THE OFFICIAL REPORT
Pratt’s Report to the Legislative Council

On February 5, just eight days after his return from this arduous journey, Parley presented his official report to the Legislative Council, or Assembly. Basically it was the report he and Robert Campbell composed together in the snowbound camp near Fillmore, Campbell writing it, as his journal records, “laying on my belly & a hundred other positions, cold Snowy night open wagon.” The report is based almost entirely on Campbell’s remarkable journal in which he wrote virtually every day before going to bed.

With the weary and famished oxen able to go no farther, and with provisions alarmingly low, Parley and half the company mounted the strongest horses and mules and rode for home; that strategy would get the report back to headquarters quicker, would conserve the dwindling provisions, and would give the oxen a chance to rest and regain their strength. Campbell stayed with the wagons, so the balance of the official report, giving the sketchiest account of the mounted party’s return, was written by Parley after he reached home.

Aside from its general description of the country, the journal’s chief value to Brigham Young in his colonization efforts was its identification of likely sites for Mormon settlements—which was, of course, the expedition’s basic purpose. At least twenty-five present Utah towns are located where the report indicated favorable conditions. The report follows, with the names and settlement dates of those towns inserted:

Great Salt Lake City Feb,y 5th 1850
To The Legislative Council of Deseret,

Mr. President & Gentlemen~

Being appointed by your honorable body to take charge of an Exploring expedition Southward took leave of my family from Great Salt Lake City on Thursday 22nd November 1849, reached Captain Browns the same evening, where many of the Company had already arrived.
Frid 23rd Completed the organization of the Company consisting of 47 men, whose names and outfit has already reported in a communication dated the 24th from Captn Brown's. The number of horses & mules was not then ascertained, but we now report 38.

Sat 24th Company start from Captn Browns and encamped on Willow creek 20 1/2 miles from Great Salt Lake City. Here we were overtaken by a severe snow storm which lasted till noon next day, and fell some 10 inches of snow.

Sab 25th Started at noon, and wading thro' snow, crossed the summit of the Mountain bounding our valley on the South and, descending into the Utah encamped after dark on Dry creek, snow 1 foot deep.

On Tuesday [November 27] following reached Utah Fort, Distance 46 miles and passed on 4 1/2 miles to Hobble creek, here we found a desirable place for a Settlement [Springville, 1850]. Good soil, and plenty water.

On Wednesday [November 28] passed Spanish Fork 59 1/2 miles, where there is some good land [Palmyra, 1852, later absorbed by Spanish Fork], 14 yards wide, 14 in deep, Rocky bottom, steep banks, Cotton wood timber appears in small clusters along banks, and an open Kanyon in the Mountains East, intimating, plenty of timber. Camped Pateatneat creek same evening 64 3/4 m, 9 feet wide, 17 in deep, and like City creek running on the highest levels of land, here is fine soil, beautiful grass, and desirable place for a Settlement [Payson, 1850] here Marshall Scott called on us for some help to pursue horse theives supposed to have passed Southward, furnished him 10 Mounted Volunteers, who gave chase as far as Sevier river and returned fruitless.

On Thursday [November 29] passed Summit creek, divided into 2 branches, the one 3 feet Wide, the other 30 feet Wide, Rushing stream 1 foot deep, Cotton woods on banks 1 1/2 miles from mouth of Kanyon, which is apparently open and easy of access, rich feed all round, fine soil [Summit City, 1851, later named Santaquin]. The creek is on the dividing ridge between Utah & Yohab vallies, and runs nearly on the level of the highest lands. Dense cedar grove 2 1/2 miles SS.W. on a small hill. this is a pleasant situation overlooking the Utah Lake, and its valley on the North, Yohab with its rich vallies, and is a spot every way calculated for a city and Settlement [Clover Creek, 1852, later named Mona], rather limited in its resources. Passing on thro rich feed in the fine valley of Yohab we encamped at a Spring 78 3/4 miles.

On Friday [November 30] continuing thro' fine feed, and a beautiful landscape & rich soil [Salt Creek, 1851, later named
Nephi], we entered the Kanyon which leads into Sandpitch valley &
camped 2 miles above its mouth, steep and difficult crossings.
This creek bears West then North into the Utah, affording as much
water as Big Kanyon creek.

