

Scott, John A.
To Wilson Scott
(1849, June 22)

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RECOVERED from wreck of steamer ALGOMA, burned at the wharf at St. Louis, on the morning of the 29th July, 1849. Said boat had a large California mail—a large portion of which was entirely destroyed.

JNO. M. WIMER,

times, made the river for wood, and then hauled it a mile or
two. Some of us went last Saturday, to the bluffs, for wood suppo-
sing it to be about 2 miles, but it was not less than 4. Got white
pine, which the cooks said was too good, it being dry made such
a strong blaze. Along the river we sometimes dug for water,
which we could get from 3 to 5 feet, but the farther we got
up, it got to have a soft nauseous taste, as we quit rising
it, and depend principally on the river for water. We have
a keg to every wagon, which we fill in the morning, and
then if we do not get close to the river at night we
have water to do us. We also have some dry wood with us.
Have went as far as 20 miles without finding water for
our stock. Last week passed some magnificent towers,
on the edge of the bluffs. One called the Solitary Tower is
2 or 300 feet high and about 20 feet wide by 50 long. Another
one 14 miles from that, which is called the Chimney Tower.
This tower is round, or nearly so, and is about 200 yards
in diameter at the bottom, and tapers off to about 20 feet,
and this is a tower representing a chimney, about 10 feet
through, and about 200 high. It is all about 250 feet
high. They are kind of cement composed of clay and
sand, almost as hard as sand stone. It is likely the earth
has mouldered away from around these towers, and by them
standing to be wondered at, by man. Last Tuesday night
we encamped by a good spring. Close by was a man established
a man with a small store, and blacksmith shop, trading with
the Indians. There is an American Fort a few miles after we
come to the Platte. Called Kearney, where there are some soldiers
stationed. There were three commissions of dragons going to

Oregon about 800, with 200 wagons. We got to
Laramie today, after finding the Laraine men having to raise
our wagon beds to keep the water out. Got there about 10 o'clock.
Sold 500 of lead for 5 dollars, 100 of powder for 10 dollars, and
bought 300 of flour for 5 dollars and 200 of bacon for nothing.
There is plenty of bacon thrown ~~in~~ along, and beans, lead,
salt, wagons, &c. There are 2 or 3 dozen wagons left at
Laramie. We are now encamped 4 from the fort, on the
poorest grass we have had yet. We now ~~are~~ packing loads
throwing away trunks, barrels, hats, &c. Also cutting the
Laplund wagon down to make a cart of it, to put a
big old yoke of steers we have to it, to haul the meat,
leaving 5 yoke to two wagons, and 4 to the other two.
It is said to be not more than 11 or 12 hundred miles
to the gold region from here if we can go in about
10 weeks, although we expect worse roads than we
have had.

There has been a good deal of sickness in the com-
pany since we started. Peter Dennis, A. Sunapawky,
Campbell Butte, and one or two others, were pretty
bad with the Cholera, and nearly all have had a
spell of the Diarrhea, but as soon as they have it they
have all recovered. I have had the Diarrhea some but
not bad. There are a good many graves along the road,
some old men, and some young, noticed one man 78
years old, but considering the number that go along
the graves cannot be numbered at some stops.
There are as high as 100 persons in a train
There is a train of wagons going loaded with ^{a gallon of molasses for 8¢} groceries, we bought

I expect to have more opportunities of writing
before I get there, and I will write as often as I
can. This is an express starts from here to Ford Learning
next Monday, which take letters for 40 cents a piece.
Give my respects to the friends and neighbors, and I
will remain your

Affectionate Brother

Wilson Scott

John Scott

P. J. Alfred Cook and myself have done our
kiana day about all the way, and expect to be divided
to the Rocky Mountains, each will bring their own
team. We saw the peaks of the Rocky Mountains last
Wednesday

J. A. J.

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