

3) not more than about 6 feet above the level of the Platte!  
& quite level. After we came within two miles of the river  
we left we left the road we had come so far, to our right  
& shortly crossed another road, both meeting a little above  
this point; & at noon we were on the river bank, & soon were  
surrounded by a host of Indians, & thronging to shake hands.  
but we thought the articles on our wagon took their attention  
more than our selves. Many women were here with hoes  
digging for artichokes, who eyed us from a distance  
only. Some of these had besides a piece of buffalo <sup>skin</sup> a short,  
dirty, ragged gown on, & on the whole had not much differ-  
ence of appearance from the black soil they dug up.  
We were now much concerned how to cross <sup>this</sup> singular, great  
river, at least one mile wide, & although mostly only covering  
its bed, had, on the whole, scarcely any bottom, on the account  
of the quick sand, which is very soft, & uneven, so that one  
never has a sure foothold. How our luggage, wagon  
~~we~~ we would cross it was of not little moment, & the same  
time a cloud above us was shedding its contents on us.  
We resolved at last to get the Indians to carry the things  
over, & draw the wagon by hand through. But the chief  
with us, was miffed because we thought it best to go to  
the head chiefs' lodge, & would therefore, with the men here,  
not stir. We had to send a messenger to the head chief,  
& some of his "young men", who was too very prompt in  
complying, for soon we saw quite a lively army, mostly  
naked stalking through the river, ~~with~~ holding their buffalo  
skins, & few of them blankets above their heads. On their arri-  
val not only shaking of hands commenced again, but imbr <sup>ap</sup>ing