Next morning [December 1] leaving the wagons to follow myself
and Bro: Huntington started on horseback for the Sandpitch
Settlement where we arrived same evening after sunset, distance
about 35 miles or 130 1/4 from GSL City; found Fa Morley and the
Brethren well, and generally in good Spirits. beautiful location fine
stone quarry, Plenty fuel, soil not pleasant, being composed of
-adhesive clay~

Next day [December 2] being Sabbath gave some instructions to
the Brethren in public meeting assembled had a good time.

On Monday 3rd December I was taken very sick, confined to bed
all day, vomited every few minutes. 1 P.M. the report of the Brass
piece followed by a beautiful song, announced the arrival of the
company who passed over the creek and encamped.

Next day [December 4] recovered my health, visited Camp &
received 5 additional volunteers making our whole number 52 with
2 additional wagons, and teams. Whole No of Wagons 15.

On Wed 5th started in good Spirits down the valley towards
the Sevier which we reached on Thursday evg and encamped on
its banks. This is a noble river, sluggish current several feet deep,
and apparently navigable, for small steamers, and having some­
what the appearance of the Western Jordan, but much larger: but
its valley, and the country we had passed since leaving Sandpitch
was mostly a Desert with the exceptions of small bottoms of grass
and willows. Here we met C Shumway, J Allred &B Ward who had
been out to trade and explore; and who brought us a sample of
good stone coal found a short distance up the river. Here also we
met Captn Walker and a portion of his band. We remained in
Camp with them on Friday all day and that night. Much sickness
prevailed among them which we found to be meazles. We prayed,
and administered to them by the laying on of hands, nursed the
sick with tea, coffee, sugar, Bread & Meat, gave them medical
advice, and divided to Walker, and his brother Arripin, (who was
sick) the bag of Flour sent to him by President Young. We, in turn
received much information of the country South & East from
Walker, &Ward, and were furnished by Walker with an Indian
guide (called Ammomah) who left us the 3rd day following having
been sickly since he started with us. We took leave of our White
and Indian friends on Saturday &continued our journey up the
Sevier for several days crossing it frequently at good fords, and
once on the ice with our wagons; it snowed a little every day, but
was never to exceed a few inches deep in the valley, and finally we
had three bright days with severe cold, and Thermometer at one
time 21 below Zero Fah. The character of the valley was still a
desert except here and there a few hundred acres of rich bottom
[Salina, 1863; and Richfield, 1864], supplying sufficient feed for
any amount of trave; Cedar fuel was every where plenty on the
neighboring hills and mountains.

On Wed 12th the river being enclosed on both sides by a
Mountainous range, and running thro a close Kanyon were forced
to leave it, and make over a spur of the Mountains to the left for
several miles, pass rather difficult for wagons having to double
teams for 200 yards mid rocks and snow, and forests of cedars and
shrub Pine, having gained the summit, after some delay and toil,
we had a beautiful descent thro’ the forests above mentioned for
several miles and finally encamped at night fall in a beautiful rich
valley on the Sevier [Marysvale, 1863], clothed richly and densely
with grass, rushes and willows and some tall pines, shewing them­
selves in the distance in the open valley, and abundance of them on
the sides of the Mountains and in the Kanyon of a small stream
flowing in from the West. On past reaching the boarders of this
grassy vale, we erected a mile board, marked 200 miles from G.S.L.
City. This valley is watered by two streams besides the Sevier, con­
taining from one to Two thousand acres perhaps more of excellent
land, and is connected with more good land a few miles farther up
the valley, which is from 1/4 to 1 1/4 miles wide. This location tho’
limited in soil has an abundant supply of fuel, and building timber
convenient, and its creeks tho’ small have sufficient fall for over­
shot water power to any extent. Continuing up the river from this
place for 2 days we encamped on the Fork to our right, 3/4 miles
above the junction. The two Forks r nearly equal: right hand rather
the largest. One comes in from the South West, the other from an
Easterly course thro’ a Kanyon, and the two divided by a lofty range
of Mountains.

