

all were in doubt and the wilderness seemed likely to swallow them, then the strange capability of Sacajawea proved their salvation. As a little child she had come with her people through this desert, and now with the keen sight of the migrating bird which directs its course by landmarks not noticeable by ordinary sight, again and again she pointed out the path. So it was in the summer the expedition came again to the Minnetaree villages, having accomplished an immortal achievement. Nothing remained for them but a short and easy course downstream to St. Louis and civilization. Here Chabonneau decided to take up again his abode, at the spot where he had enlisted; and here stayed, too, Sacajawea, under the thrall of her lord and master. The student of Lewis and Clark reads with a pang that while Chabonneau received \$500 for his services, Sacajawea received nothing, not even her freedom; and it is perhaps the most serious blemish upon the fame of the Captains that, for all the record shows the gentle faithfulness, the affection, the extraordinary skill of this daughter of the wilderness

remained unrequited.

There is one later mention of Sacajawea. In 1811, the traveler Breckinridge, sailing up the Missouri, records a meeting with an old Frenchman and his wife, he who learns had crossed the continent with Lewis and Clark. The woman seemed fond of white people, tried to imitate civilized ways in her dress and manners, and in general appeared like one in whom an aspiration had been aroused for something higher than slavery. She was, says the traveler, in feeble health. Probably she died soon after, and there is no memorial of her. The river to which the Captains gave her name bears now another designation. When she laid down her life, and what became of the baby which with its mother had so strange an experience, no man can say.

After a century, it is not right that the dust should be brushed off this neglected figure—the one woman who went with Lewis and Clark, who contributed so memorably to their success—who, perhaps was their salvation? Is she not a handsome sweet and brave among the sweetest and bravest?

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