

I sent Leroux and three others ahead to renew his intercourse with the few people at the "still-house," and prevent them from running off. We struck a hollow at this same point which was followed eleven miles to the first water, at this camp. About six miles back, Tesson met me with a message from Leroux, that he had fallen in with two soldiers, and that there were a sergeant and six men at the still-house, and that he would await my coming and orders—(so the message was delivered.) It was late, and the wagons like to reach a camp after dark. I left word for an officer and fifty men to come on in advance of them, and pushed on with my suite and passed the advance guard and pioneers.

On this ground, among the mezquite trees, I rode in among four or five soldiers in uniform, with horses, and arms to their saddles. They were cutting grass, and made not the least motion indicating alarm or preparation. A quarter of an hour after, Leroux returned from the still-house, near a mile further on, and told me that the sergeant had a message for me. The camp was established on good ground, with water, grass, and fuel, at dark. Soon after, the sergeant and his whole party came to me; they had met Dr. Foster *late* two days ago, with his mule tired out, (with a drunken Indian guide,) and he had said he would not come back. The sergeant said that an Apache had spread reports that had greatly alarmed the people, who were about to fly; that the commandant requested me not to pass through the town; that he had orders to prevent it, but was not able; that I could pass on either side.

I told the sergeant, if the garrison was very weak, I should probably not molest it, and to hasten back and assure the people that we were not their enemies, but friends, who wanted to purchase flour, &c., of them. He left soon after dark.

I could not learn if Chihuahua had been taken; they report that a portion of California has been retaken by the Mexicans. I do not credit at all.

They say that General Kearny left with a Pimos chief ten mules, a pack of Indian goods, and "some papers" (a letter?) The mules, I presume, broken down. The sergeant says the General left there twenty five or twenty-six days ago. As near as I can learn, Tueson is as far, or further, than I came to day; the mules came in to-night very much tired. There is water four miles on the road. I have ordered that, with a later march than usual, the animals will be watered there; giving notice that camp to-morrow evening will be without water; that we enter Tueson early the next day and spend the afternoon there.

There are now said to be three roads to the Pimos from Tueson, varying from three to five marches; persons are expected there to-day from the Gila.

March to-day twenty miles; weather very moderate.

December 15.—Marched at 9 o'clock, and watered at 11 at the last water; then for a half mile was exceedingly difficult ground; after about six miles I left the valley, Leroux and Charboneaux following a trail down the creek; one road, but a bad one, and we saw no more of them until I encamped near sundown. The hill-road was then pretty good, although we were much troubled by prickly pears, of which we encountered a new variety. At the still-house we saw a dozen or two Indians or Mexicans, men, women, and children. They had huts or wigwags of dry grass or reeds, beside a small adobe house.

The process of distillation of whiskey from mezcal was going on; it was altogether the most muddy, filthy, wretched looking place I ever saw in my life.

I fell in with four other soldiers this morning, who had brought rations, they said, to the sergeant's party; they acted in the same singular, confident, friendly manner as the others; it occurred to me that Dr. Foster's stay was becoming extraordinary; and I determined to send him a note by one of the Mexican dragoons, directing him to come to my camp this evening; stating that I held the other three prisoners and hostages.

It is now near 9 o'clock, p. m., and Foster has not come. I have questioned one of the prisoners; he says that Dr. F. was guarded, but that the commander, on receiving a message from the sergeant, had *begged* him to come with them last night, and that he refused.

He states the force at Tueson to be about one hundred; and that they have two cannon. He states that the commander sent a man with a letter to me yesterday; since which he has not seen him, but it is supposed he met the sergeant and party and returned.

We also saw, to-day, another extraordinary variety of the cactus; a green fluted pillar thirty feet high and near two feet in diameter, very stright, but sending out—some of them—about midway up, several similar columns, something like the branches of a candelabra—the ridges of the flutes are thickly set with thorns.

In the dry creek bottom were small willows, perfectly green, and cottonwoods only *turning* yellow. Water did not freeze last night; but we see snow on the mountains. We are without water to-night; the guard is somewhat increased—to forty-two. The march twelve miles.

But two days' rations of meat have been issued in the last two weeks from my commissary provisions.