Next day [December 15] continuing up the Fork to our right we
were stopped before night [just south of Circleville, 1864], the val­
ley terminating in an impassable Kanyon, an abrupt chain of
Mountains sweeping round us before and on each hand, the river
rushing like a torrent between Perpendicular rocks. Snow at our
encampment 4 in deep. Weather still cold. same evening after going
into camp, Brother Driggs and myself on horseback, rode about 8
miles to find a pass to the left, of which we had been informed by
Walker & Ward. Country very rough, clothed with shrub cedar
&Pine, marred by huge piles of stone washed down from the Mountains and full of gulleys. The dry beds of streams caused by torrents from the mountains, and the hills too abrupt for a passage with wagons, & the snow having increased to 2 feet deep as we ascended. We returned long after night & were joyfully received by our Brethren, who had begun to be anxious about our safety.

Next day [December 16] remained in camp while Capt'n Brown and others, attempted to search a pass on horseback over the great Wasatch range, to the right, in order to find our way if possible to the valley of Little Salt Lake. They rode all day, mid deep snows ascending and descending, rugged and stony precipices, and returned after dark to the great joy of the Camp. They reported a pass very difficult but not impassable.

On Monday 17th Camp rose at an early hour and prepared to ascend the Mountain. Myself, Capt'n Jones, Bro: Phelps, Bro: Fulmer, and fa Dustin, with some 20 others, waded on foot among the snows, axes, spades & picks in hand, preparing the way for the wagons which followed. night found us encamped in two bodies several miles apart in the midst of the Mountains having doubled on some of the teams and helped them up and down with ropes almost perpendicular rocks & precipices in sometimes shovelling the snow which was deeper than our heads hanging over us like the cornishes of a cavern. At night while thus encamped a heavy snow storm fell on us, accompanied by high winds, dispersed our cattle, put out our fires, and confined us closely till noon next day: at which time, clearing up a little, we gathered the cattle with some difficulty and hauled the rear wagons for 1 1/2 miles past the advance camp of the former day. Camping in a rocky sage hollow snow very deep, cattle little or nothing to eat, and the winds howling thro' the night like distant heavy thunder—towards morning more calm—cattle gathered—the rear wagons brought up. Company all together once more, shovel on thru' snow about 2 feet deep, and encamped at evening, several hundred feet below the heights we had passed. The next day descending thro' a smooth Kanyon, several miles very gradual encamped in far less snow, and tolerable feed. Capt'n Brown and myself had rode several miles down the kanyon, passed thro' a gate of perpendicular rock, which we called Summer gate and entered the neck of a valley snow not more than 2 or 3 in deep, returning after dark, with the news, diffused joy thro the camp and the next day the 21st all descended thro' Summer Gate and encamped on the Northern extreme to Little Salt Lake valley. [They emerged from the mountains down Fremont Wash, about ten miles south of Beaver.] Cedar for fuel. Plenty feed, nice water.
Sat 22nd Continued our journey thro’ Sage Desert, and camped among the Sage using it for fuel and snow for water. Our cattle found abundant grass some of which was green & free from snow.

Sab 23rd Passing thro’ country mostly Desert, arrived on some broad rich meadows dotted with willows, the effects of a stream coming out from the Eastern Mountains which had spread and sunk. Passing this in about 2 miles we came to Red creek [Paragonah, 1851], having struck the road made by Capt'n Hunts train of wagons, & subsequently followed up by the California emigrants. Distance from GSL City 272 miles. From this place we sent dispatches to your honorable body, and our families & friends by Joseph Mathews & Schuyler Jennings, by which you will have learned partially our views of that part of the Country and its resources.

On Wed 26th same hour that our express started for the valley, Twenty of us started with Pack animals Southward, leaving Thirty men under the Presidency of Br: Fulmer, in charge of the wagons and cattle, to explore more fully the vicinity. We soon found that our express had run before the tidings were one quarter known of the rich resources in the immediate vicinity, besides Red creek, with its thousands of acres of rich soil convenient for water, well supplied with fuel pasturage and meadow, we found 4 miles Southward a large stream flowing westward from a Kanyon in the Wasatch range, having a rapid current, running on the highest lands and enriching thousand of acres which descended from it South West & North, this stream affords twice the water of city creek.

