

having been occupied for some time. They had killed an elk and were drying it over a fire which was still burning, showing they had hastily left. It was the noon hour and orders were given to prepare a meal and follow the trail. The discipline of the organization was not very good. There was no fixed and regular way of doing anything. Guns were left on the grass or placed carelessly on the wagons, so we were in constant danger of being accidentally shot. One party, John Currier, by name, was sitting on a wagon when a carelessly drawn gun was discharged making a painful wound in his hip. There was no expert assistance at hand and it was evident he should be taken where such assistance could be secured. His wounds were dressed by his comrades as best they knew how. Every available thing for his comfort was procured, and he was placed in one of the wagons, unloaded for that purpose, - a common lumber wagon. An escort was provided and ~~we~~^{they} started across the prairie, without a road, for the settlements, consuming a day and a night. Where they arrived next day noon proved to be Spirit Lake, forty miles away.

When the preparations in camp were complete they followed the trail that the Indians had made in their escape through the grass until sun down. We scanned the great level prairie in advance with a field glass and found no Indians in sight. Night was approaching and it was evident that we could not follow the trail in darkness, the Indians having several hours start and in all probability would continue their journey through the night. It was thought impossible to overtake them, so we returned to camp, arriving there about two o'clock that night. The next day while some of the men were scouting, they discovered horsemen in