indians, as evinced in the council, if only it had been universally followed, might have saved the west many useful lives.

The valuable contribution to our knowledge of Fort Calhoun, recently published in the World-Herald, ought to incite others to rescue from fading memories, changing topography and perhaps wasting records such accurate knowledge of places as will supply generations to come with sure footing for their historical researches.

We can never over-magnify the discernment of those minds which foresaw the meaning of this acquisition. Amid the mutations that were already threatening political parties and reputations in the beginning of this century, one man was courageous enough to be inconsistent with his record. Washington refusing a dictator's crown and Jefferson planning for an empire are two characters and events bound up in the meaning of the Louisiana purchase. And the loyal chiefs of the exploring party who first set foot on Nebraska soil ninety-six years ago, are deserving at least the small honor of record of their progress while within touch of the future metropolis of the Louisiana purchase.—Frederick A. Hatch in Omaha World-Herald.

#### THE RESULT IN MAINE.

Maine is twice as large a state as Vermont, and not half so one-sided in politics. On general principles, therefore, one would say that the result of a preliminary state election in Maine should furnish the better data for a judgment as to the drift of public sentiment throughout the country. The contrary has proved to be the case. Twenty years ago this week, when the

news came that the republican candidate for governor of Maine had been defeated, the democrats jumped to the conclusion that they were to carry the country for Hancock in November, although Vermont six days before had indicated the success of Garfield; and in 1884, when the republicans elected the governor by a great majority, the partisans of Blaine were sure that he would win the presidency, although the Green Mountain state had just shown that outside of his own bailiwick there was a revolt of conscience republicans against him.

Nevertheless, the course of the Maine campaign is always watched with interest, and its outcome is studied with attention. In 1896 both Vermont and Maine felt the impact of Bryanism with tremendous force. New England had always been the strongest gold-standard section in the Union, and the democrats of both Maine and Vermont had opposed the free coinage of silver so earnestly that, when the heresy was adopted in the Chicago platform, the party organization was almost disrupted, many men of local prominence openly supporting the republican ticket. The result in each case was such a slump in the democratic vote as had not been seen in the case of Maine since 1840, the figures of 1896 in that state contrasting thus with those for the three previous elections:

	Rep. vote.	Dem. vote	Rep. plu.
1884 .....	78,912	59,061	19,851
1888 .....	79,398	61,350	18,048
1892 .....	67,600	55,078	12,522
1896 .....	82,764	34,387	48,377

It will be seen that the republican vote four years ago mounted much above the highest total previously recorded, swelled as it was by considerable accessions from the other party; while the democratic was little over 60 per cent, so large as it had been in 1892, and still further below the high-water mark which had been reached earlier. Any repetition of this result was, of course, expected by no student of political statistics. During the past four years the Bryanites have built up a party organization which is far more effective than the dismantled one with which they entered the canvass of 1896.

Some gold democrats of local prominence, who either supported the republicans or did not vote at all four years ago, have announced their return to the party this year. A decided increase in the democratic vote was, therefore, inevitable.

#### Normal Republican Strength.

In like manner the republican total in 1900 was certain to fall, as compared with 1896, by whatever number of democrats joined them during the campaign and have deserted since—some thousands that must be. The interesting question was how the republican poll this year would compare with the figures before the abnormal campaign of 1896. Enough