December 16.—A little after midnight I was awoke by the arrival of Dr. Foster; he had been detained under guard until the arrival of my messenger with the note. With him came two officers, with an escort. One was a "commissioner" to treat on terms; he was bound by written instructions, which he read to me, (but retained;) they amounted to a special armistice; but restricting my passage to roads and limits, to be marked by the commandant. Our conference lasted nearly two hours, and he finally departed with propositions contained in two articles, (which they wrote in Spanish) at my dictation, but in their own form and style; (of this I did not make and retain a copy.) They were substantially that he should bind his force not to serve against the United States during the present war; and, in token of submission, should surrender two cavalry carbines and three lances; and, secondly, that my officers and men should freely enter the town for the purposes of trade and refreshment.

With reveille at 5 o'clock, I had marched before sunrise, but that quite a number of mules had strayed; their disposition to search for water, and the cover of mezquite bushes in a dark night, led to the misfortune. I, however, marched at 8 o'clock, about which time the mules were all recovered. I came on with the battalion, leaving only a sufficient guard with the baggage. The road lay over a plain of hard white gravel and sand, covered with mezquite and prickly pears of every variety; and it seemed interminable. I had been led to believe the distance eight or ten miles; it proved sixteen. About six miles from town, I met a fine-looking

soldier, mounted and armed with carbine and lance, who delivered me a letter from the commandant. It stated that, as a man of honor, he could not submit to my terms. The man was politely dismissed without an answer. I then gave orders for the battalion to load their muskets; but, before it was executed, two Mexicans rode up, and gave information that the post had been evacuated; so I countermanded it. One of these two had been discharged by the General at Pimos; the other, a citizen (he said) of the town. They also gave information that the town was nearly deserted of inhabitants, forced off by the military; these had carried off their two brass cannon and all the public property but wheat and tobacco.

I formed line in the suburbs, and addressed the battalion respecting my order and warning to respect private rights. I should mention that about a dozen well-mounted men met the column near town, and accompanied it. Some of them are said to be soldiers. (They were unarmed and in plain clothes.)

I encamped half a mile below town, with a canal of water very convenient; but of grass none. Various directions were pointed out where it was said to be "close by;" in one I rode a mile over white sand, through thick mezquite, without finding a blade.

I then ordered wheat taken from the public granary, and fed two quarts to every animal. By dark, I found a field nearly enclosed by a brush fence, where there was some grass, willows, and other herbage, and directed the mules put there. Although I gave repeated and exact orders for their safe movement in the dark, they were so far understood that thirty or forty went astray.

I found, perhaps, a hundred inhabitants here; they are fine-looking people, and seemed rather glad to see us; they came freely into camp with articles for sale. I could obtain but two or three bushels of salt, and at a very high price: the command was out of it.

We saw, as we marched over the plains, far to the left, a very large stone church built by Jesuits; it is at a large Indian Pueblo, about ten miles above. At that point it is believed the military halted. There are several Pueblos in the close vicinity. I learned that twenty-five soldiers had been sent to the Gila to observe and harrass our march; and that these passed this forenoon to join the others. They were met, and conducted on a path around a small mountain.

December 17.—I had the guides out at day-break looking for grass; they could only find more of the poor description mentioned in the creek bottom. After a feed of wheat, the mules were taken there in the brush, with a strong guard. Thirty or forty were reported missing this morning, and I sent off ten small parties to hunt them.

There being much covert, I reflected that it would be a proper precaution to push a small party toward the enemy, if only for the protection of the mule hunters; and I was seized with a desire of making a strong reconnaissance, to be turned under favorable circumstances into a real attack; but a forced march was before us to the Gila, and the men were weary and nearly barefooted. With many doubts of the military propriety of my detaching myself on a venturesome expedition, I called for mounted volunteers and about fifty infantry.

At half-past 9, I marched at the head of twelve officers and all sorts of people, mounted nearly all on mules, and about forty volunteer footmen of

the battalion, and took the path through the Tueson to the Pueblo. A mile from town we saw two Mexicans, beyond the bottom, galloping in the same direction. We succeeded in taking up one of them; he said he was going to warn his *family*, or prevent them from being alarmed. I took him for a guide. The thicket soon became a dense forest of mezquite trees, two feet in diameter. After marching four or five miles, we came to water; and, while waiting some time for the footmen to come up, I, for the first time, spoke freely to the officers, and asked their opinion of the prudence of continuing further in the dense covert which we had found, and which the guide stated became worse all the way to the Pueblo. The four gentlemen I spoke to gave each his decided opinion against proceeding any further. My object then being accomplished, as far as the unfavorable circumstances admitted, I marched back to camp. Before we got back, signal smokes were rolling up in the direction of the enemy; they were signals of *our approach*, and very *probably* caused a further retreat of the enemy.

