Recollections of Past Days

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Starting Westward

July 3–July 28, 1856

[We] left there and arived at Dunkerk\(^1\) the next Morning \(^\text{at}\) four a clock: the \(^\text{4th}\) of July on enquiring we \(f\) was told that the boat would not leave untell some time in the afternoon the next day for Cleaveland so we had all that time to wait we went to the restrant to get breakfast then we went back to the Depot one of the guard\(s\) was very kind he told My father that there was alarge room up stairs and he could take his family into that room and all his bagage and we could occupie that room as long as we had to stay at the depot he said it will be more private for your girls than beign in the public waiting room he said you can make your beds down and rest yoursyels and if you want to cook I will show you can make afire to Make your folks a cup of tea we was treated very kind and respectfull at that place father and mother remained there all the day but we Young folks took astroll around the place there was not much to be seen the place seemed \(^\text{very}\) quiet sister Lucy Ward\(^2\) and myself thought we would go for awalk as we got tiard lying around and as I had to write some letters we took awalk out in the feilds to be quiet and came to anice shady place we sat down under Some beautifull trees and I wrote My promised letter to My friend Alexander Ott whom I became acquainted with in New York here I will say and was engaged to be marred to him the next Year as he expected to return to Utah and I promised to become his wife when he came home that I would wait for him to return home as soon as he was releaced from his Mission but he prooved falce to me and Marred a widow woman. when I received this new\(^3\) from Preasedent John Taylor I considered Myself free from all promises . .

I will now return to my walk with sister Lucey Ward after I wrote my letters we though we would estend our walk alittle farther as it was such alovley day and the feilds was looking so green and beautifull and every thing so calm and quiet we was inJoying ourselves So much but we had not gone far before we saw some one lying by the road side at first sight we did not know what to \(^\text{do}\) wether to proseed farther or go back we did
^not^ know if the Man was sleeping or not. but we thought he may be sick but to our great suprise we found the man was dead. so we retaced our steps and hureyd back to town and not tell any one that we had seen Man liing by the road side. we came back and sat down to rest on the bank of lake Erie washed our pockethandkerfs and then took agood bathe ourselvs as it was a nice retired place. then we went back to the railroad depot were father and Mother was anxiously waiting our return for thay did not like us to go far way from them we staid here the remaine of the day. After My brother John and father gatherd wood and got Water thay made a fire and we cooked dinner then we enjoyed ourselves all the afternoon reading and singing the songs of Zion we got Supper in the evening. after we Made our beds and retiard for the night. through ^the^ kindness of the guard at the depot we was very quiet and comfortable and in the Morning arose early got breakfast packed up our bedding and cooking utencels and got ready to start on our Journey again when the boat was ready the time seemed long that day for we did not leave Dunkirk untill three oclock in the afternoon

[When] we arived at Cleveland we took the train for Chicago we arived there quite late at night we went to the Hotell for the night had Supper went to bed got up early in the Morning had breakfast and took the train for rock lland ariving there we found we had to cross the river on the steem boat as the railroad bridge had been destroyed we landed at Devenport sometime in the Morning agreat crowd – gatherd around us casting slurs at us and asking father if he was going to take his fine girls to Utah and give them to Brigham Young for wives thay said that old fellow had allready got plenty of wifes told father he had better stay at that place with his girls for girls was scarce in that neighbourhood and there was lots of Men that wanted wives this was the roughest place we came too on our journey from New York. My father let them talk and we girls would not speak or Notice them at all and that seemed to enrage them thay said we was aproud lot of girls not to speak to afellow the boss told thees Men to stop there insults to aquiet respectable family as he believed we was he told them to leave the place but thay did not go untill thay got ready: the boss called father to his room and told him we would have stay there untill the next Morning before we could leave for Iowa and he advised father to take us to anice retiard place a short distance from the depot and camp for the day and for us to return in the evening and that he would see that we was protected through the night so we did as he requested us to do we spent anice comfortable day unmolested one or two Men came to our camping place but was very quiet and treated with respect asking us if we was Mormons and if we was going to Utah to make our home we told them Yes that was were we intended going was to Utah thay said we had along journey before us we told them we had this we allready knew but at
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that time we did not know what hardships we would have to pass through before we came to the end of our Journey if we had known we may have backed out and staid in Iowa which I think would have been better for us and would have been the means of saving my dear father's life to have staid in Iowa that winter and started our journey the next spring.