Six miles Southward is another stream flowing out of the same range nearly as large as city creek which we called South creek, and which like the other two streams in the valley, flows rapidly on the highest lands, and affords alluvial fertility in its red wash for thousands of acres surrounding, and on which the richest kind of feed [Parowan, 1851]. The principal soil of these streams consists of a Redish Sandy loam washing from the decomposing Mountains on its East and terminating in rich meadows and black soil with heavy wire grass, willows & weeds. Away on the West towards the Little Salt Lake which like a mirror shews itself some six or eight miles distant. All these farming lands lay at the immediate Western base of the Wasatch range which serves for a Fort or fence on their Eastern border, while their foot hills, nooks and kanyons and some places on the plains are clothed with inexhaustible supply of shrub pine and cedar fuel. Most of the hills and lands beyond the reach of water are richly clothed in pasturage while the Kanyon of Centre Creek opens
an easy highway into the very bosom of the Mountains, where are inexhaustible stores of lofty Pine from the size of a fence Pole to every desirable size for logs, for Sawing, hewing, shingles &c. Stone quarries of Sand & Free stone and Lime, abound in the neighborhood. All these streams afford most convenient mill sites.

Passing on from there Southward the land continues rich and grassy for several miles—then few miles of Sage intervenes which is the Southern boundary of Little Salt Lake Valley.

Five miles from South creek brought us to the brow of a hill which descended into a fine large valley lying to the South West. On this hill comes out large Springs making several acres of very rich bench land on its immediate sides [Enoch, 1851]. Black soil, clothed with grass & canes. These streams descending Westward make a rich grassy meadow perhaps half a mile Wide and two or three long. Continuing on Southward we passed over several miles of second rate land consisting partly of mud plains and sage, and partly of lively Sandy soil & grass. Thousands of acres of which may be watered. Some five or six miles brings us to a large stream called the Muddy clothed with hundreds of acres of scattering Cotton woods some if which were large. Below these is a handsome expansive plain of very rich land, consisting partly of overflowed wire grass meadows, all of which might be drained and cultivated using the waters on the higher lands. Other portions of this plain were dry, level and delightful for the Plough clothed with rich meadow grass Rabbit weed &c—soil mostly black loam very rich. These meadows about 2 or 3 miles Wide appeared thro our telescope to extend from 10 to 20 miles up and down. The stream that waters this where we crossed it going South consisted of two branches 10 feet wide, & 1 foot deep, running swiftly. this supply would be greatly increased by the June floods. This stream comes out of the Mountains high and runs nearly level with the surface of the ground, the waters are easily managed, can be used up on the dry and thirsty lands on either side thus rendering its swampy parts tillable. But the best of all remains to be told, near the large body of good land on the Southwestern borders are thousands of acres of cedar contributing an almost inexhaustible supply of fuel which makes excellent coal. In the centre of these forests rises a hill of the richest Iron ore, specimens of which are herewith produced. This valley of water, soil cotton wood and cedar taken in connection with the cedar, and mineral wealth and the resources of Little Salt Lake valley constitutes a field of rich resources capable of sustaining and employing 50,000 inhabitants at present, and 100,000 eventually. All of which inhabitants would have soil, water, pasturage, plenty building timber and mineral wealth
more conveniently situated, than any other portion we have seen West of the states. The climate of this country seems to us very delightful compared with other places in the Basin. It was frosty but not extreme. It was snowy but not much. Its days in the latter part of December and forepart of January were pleasant and sometimes oppressively warm. the sunset hues and atmosphere resembled the West Indies, a little modified by cool breezes. The nights were decidedly colder. The Thermometer ranging at the above dates at noon from 60 in the shade to 32 at evening and at sunrise and taken as a whole we were soon convinced this was the ‘first rate good’ place we were sent to find as a location for our next Southern colony [Cedar City, 1851].

From this creek called the muddy [now Coal Creek] the wagon road which we had been in since reaching the centre of the [Little] Salt Lake valley bore off to the West, some 20 miles around the point of a Mountain, we therefore left it and continued Southward along the immediate foot of the Wasatch range of 17 miles, it still being an open valley where the map shews a Mountain. This brought us to the Summit of the Basin rim, where we encamped for the night in a fertile valley on the best kind of feed & good soil [Kanarraville, early 1860s]. Plenty fuel, several small streams coming out from the Wasatch with rapid currents, and running on the highest points of land in the valley till lost in a lake near the Summit, or in alluvial meadow bottoms. The valley was never less than from one to Three miles wide, and even the very rim of the Basin seemed to invite Settlement, altho somewhat exposed to cold and storms in Winter [Harmony, 1852, and New Harmony, 1854]. Cedar fuel every where abundant—the Mountain range nearly perpendicular and in many parts composed of Red sand stone in progress of dissolution. One dome or tower of Red Sand stone, seemed to rise like the dome of a church a mile above the level of the mountain.—the clouds played swiftly round its head while all else was clear. Four or five very lofty Pines showed themselves in the mouth of kanyon: (so much for Fremont’s far famed Basin rim, its more like a platter & would certainly spill mush & milk if filled to the rim and jogged by an earthquake.)