I have issued two quarts of wheat to every three men, and have directed about twenty-five bushels to be taken for the mules to-morrow night and the morning following, having information that there is very little grass between this and the Gila.

I found here only about five thousand paper-cigars of public property, beside the wheat; of this there is about 1,500 bushels.

There are some Pimo Indians here, who will accompany us to their village. After a thousand inquiries, my best information of the road is this—that it is hard, smooth, and level; that at about thirty miles, at the point of a mountain, there is probably enough water in rocks for the use of the *men*; that ten or fifteen miles further, there are some pools from recent rains sufficient for mules and men; that at about fifteen miles further, there is plenty of water and grass; this being five or six miles from the Gila. There is also water four miles from here. I have ordered the march about 10 o'clock to-morrow, to water at the four-mile point, and lay at night, after marching, until 9 o'clock without water. This night marching is after the repeated advice of Leroux and other guides of much experience in the country.

I learned that after the departure of the detachment nearly all the families left the town.

There is an extraordinary similarity between the mountains around, their direction, the cultivated creek valley, and, above all, an identity of the barren, sandy, hard soil of the hills, with the corresponding features of Santa Fé and its vicinity. Approached from the same direction, the southwest, like Santa Fé, Tueson is not seen until very close by; of course its adobe houses are the same in appearance, but inferior. There is a wall with abutments and battlements in bad repair, which surrounds the barracks; it is on the highest ground. The town is not *on* the bottom; it is a more populous village than I had supposed, containing about five hundred, and these are Pueblos. Beside the very large stone church above, and an adobe one here, there is another, very large, at a small Indian village close by. There are no priests at the presidio.

The New Mexicans discharged from the General's expedition have been placed under surveillance at this place; after having been once released, and having departed for Fronteras, they were brought back. They are in destitute and perilous circumstances. One has been hired by the

guides as a servant, and I have directed the others to be employed,—one in place of the deserted shepherd, the other as a mule-herder.

Now, at night, it is reported that the Mexican forces have dispersed; those belonging to the posts of Fronteras, Santa Cruz, and Tubac returned, and the rest broken up. I have, however, beside a mule guard half a mile off of nine sentinels, a camp guard of six sentinels, and a picket of ten men in a commanding part of town.

Different from the sandy soil of Santa Fé creek, this seems of a dark rich soil, and is in fine cultivation; the fields are now slightly green with young wheat. This stream, which here supplies the irrigation ever necessary in Mexico, heads to the south in its course to the north, where it is lost in the plain; it appears above ground in only a few spots. The only fruits I have seen here are quinces and pomegranates.

I shall leave in the morning, for the commandant, (who of course will return) the following note (in Spanish):

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS,
CAMP AT TUESON, SONORA,
December 18, 1846.

SIR: Having received no orders, or entertained an intention to make war upon Sonora, I regret that circumstances have compelled me to break up your quarters at this post.

Making forced marches, for the want of watering places, and finding no grass or other forage here, I have found it necessary to use about thirty fanegas of wheat from the public granary; none has been wasted or destroyed, and no other public property has been seized.

Herewith you will receive a letter for his excellency, the governor of Sonora, on the subject of my involuntary invasion of the State. I respectfully request that you send it to him with your own despatches.

With high respect, your obedient servant,

P. ST. GEO. COOKE,

Lieut. Col., commanding battalion U. S. volunteers.

To DON ANTONIO COMADURAN,
Commandant Presidio of Tucson.

The following is a copy of a letter I have thought proper, under all the circumstances, to address to the governor, said to be a popular one, of the State of Sonora, which is considered very favorably disposed to the United States, viz:

CAMP AT TUESON, SONORA,
December 18, 1846.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: The undersigned, marching in command of a battalion of United States infantry from New Mexico to California, has found it convenient for the passage of his wagon train to cross the frontier of Sonora; having passed within fifteen miles of Fronteras, I have found it necessary to take this presidio in my route to the Gila.

Be assured that I did not come as an enemy of the *people* whom you represent; they have received only kindness at my hands. Sonora refused to contribute to the support of the present war against my country, alleging the excellent reasons that all her resources were necessary to her defence from the incessant attacks of savages; that the central govern-

ment gave her no protection, and was therefore entitled to no support. To this might have been added that *Mexico supports a war upon Sonora*. For I have seen New Mexicans within her boundary trading for the spoil of her people, taken by murderous, cowardly Indians, who attack only to lay waste, rob and fly to the mountains; and I have certain information that this is the practice of many years; thus one part of Mexico allies itself against another.

