

lowed Bear river to the Great Salt Lake.

And here it was they met Peter Skeen Ogden, representative of the Hudson Bay company, whose wintering grounds they styled Ogden's hole, now known as North Ogden. His name was then carried by the Humbolt, up which he had made his way, after crossing over from the Columbia, into the Utah country. What Ogden thought of the unceremonious treatment Ashley accorded him is not known, but if it could be brought forth from the Hudson Bay company's records it would make most interesting reading.

As the first blow struck by Americans for the possession of the West, it is an important historical event, especially when taken into consideration with the many instances where Americans were humbled and driven to desperation by successful British opposition along the northern borderland, an opposition which took every form, from the inciting of Indian massacres to the looting of helpless trappers.

Just what Ashley did to Ogden is not yet fully known. N. J. Wyeth reports the incident to the effect that whiskey was used with Ogden's men in liberal quantities till the hiding place of his furs was found out, when they were looted. Ashley, in a conversation with Audubon, the famous naturalist, stated the significant fact that the disastrous wreck was the turning point of his career, since it directed him into territory where the best of fortune was awaiting him, in the form of "130 packs of beaver, which he obtained for a song." This was the coupe that made Ashley independently rich, and endeared him to the valley so much that after following Provost's advice to go east from Green river to the headwaters of the Platte, through South Pass, which he had discovered on the way out, he determined upon Cache valley as the rendezvous of his mountain men for 1826. This valley thus became the cen-

ter of the trade in the second year of its existence, the last year in which Ashley personally came west.

Going east in the fall of 1825, he descended the Big Horn river to the Yellowstone, passed down that to the Missouri, where he met the first American armed expedition into the west, bent upon the mission of driving out the British, and then on down the Missouri, under an armed escort from General Atkinson's command, to St. Louis. The day after his arrival a message that was to attract John Jacob Astor's attention to this country was sent. It was from Bostwick, the American Fur company's St. Louis agent, and read: "General Ashley returned here yesterday with 7,900 pounds of Rocgy Mountain beaver. There is no doubt of the fact. It is said to be of fine quality."

Again in the fall of 1826, when Ashley came back from his Cache valley rendezvous with the product of a second season in Utah waters, Bostwick wrote to Astor: "Fortune has again smiled on the enterprises of General Ashley. He is within a few days' march of here with 126 packs of beaver." These letters flooded the mountains with American Fur company's men, and ultimately drove Ashley's friends from the field.

A remarkable bill of sale, executed to Smith, Jackson and Sublette, on July 18, 1826, "near the Grand lake, west of the Rocky Mountains," marks the beginning of the second era of the fur trade in Utah, and it will be the subject of the next paper in this series. The making of it meant that Ashley had money enough to warrant his retiring, and from his arrival in St. Louis, on September 9, 1826, with his pack of furs, he became one of its prominent merchants, and the business agent of the less lucky men who still remained in the field. In 1831 he was elected to congress, and, with Senator Benton, of Missouri, became a leading antagonist of Daniel Webster, being the only

authority upon western affairs who could claim actual experience beyond the frontier. In 1838, on March 26, he died, and his grave today in a St. Louis cemetery is marked by a Linden tree at the foot and a cedar board at the head. April 3, 1829, the Missouri Republican published an eulogy of him and his service in western exploration. On April 5 his fellow townsmen held a meeting out of respect for his memory and passed resolutions of praise.

In Utah, after eighty-eight years, a national forest is named for him, but the government, in announcing the honor, deals in the most meagre way with his western record, and shows no indication of knowing for what main reasons he is entitled to the distinction it confers upon him of having his name perpetuated in the country where most of his work was done.

Our old friend William Marlon Reedy in discussing the fact that Joseph Pulitzer has declared for Mr. Bryan for President and Elbert Hubbard has come out for Mr. Taft remarks that "honors may be said to be easy, even though the indication of discord between the WORLD and the flesh or the devil—as many of the orthodox might view the situation—is somewhat disconcerting."

He's a great Reedy.

After a close contest in the Mantl primary of Norseman church Republicans, A. H. Christensen was endorsed as candidate for judge of the seventh judicial district. It is always a safe bet that the candidate for any office in that district will have a name ending in sen or son and a good deal of money changes hands at every election down there on the lettering in the final syllable. After the votes are cast the winning candidate retains his original name and the other's name is Dennis.

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