

LEWIS AND CLARK.

The following somewhat condensed account of Lewis and Clark's passage along this part of the river, as they ascended it in 1804, may be of interest to some of THE CONSERVATIVE'S readers, especially in connection with Sergeant Floyd's notes of the same voyage, published in the issue of March 28.

The official journal of the expedition was kept sometimes by one captain, sometimes by the other; and it happened occasionally that both recorded the same incidents. Their manuscripts were edited in 1814 by Nicholas Biddle of Philadelphia, assisted by advice from Captain (then General and Governor) Clark, Lewis being dead: This edition is the standard history of the expedition; it does not bear Biddle's name, financial difficulties having arisen, but that of an offensive person named Paul Allen.

The party passed Cow Island on July 3rd, and observed a large pond full of beaver at the head of it, on the Missouri shore. Above this they saw a deserted trading-house on the Kansas side, and they camped for the night a short distance below Atchison. Floyd mentioned this trading-post, calling it "a old French fort." After proceeding one mile on the morning of the 4th, they came to the mouth of a cut-off lake on the Missouri side, which they called Gosling lake, from the abundance of those fowls which prevailed there. It was about three-quarters of a mile wide, and seven or eight miles long; there have always been cut-off lakes in the Missouri bottoms, and they have always been changing; it is useless to guess whether this was Sugar Lake, opposite Atchison, or not. Floyd's snake story is mentioned; and 10¼ miles further they "reached a creek on the south (Kansas side) about 12 yards wide, coming from an extensive prairie which approached the borders of the river. To this creek, which had no name, we gave that of Fourth of July creek; above it is a high mound, where three Indian paths center, and from which is a very extensive prospect." This may possibly be the site of Atchison. "After 15 miles' sail we came to above a creek about 30 yards wide, which we called Independence creek, in honor of the day, which we could only celebrate by an evening gun, and an additional gill of whiskey to the men." They still celebrate in much the same way in Atchison, only sometimes they omit the gun. Independence creek receives the privileged waters of Deer creek, where they hold picnics and go wading.

On the 5th they followed the Kansas shore through an extensive and beautiful prairie, watered by Independence creek. "On this bank formerly stood the second village of the Kansas; from the remains it must have been once a

large town." On the same side they passed a small creek which they named Yellow-ochre, from a bank of that mineral a little above it. This day brought them into Doniphan county.

The next day they had trouble with sand bars, intermixed with one of which they found "pit-coal." On the Missouri side they passed a prairie called Reevey's, or Revoe's, "after a man who was killed there."

On the 7th they note a "fine rich prairie on the north (east) called St. Michaels," and on the 8th "three small islands, one of which is the Little Nodawa, and a large island called the Great Nodawa, extending more than five miles, and containing 7,000 or 8,000 acres of high good land, rarely overflowed; this is one of the largest islands of the Missouri. It is separated from the northern shore by a small channel from 45 to 80 yards wide, up which we passed, and found near the western extremity of the island the mouth of the river Nodawa." Nodawa Island is now fast to the main land, and the river empties above it, though the government map of 1879 shows the old channel alongside the railroad. They had passed St. Joseph the day before; possibly at St. Michael's prairie.

A feature of the 9th was Loup or Wolf River (just below Iowa Point) and on the 10th they saw a stream which Dr. Coues says was Cedar Creek, Doniphan county, Kansas; the maps do not show it, but it must have been near White Cloud. Captain Clark recorded it as "a creek called Pappie;" Captain Lewis, "Pape's Creek, after a Spaniard of that name, who killed himself there;" Sergeant Floyd called it Pope Creek and told how it happened. Goslings were still numerous on the banks.

On the 11th passed "a creek called by the Indians Tarkio," hidden behind a willow island; crossed the Nebraska line, and camped on a sand-bar opposite the mouth of the Big Nemaha. This stream Captain Clark explored while they lay by the next day, taking observations for latitude. He "ascended it in the perioque about two miles, to the mouth of a small creek on the lower side. On going ashore he found on the level plain several artificial mounds or graves, and on the adjoining hills others of a larger size. This appearance indicates sufficiently the former population of the country, the mounds being certainly intended as tombs. From the top of the highest mound a delightful prospect presented itself." They found here wild grapes, nearly ripe; "the wild cherry of the Missouri, resembling our own, but larger, and growing on a small bush; and the choke-cherry, which we observed for the first time. * * * On the south of the Nemahaw, about a quarter of a mile from its mouth, is a cliff of freestone,

on which are various inscriptions and marks made by the Indians."

Proceeding on the 13th, they passed the Big Tarkio. "A channel from the bed of the Missouri once ran into this river, and formed an island called St. Joseph's; but the channel is now filled up, and the island is added to the northern shore." This occurrence of the name, so near by, suggests a doubt whether the city of St. Joseph was really named, as is commonly reported, after a member of the Roubidoux family. A French *voyageur* was likely to name a place where anything befell him, after his patron saint, or after the saint whose day it was.

The next day they narrowly escaped shipwreck in a squall, as Sergeant Floyd graphically related, and came in the afternoon to a small factory (agency) on the Missouri shore, "where a merchant of St. Louis treated with the Otoes and Pawnees two years ago." Further on they passed the then mouth of the Nishnabotna; "a river called by the Maha Indians Nishnahbatona, which runs parallel to the Missouri the greater part of its course." On the 15th the Little Nemaha was passed, and they camped on a woody point on the Nebraska side, which could not have been far from Nemaha City.

"July 16th. We continued our route between a large island opposite last night's camp and an extensive prairie on the south. About six miles, we came to another large island, called Fair Sun island, on the same side; above which is a spot where about 20 acres of the hill have fallen into the river. Near this is a cliff of sandstone for about two miles, which is much frequented by birds." It is at present much frequented by Normal scholars, who carve their names upon its face; for this must be the cliff a short distance below Peru, where the town of Mt. Vernon was once projected. Fair Sun island may be there yet; the map shows two opposite islands, marked respectively Sun and Sonora islands, at about the proper distance from a point between Nemaha City and Brownville. "At this place (Peru) the river is about a mile wide, but not deep; as the timber, or sawyers, may be seen scattered across the whole of its bottom. At 20 miles distance, we saw on the south an island, called by the French L'Isle Chance (Chauve) or Bald island, opposite a large prairie, which we called Bald-pated prairie, from a ridge of naked hills which bound it, running parallel with the river as far as we could see, at from three to six miles distance. To the south the hills touch the river. We camped a quarter of a mile beyond this, in a point of woods on the north side."

All that is plain in this is that they camped somewhere on the Iowa shore, in the vicinity of Hamburg. Dr. Coues