The unity of Sonora with the States of the north, now her neighbors, is necessary effectually to subdue these Parthian Apaches.

Meanwhile, I make a wagon road from the streams of the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean through the valuable plains and mountains, rich with minerals, of Sonora. This, I trust, will prove useful to the citizens of either republic, who, if not more closely, may unite in the pursuits of a highly beneficial commerce.

With sentiments of esteem and respect, I am your excellency's most obedient servant,

P. ST. GEO. COOKE,
Lieut. Col. of United States forces.

To his Excellency Lt. DON MANUEL GANDARA,
Governor of Sonora, Ures Son'a.

December 18.—10½ o'clock, a. m.—At 12, p. m., last night I was awoke from a sound sleep by one of the picket guard, who, all out of breath, assured me that a "large Mexican army was coming from the town." Such a high-sounding announcement only aroused dreamy thoughts of events of historical importance; but instantly the officer of the day announced that the picket had fired upon some body of men coming into the village. My trumpets instantly rang with the "assembly," and the battalion was promptly formed under arms upon the ground designated for the assembly. I immediately sent the right company to the town, with a reconnoitering party in advance, under Lieutenant Stoneman. The other companies were then disposed principally upon the flank toward the suburbs, with a platoon in reserve, and a sergeant and nine men were instantly sent to reinforce the mule guard in the opposite quarter, half a mile off. The company returned in a half hour, having patrolled the town and made no discovery; and so the battalion was dismissed and the camp guard increased.

I marched twenty minutes to 10 o'clock.

Some Mexicans had previously informed me that a man just arrived had informed them of the retreat of the Mexican forces toward Ures about the time of my detachment marching.

The column was soon involved in a labyrinth of wood-roads or paths; and Weaver, the only guide present, told me he was uncertain which was right. Leroux and Charboneaux, instead of being ahead with one or more Pimo Indians, did not leave town for an hour and a half, and the Indians have not come at all. To my *surprise*, I found water seven miles from town, and a plenty of it, instead of an insufficiency four miles out, as reported by Weaver, whom I sent yesterday to examine; (he took a different path.) The mules were then carefully watered about 1 o'clock. The next three miles (down the dry creek of Tucson) were excessively difficult, with *deep* sand and other obstacles. Then our beautiful "level prairie road" was much obstructed by mezquite. About fourteen miles out, at the base of a low mountain a mile off, we saw the dust of a party

of horses at speed; and their tracks were discovered, (the mezquite concealed them.) I was at a loss what to attribute it to, wild horses, Indians, or Mexican cavalry.

Three company mules were reported missing this morning, and it seems that a private one, and *two* public ones in Charboneaux's care and use were also lost. I believe they were not put in charge of the guard.

Just at dusk more deep sand was encountered; and then, from 5 and 45' to 8 and 45', I marched on rapidly—as mules travel well after dark—over baked clay ground, obstructed occasionally by mezquite thickets, and encamped on similar ground with a *very little* grass in spots. I have surrounded camp and animals with sentinels, and ordered that every animal be *tied*, and fed, under the superintendance of company commanders, with their half gallon allowance of wheat; and I brought as much more for morning. There is no water, of course, and appearances indicate that it may be very far. The march is ordered before sunrise. There is no moon. March about twenty-four miles.

December 20.—Marched at sunrise, finding the mountain much more distant than expected. About fourteen miles brought us to the foot of a singular-looking mountain on our left; the other mountain foot was several miles to our right. Leroux had informed me that the hole of water was at the point of the latter; he and several others had been sent on from camp to find it. I expected to halt there an hour or two, while the men drank, and then push on to the other holes in the ground, which the guides made from eight to fifteen miles distant. After passing entirely through the gap, I found a note in the road, to the effect that they had searched both mountains for two hours without finding water; it was then near 4 o'clock. The road was good; a baked clay plain, with now and then sand mixed. Just before sundown, a small hole of rain water was found in the clay near the road, which, by requiring the men to lie down and drink and take none off, gave a drink for nearly the whole of them. At 7 o'clock, an hour after dark, and after twelve hours march without halt, I had a fire built and directed all who wished, to stop as long as they pleased, provided it was not over six hours. I was exceedingly anxious for the discovery of the hoped for water in the rain holes; I feared the guides would be in the night before finding them; and I was induced to believe that the mules would still go on better than in the morning (resting without grass or water.) I *heard* now that men in the rear of the long column had found the rock holes in the *left* hand mountain, and the interpreter says the Indians designated that one. Leroux had not got a description of the place certainly. It was reported, however, that there was little there. At 8 and 30' we arrived at a fire, and found the advance guard, &c., and Mr. Stoneman, who had been with the guides all day; here they had arrived in the twilight and found water, but far from enough, as he reported—not enough for the *men*; the loose mules and packs had been sent on by me and had rushed into the ponds. I had ordered the camps to be established, when a minute after I was informed that the signal of another fire ahead had been made, as agreed upon by Lieutenant Stoneman and Leroux, that there was a sufficiency of water. Soon after, I heard a gun, which was another signal to the same effect; I ordered the march resumed; it was very dark; no moon, and cloudy. In doubt, I discharged two pistols for a renewal of the concerted signal, and they

