

not, as was that of Pocahontas, a single act unattended with personal danger and hardship and heightened in interest by the beauty of the heroine, but the exhibition of fortitude and fidelity extending for more than a year, under circumstances unparalleled in history. In the spring of 1804 Lewis and Clark started up the Missouri river with a small body of men in light boats propelled by oars and sails and proceeded as far as the Mandat Nation, about 1,500 miles, where they went into winter quarters on friendly terms with the Indians. Here they met several Indian traders from the Hudson Bay Company in the far North, and hardy adventurers, among whom was Toussaint Chabonneau, a French half-breed, who had been higher up the river, and they engaged as an interpreter. His wife, Sacajawea belonged to an Indian tribe of Shoshones, or Snake Indians, who lived on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains. She had been captured when a child by the Minnetarees, from whom Chabonneau had purchased her, and at fifteen had become his wife. When in the following spring, she and her husband started up the river with the expedition, she had a boy baby but two months old. The leaders of the expedition feared she would be an incumbrance, but took her along, hoping that she might be of service when they reached the mountains from which she came. From the start, however, the Bird Woman, as she was called, demonstrated that she was an invaluable acquisition. With her papoose strapped on her back she labored with the men with paddle and tow rope, cheered the company with her vivacity and in many ways rendered valuable assistance. Once when a canoe containing the most valuable effects of the captains of the expedition, their journals, scientific instruments and medicines, was filled with water in midstream, Charbouneau

abandoned it in cowardly alarm, but the Bird Woman saved not only herself and baby, but rescued the valuable cargo and landed it safely on shore.

After four months of hard labor upstream for 1,800 miles, the expedition reached the headquarters of the Missouri, and the leaders were filled with apprehension at the difficulties which confronted them and the Pacific. It was then that the Bird Woman proved their protector and deliverer.

She recognized with girlish glee scenes familiar in her childhood and the spot where she had been captured by the Minnetarees. Soon Indians made their appearance, creating alarm, but Sacajawea fearlessly went forward to meet them, and found they were her own tribe, and that the chief was her brother. There ensued the most friendly relations between the members of the expedition and the Indians who furnished them horses and enabled them to make their way over mountains and to the mouth of the Lewis river, whence, before winter, many thrilling adventures, they descended the Columbia and safely reached the Pacific. The Indians everywhere, through the influence of the Bird Woman who proved a mascot to the expedition, received them with every demonstration of friendship. The brief outline here given of the valuable services rendered by this Indian heroine is to be found detailed, from day to day, along with other incidents of this wonderful expedition, in the narrative published first in 1814. But of late it has been brought out in more romantic relief in Mrs. Eva Emory Dye's admirable volume, "The Conquest," in which both the history and romance of the expedition are faithfully epitomized.

After spending the winter of 1805-06 on the Pacific coast, near the mouth of the Columbia, Lewis and Clark began their long homeward