

from the Platte was bank full, where we camped for the night, & had again an unpleasant night, as a very hard rain came on again, & had nothing but our blankets to lay on the wet ground. About 50 of Pawnees were camped round us, & in general no shelter but what their buffalo skins would afford.

16th A man coming from the Bellevue, told us that we could not cross Papillon, as it were at least 10 feet deep. We then turned to the right of the road we came, travelling nearer the Platte, & by such a course would cross the Papillon near the Omaha village, where we possibly might get assistance in crossing it. Soon after noon we arrived at the stream, which was very high. We called for Omahas with their skin boats, but who were so long in coming that we thought of another plan viz: we took the wagon bed off, & rapped our tent round it, & in it ferried the wagon & ourselves over, a few Pawnees helped us, one swimming behind & one before the box to guide it, we were not quite done when some Omahas come with a skin boat, who took yet some over. We succeeded in this manner to land every thing save but dripping wet, as it rained continually. Now there was but one bad place yet to cross & we were safe. This was but a small creek, but as the mules would have stuck fast by enclosing them to pull through, we had to loosen them, & get them on solid ground, then by means of ropes & our own strength we overcame this obstacle too. Not only little distressed of Pawnee life, & by the many places we had to pass through, we arrived at the Mission house at Bellevue, where we were again very cordially received. ~~A boat~~ Here we had to stay a few days to await the arrival of a steamer, which was hourly looked for, & on which we took passage to Kansas but 9 miles from Westfield. ~~At this~~