were answered. After advancing with difficulty a mile or two—for the ground was frequently bad—a deep crooked trail through soft clay in lumps, with artemisia and mezquite bushes, I learned that, although the arrangement had been loudly and carefully made, some of the stupid worthless guides had made the signals without reason; that is, the *fire*. The first gun I could get no information of; then the ground was very uneven and growing worse, and I ordered the camp established; the mules *could* not do more. Some drops of rain fell just at this time; and, to increase my discontent, I then learned that more water had been found at the first stopping place. I sent back, however, the command of one of the companies, whose wagons had lagged very much, and they encamped at that spot. The battalion had now marched twenty-six hours out of thirty-six; the mules had come forty-seven miles without water, and still there was none for them, and no grass—nothing but artemisian and a few mezquites; but I ordered about a bushel and a half of wheat, which I had given to each company to eat like hominy, and for coffee, as a substitute, to be all divided to the mules which were tied up.

At 12 o'clock, I sent for Leroux, who knew nothing of the signals. I directed the gullies searched for two miles above, and one below, at daylight; and for him to send or go on to the first sufficient water, and return with information of it to the head of each company.

Notwithstanding their fatigues, a number of men walked back two miles for their chance of getting water where I first stopped. They are almost barefooted, carry their muskets, knapsacks, &c., and do not grumble. I then slept from 1 to 5 o'clock this morning, when another effort was to be made. I called the company commanders together, and directed them to send on all the mules they could dispense with, and to act according to their condition when they received the report of water; that the wagons should be left, and the mules driven on to water where it was found necessary, &c. The road was now very bad, as *described* last night. At 7 o'clock, the march recommenced; men, wagons, beeves, sheep, families, children, all getting on the best they could. After coming thus three or four hours, Leroux returned with information of some holes of water two or three miles on. I immediately sent him off to look for more. About 11 o'clock, I arrived there with many of the battalion. Sentinels were posted to prevent even the men dipping it up with canteens, so scarce was it still. One hole was given to the beeves; (the foremost were shoved right through by those in rear.)

I had calculated, on Leroux's and my own information, received of Mexicans and Indians, that last night we were between seven and fifteen miles of a watering place six miles this side of the Gila. Weaver now told me that he was pretty sure it was eighteen miles to the river. A mountain, which he knew, we saw between, and intermediate water was *uncertain*. The weather was very warm—almost hot. As I waited for the wagons, perplexing myself how it was possible to give a taste to so many animals out of a few inches of water resting on mud, our prospects were exceedingly gloomy. But again I saw Leroux, and then I believed in a saving fortune; he came, and announced a sufficiency a mile or two lower. On we came, and after marching nine miles the second day without water, came to the rain ponds between 12 and 1 o'clock. Here, too, is mezquite for the mules to browse.

After Leroux's report, before I reached here, I sent on Mr. Stoneman,

Weaver, and two others, with directions to send me word if water and tolerable grazing was to be found within eight miles ahead, so that I might go on this evening; to go on, and to send me word from the river an account of the grazing there; at daylight to-morrow to go on, and if he believed the grass would not do for our circumstances, to purchase at the Indian village five miles lower, 37 bushels of corn, to be sent to me immediately; to engage as much to be delivered in the middle of the village, (it is too long a march through in one day, and contains *no* grass, by Weaver's account,) and two days' rations at the lower end; one to be carried in the wagons half over the forty miles "jornado," there commencing, which is without grass. (Weaver.)

The company which encamped in rear has come up two or three hours later. They did well, having a sufficiency of water; (and there was little more.)