Sat 29th Descending Southward down an open valley we soon came to a living stream [Ash Creek] which ran Southward thro a Kanyon, a spur of the Mountain from the right closing in close to the Wasatch, here we were forced to leave the stream and lake to our right over the hills for many miles. Country rough and marred with huge stones, the North side a foot deep with snow, on the Summit and South side very miry. This range of hills distinctly
marked a change of climate. Night found us encamped on a stream in a rough broken country. Cotton wood, ash and some oak thickly studded along its banks. Here some Vi Ute Indians visited our camp, stayed with us over night and piloted us for a day or two, increasing in numbers as we penetrated their country. Appeared well pleased and very talkative. Next morning [December 30] soon after starting came to a few acres of fertile bottom [Toquerville, 1858], covered with old corn stalks and Squashes— These were several years old their present farms being farther down. A short distance brought us to the Main Virgin, which here runs a Westerly course gathering the waters thru small tributaries from the North or Basin rim. It was here 18 yds wide 1 foot deep, swift current, Rocky bottom, flowing mostly thro’ Kanyons which forced us from it over a high Sandy hilly country to the left and camping again on the river at night, on a small fertile bottom. Distance from GSL City to the rim of the Basin b our route 311 miles. From the rim 13 miles rapid descent brought us to milder climate, & first cultivation. A mile or so further brought us to the bank of the virgin before mentioned. The great Wasatch range along which we had travelled during our whole journey here terminates in several abrupt Promontorys. The Country Southward opening to the view as it were a wide expanse of chaotic matter huge hills, Sandy deserts, cheerless, grassless, waterless plains, perpendicular rocks, loose barren clay, dissolving beds of Sandstone & various other elements, lying in inconceivable confusion, in short a country in ruins, dissolved by the peltings of the storms of ages, or turned inside out, upside down by terrible convulsions in some former age. Southward the view was open for at least 80 miles, shewing no signs of water or fertility and the Indians tell us there was none Eastward—the view was bounded by vast tables of Mountains one rising above the other and presenting a level summit at the horizon, as if the whole country had occupied a certain level several thousand feet higher than its present, and had washed away, dissolved, or sunken, leaving the monuments of its once exalted level, smooth and fertile surface. Poor & worthless as was the country it seemed everywhere strewed with broken Pottery well glazed & striped with unfading colors, it may have been the choicest portion of Gods vineyard.

Jany 1st 1850 Rainey day—Passed on down the Virgin were soon met by more Indians,. the bottoms now expanded about a mile in width and several miles in length, loose Sandy Soil, very pleasant for farming, extremely fertile, easily watered & sometimes subject to overflows. No timber in the country save cotton woods, large, along the streams, sufficient for temporary building and fuel.
As we passed downward, a range of hills divided this fertile valley [Washington, 1857], from another of perhaps equal extent [St. George, 1861], the two containing Perhaps 3 or 4000 acres of very desirable land. At the lower termination of the second valley a fork from the North called the Santa Clara entered the Virgin. The river below the junction running in rough kanyons, amid a rugged worthless country. The view at some 20 miles distance to the South West bounded by a rugged Mountain chain, some snow on its summit. Junction of these two streams was 80 miles from where we met left the wagons and 352 from GSL City by our new pass over the rim of the Basin, about 20 miles further by the usual wagon pass down the Santa Clara.

The climate in which we were now located appeared to be that of early Spring the new grass was Springing up, some Plants were green. The buds of the trees were swelling, the days almost oppressively warm, nights moderately cold, sometimes freezing a little, rain at intervals all day and thro' the night. On the 1st of Jany Thermometer ranging about 64 in the shade at noon, 34 at night & morning.