Well as I said the gentleman at the Depot told my father to return with his family in the evening and he would see that we had a comfortable place and that we should be protected through the night so as the evening came on we got supper and after which we returned to the Depot. This gentleman came to father and asked him if we had been molested at all. Father told him we had not that we had spent a very quiet day and thanked him for his kindness. He said that is all right Mr. Now come with me. He said bring your family and here is a car I have had emptied and cleaned out in readiness for you to sleep in for the night. You can make your beds and have a good night's rest and you will be safe here until morning. Then the train leaves for Iowa. He said he was going home but there would be a guard at the Depot all night.

After he was gone two big men came in our car. My brother John and father asked them what they wanted or what their business was. They said they had come to stay all night with us as they were going on the train to Iowa in the morning. My brother told them that they could not stay in that car with us. There was no room for them and that this car had been allowed us for our own use for the night to sleep in. At this, they became quite enraged and said they would stay in the car. You cannot help yourself. My brother said once more to them will you leave this car or not? They swore and said that they had as much right to the use of the car as we had and that they were not going out. My brother being a stout young man pushed them both out of the car and closed the doors. These fellows were taken by surprise. They went out of the car quicker than they came in. At this time they stayed around swearing and using vile language. But the guard told them that they had better leave. After a little time they went away and everything was quiet for the night. We made our beds and we girls and mother and my brother's wife all went to bed and slept until morning. For we were all tired out and needed rest. My father and brother John kept guard all night so that we could have a good sleep. The next morning the boss came to see father and ask if we had a good night's rest. Father told him about these men. He said that they were some that came from the little town. They had no right to come in the car. At all said my brother did right to put them out. We got breakfast and then started on our journey for Iowa city.

When we arrived there we were told that the Mormon Company was camped two miles out of town. We girls all walked out. My father and brother had to look after our baggage and get some one to take it to camp for us. When we arrived in camp we were furnished a tent for our family.

The
weather was dreadfully hot. No shade whatever here we staid for three weeks before the company was ready to start.

In the daytime we went into the woods as we were camped not far from there and the rever run through the woods so we made a fire and did our cooking and washing there as it was most convenient for us after we had been in camp a few days. Br. Jaques and family arrived. My two sisters Zilpha and Tamar and My sister Zilpha Jaques and little Flora her little girl, then two years old, this was a happy meeting when we left Liverpool. We left my sister Tamar with Br. Jaques to help my sister to get ready to leave by the end of June or as early in June as they could get ready as my brother-in-law was released from his labors in the office were he had been engaged for many years. He could not leave to come with us so Father and Mother concluded to let my sister Tamar stay with them until my brother was released from the office. We would have liked to all come from England together but brother Jaques could not leave the office to come with us in December. He had to stay there in Liverpool until the following summer and we parted in Liverpool and did not meet again until July 1856. Then we traveled altogether across the plains to Utah. I can assure you this was a very hard journey.

I forgot to mention I said we all traveled together but my eldest brother John remained in Iowa also his wife and young son Harrey Loader by name. My brother did not want to continue the journey that year as his wife was nearing her confinement and he thought the journey would be too hard for her and he said that he did not want to pull a hand cart so he got employment in Iowa and remained there for many years before coming to Utah and when the War broke out in 1861, he joined a volunteer regiment in Iowa and served three years in the war was wounded in the arm went to the hospital and then went home after he left the hospital and lived in Iowa for several years.