Of this road which I have made from Tueson, I will say more when the river is reached; but thus far, I will pronounce it the most extensive desert I have seen; clay, sand, gravel, artemisias, mezquites, and a few other bushes; far away to the west as the eye could follow it was the same, and I am told for a hundred miles. South of the Gila there is still no water, and there is no wood, no animals—but everywhere in the dim distance fantastically-shaped mountains appeared. It is a *gold* district—said to be the most extensive, if not the richest, in the world, but can scarcely be worked for its barrenness. But every two or three miles was seen a little grass—a sort I had never seen—of a silky, light, straw color, with a head like a plume; also, a *very* little gamma. Between the two mountains there was much grass, and trees, too, a new species of mezquite, or perhaps locust; large and pretty, the wood light and porous.

It is pronounced a better road than the "jornada," so celebrated below Santa Fé, and is shorter; but I think it problematical whether it could be used much for commerce; but the other known roads from Tueson, a little longer, but with more water, may be found better. Badly off as we were, it would have been worse, vastly, before the late rain; but on the other hand, it is said to have been an extraordinary drought here for several years. A Mr. Jackson once lost many of a small drove of mules he took through in an imprudent manner in July.

A Mexican, who reached my rear guard last night on foot, has just come in. He seems to be a mine hunter, and has specimens of ores. He is a strange-looking but intelligent character, and is nearly naked. He brought me a letter from Captain Comoduran, dated at the India Pueblo; it is short and dry; acknowledges the receipt of mine explaining the "invasion of Sonora," and promises to forward my letter to the governor. His messenger gave it to this man and returned. The latter states that Comoduran asseverated he would pursue me, if only with twenty men. He had not returned to Tueson the evening or afternoon after I marched, and the troops did abandon the Pueblo when I advanced toward it with fifty or sixty men, and got entangled in the forest.

I have been mounted 32 of the last 52 hours, and what with midnight conferences, alarms, and marches, have had little rest for five days.

The battalion has marched sixty-two miles from Tueson (in about fifty-one hours;) no ration of meat was issued yesterday.

December 21.—Marched at sunrise; the road very good; came between two small mountains. Here the columnar cactus was very thick; a decayed one showed an extraordinary structure; it was a cylindric arch of wooden poles that would answer for lances. This singular vegetable production, like none others, bears a delicious fruit; it tapers from the middle alike to the top and root; near the ground it has a bark like the cottonwood.

We were in view of the cottonwoods of the long-sought Gila. The path bent more to the westward, and approached obliquely. The water and grass spoken of six miles from the river Leroux told me was near the small mountain of stone. I did not see it near the road. A ten miles march brought me to the river, when I crossed the General's trail, and encamped at 10 o'clock, in tolerably good grass—it is said the *last* until we pass the villages. Before we arrived here, although eight miles above the village, there were many Indians on the ground, and they have flocked in, mounted on horses, ever since, bringing small sacks of corn, flour, beans, &c. A one-eyed "chief" brought me the General's letter, and another from Major Swords, telling me of eleven broken down mules and two bales of Indian goods having been left for me. On this was endorsed a note for Lieutenant Stoneman. He thought it would be difficult to get enough corn, and advised me to buy all that is brought here. I directed the guides to open the few Indian goods I have, and begin. They report to me that such prices are asked that they can do nothing, and I have ordered that no individuals shall trade for corn or wheat until further orders. Charboneaux came back, and from his account there is no grass for at least thirty-three miles.

Many of these Indians, I was somewhat surprised to see, are nearly naked; they manufacture blankets, and show every desire to be clothed; they are good looking and very lively; know nothing of the value of money or of weights and measures; their language is rather a pleasant one; the first words I heard, I took for "gold watch;" some speak the Spanish, and I was surprised to perceive one who spoke it well have recourse to his fingers as necessary to explain the subtraction of five mules that had died and been drowned from the eleven left for me; it seemed he could only do it by bending down the fingers and counting those left straight. Two good mules were found by the Wanacapoos as I had learned in Tueson, and they have told me the Apaches have stolen them, which I do not credit, as the Apaches do not often trouble them, being afraid.

The weather now is like that in New Mexico early in October—warm days and cold nights; it has frozen slightly towards morning for the two last; the cottonwoods are only partially turned by frost.

I have estimated the route from Tueson seventy-three miles, and believe there is generally water on it for six months of the year; and those are the only months it could be travelled (probably) on account of the heat.

The mules I thought would nearly starve last night; but they looked very well and full this morning; but the food may not agree with them; there is a kind of seed on some of the dry-looking weeds or bushes which they ate; I have succeeded in getting a feed of corn for them.

The principal chief I have conversed with, and he and another have supped with me. He said the commander of Tueson sent to demand the