The country below being of the most unpromising character, according to appearance, and the information we received from the Indians, corroborating us in the same, and our animals almost unable to travel and daily growing weaker, having frequently and daily to be unpacked, and lifted out of the mire, it was thought imprudent to venture further. We therefore turned to the North, up the Santa Clara and encamped on New Years evening on a wet miry bottom in the midst of heavy rain about 2 miles above the junction on our homeward journey. The Indians were with us till a late hour, being robust men, well armed with bows and poison arrows, and nearly equaling us n numbers, we fed them, sung for them, they joining with much glee in the chorus of our new hymn "O come, come away["]. The chief made us a speech bidding us welcome to his country, wishing to be on friendly terms with the Mormons, the Utahs especially Walkers band, the Americans, and all good people, he invited and strongly urged our people to settle with them and raise corn. They left us about 10 p.m. and returned again next morning, piloted us all day. We saw no appearance of women or children among them, they cultivate in small patches only, raise good crops by irrigation. We gave them some Peas for seed together with presents of Dried meat the flour which we could not well pack to the wagons.

Jany 2nd Passed up the Santa Clara 13 miles, and encamped in a good grove of cotton wood and ash mingled with grape vines having
passed many hundred acres of first-rate bottom land easily watered and liberally timbered [Santa Clara, 1854].

*Jan*y 3rd Continued still up the river thro’ some fertile and good bottoms well timbered with Cotton wood [Gunlock, 1857] and over some barren hills & Plains striking the new wagon road made by Capt'n Hunt. Travelled on it some distance—and camped among the Cotton woods, some good grass on the Mountain sides the first we have had for several days.

*Friday 4th* Passed over a hilly country, and rather rough roads, passing the rim of the Basin. Camped near it in some cedars 4 in. of old snow, and considerable snow fell during the night. Animals fared well on the mountain grass which was green.

*Sat 5th* Passed down a few miles thro a fertile valley [Newcastle], still snowing. Came to running water and the Camp of Purblo and a few wagons, about 12 miles farther we reached Capt'n Fly's Camp of perhaps fifty wagons, men, women and children who have lain by on a fine stream to shoe their cattle and recruit. Of them we purchased some Whiskey, drank tolerably free, some of us lodged in their tents and had the luxury of sitting in a chair. Here was seen some of the richest specimens of iron ore, which was scattered over the hills and said to exist in inexhaustible quantities two miles up the kanyon, which Kanyon thus opened out, as we were informed into a fertile meadow [Pinto, 1856], this small stream would water some fertile land, and cedar fuel is abundant, and easy of access. Pasturage inexhaustible. The country West & North West expanding into a vast plain or valley unexplored, with Mountain ranges interspersed lost from our view in unexplored immensity [this is the Escalante Desert].

*Sab 6th* Travelled 25 miles, and camped on a small stream at the foot of the iron hills and cedar groves, a few miles from the Muddy mentioned in our outward passage.

*Mond 7th* Travelled across the Muddy and its bottoms and encamped at the Springs on the hill—Capt'n Jones and myself left the camp, and walking and riding till dark 11 miles farther reached the camp of Capt'n Fullmer & our wagons, who had removed during our absence from Red creek to Centre creek found all well, Counted up and compared our discoveries. His party had during our absence searched out much country to the West and visited a small Lake [Rush Lake] and some good lands [no settlement was established here, only scattered farms and ranches] separated from Little Salt Lake by a little mountain range. They had also visited Little Salt Lake and found what Walker calls “Gods own house,” consisting of a Kanyon and Perpindicular rock penetrated by a
branch of Little Salt Lake and covered with Hieroglyphics, and strange figures chiselled on the rocks, some of which they had copied [Parowan Gap petroglyphs]. They had also explored a portion of the valley of the Muddy & found the Iron mine, which we also found, they had also penetrated various branches of the Kanyons—found inexhaustible supplies of Pine timber and some other valuable timber, also quarries of Free stone, Plaster a Paris, and water lime, specimens of which are herewith presented.

_Tuesd Jany 8th_ Brethren erected a Liberty pole hoisted a flag marked with one Star and Great Basin, and a Free Soil banner, prepared a public Dinner, had the cannon well charged, & all things ready for the reception of the Pack Company we had left under Captn Brown. They arrived soon after noon amid the discharge of Kannon and small arms. All sat down to a most substantial public Dinner being the first celebration of the peopling of Little Salt Lake valley, which we hope will be celebrated annually around that spot till a hundred thousand merry hearts can join the festival.

_Wed Jany 9th_ Rested ourselves and animals—

_Thurs Jany 10th_ Recommended our return journey. Camped at evening in the open plain towards the North end of the valley.

_Friday Jany 11th_ Travelled about 9 miles over a range of mountains. camped in a snow storm among the cedars.

12th Travelled 9 miles to Beaver creek. here were broad expansive meadows; good soil, some of it much like the church Farm of Great Salt Lake Valley, and watered by one creek as large as Big cotton wood in our valley, and several smaller streams, all coming out of the Wasatch, and shewing Kanyons and Mountain sides of timber, large groves of Cotton wood appeared at some distance above us and some tall Pines distinguished by telescope at the mouth of the Kanyons. Cedar groves as usual, at some miles distant from the farming lands. This is an excellent place for an extensive Settlement [Beaver, 1856]. Passing this place, encamped 5 miles further on a small sage creek.

13th Travelled 11 1/4 miles over a hilly country & encamped without water

14th Travelled 9 miles and descended into a small valley & encamped at night on Reed creek

15th Laid in Camp during a heavy snow storm

16th Travelled 11 3/4 miles over a hilly country, and encamped without water

17th " 16 3/4 miles camped in a cedar hollow—without water—country worthless, save for pasturage fuel. snow nearly 1 foot deep
**PRATT’S REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

_Frid 18th_ Travelled 11 miles and descended into a low well watered valley of meadows and soil [**Meadow**], and encamped on Prairie creek, small stream, somewhat brackish, snow fell during the night about 1 foot additional

_Sat Jan 19th_ Hitched up at noon, and wallowing in snow, sometimes upwards of two feet deep, arrived long after night at Rock creek [now known as Chalk Creek; this is the site of **Fillmore**, 1851], 10 miles distant & encamped—snow 18 in deep—Plenty of cotton wood fuel. Cattle nothing to eat, but little Browze & Willows

_Sab Jan 20th_ Remained in camp, snow too deep to travel, and sustain the cattle Weather clear and cold:

_21st_ Cloudy again. Snowing, remained in Camp.

Here the writing changes to that of Parley P. Pratt.

Here by unanimous will of the company it was decided to leave the waggons and cattle in charge of Bro. David Fulmer and 26 men with provisions sufficient to last them till spring and the Remainder 24 men with myself attempt with pack animals to fource our way home.

We took leave of the camp on _22nd Jan_, and after forcing our way one hundred and ten miles, through snow from one to four feet deep for about 8 days arrived safe in Utau fort with the loss of about six animals. the delays and toils caused by snow exhausted our provisions two or three days before reaching Utau. at this crisis Chauncy West and myself forced our way to Utau and sent out provisions to the company who were then 24 ms. distant.

Great credit is due to the people of Utau for their liberal and prompt action on this matter. horses and provisions were started before midnight in the evening of our arrival, although hindered [hindered] and even fired on by the Ute Indians while gathering their animals. A Br. who left the Camp without leave and contrary to advise was picked up by our Utah Relief express 6 ms. Beyond the fort, being nearly frozen to death. He now lies at Utau, crippled in his feet by frost.

I arived home on _Wednesday evening the 30th of Jan_ having been absent ten weeks. The Pack company arrived soon after, some with frozen limbs but I believe generally in good health and Spirits.

I now wish to bear witness of the fifty who accompanyed me on this expedition, and to have them in honorable remembrance. With scarce an exception they were patient and cheerful under all circumstances. Willing to be guided and controlled, and I can truely say that, in twenty years experience in the toils and hardships of the Church I have never seen men placed in circumstances better
calculated to try their utmost strength and patience. And at one time another half mile of deep snow intervening between them and camp would have caused every man to sink exhausted without being able to force their way any longer.

They are first Rate men, and I have promised to remember them for the very next undertaking which requires toil, labour and sacrifice.

I have the honor to subscribe myself
Your obedient servant Parley P. Pratt

133. There are two copies of this report, both mainly in Campbell's handwriting. They are virtually identical except for the final two paragraphs, added by Parley in his own handwriting, paying tribute to the men of the expedition.