Among the articles forwarded was a map, prepared by Captain Lewis from all available data of the country lying between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean. The information obtained of the country to the westward of their winter quarters was for the most part derived from Indians more or less acquainted with the country near the head waters of the Missouri and Columbia.

In a letter of transmittal to President Jefferson, dated Fort Mandan, April 7, 1805, Captain Lewis says, "The map which has been forwarded to the secretary of war will give you the idea we enter- prise of the connection of these rivers, which has been formed from the corresponding testimony of a number of Indians who have visited that country, and who have been separately and carefully examined on that subject, and we therefore think it entitled to some degree of confidence." In a following paragraph, he adds, "You may therefore expect me to meet you at Montchhelo in September, 1806. On our return we shall probably pass down the Yellowstone River, which, from Indian information, waters one of the finest portions of the continent."

On Feb. 19, 1806, President Jefferson, in a message to Congress communicating the discoveries of Lewis, says, "During his stay among the Mandans, he had been able to lay down the Missouri, according to courses and distances taken on his passage up it, corrected by frequent observations of longitude and latitude; and to add to the actual survey of this portion of the river, a general map of the country between the Missouri and the Cimarron from the thirty-fourth to the fifty-fourth degrees of latitude. . . . Copies of this map are now presented to both houses of Congress."

After despatching the party for the return trip, the main body of the expedition crossed the mountains, wintered near the mouth of the Columbia, and, returning, reached St. Louis in September the following year.

As is well known, they brought back a large amount of most valuable geographical knowledge. In the map compiled by Captain Clarke, published in the authorized editions of the history of the expedition (Philadelphia and London, 1814), the main features of the country are in very many essential particulars different from the way they were originally represented on the preliminary map forwarded from Fort Mandan. The map was never ordered by Congress, and, so far as I can ascertain, was never published. It seems quite probable that after the return of the expedition means may have been taken to suppress so erroneous a production. At all events, no mention is made of this map in the published his- tory of the expedition. In their journal they say, "At the same time that we took our departure, our barge, manned with seven soldiers, two Frenchmen, and Mr. Gravelines as pilot, sailed for the United States loaded with our presents and despatches."

To-day, however, the original drawing has considerable historic interest, as it gives the opinions of the highest authorities of the time upon the physical geography of the country and its inhabitants, and at the same time presents a clear idea of the value of the aid they received from Indian guides and others.

One of the copies of this map has been preserved in the Archives of the War Department, and through the courtesy of Gen. J. C. Duane, chief of engineers, I have been able to photograph it for re-production.

The only public reference to this map which has come to my attention is a short editorial notice in the Medical Repository, New York, 1806. The journal was edited by Dr. Samuel Latham Mitchell, who was also a member of the House of Representatives. While in Congress, he served upon the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures, and in that capacity advocated all measures for the exploration of the Louisiana Purchase. There is evidence to show that he was one of the pioneers in Congress in favor of the exploration of the Far West by the general government. A copy of the map accompanies this communication. It was reproduced for

AN EARLY MAP OF THE FAR WEST.

The classic transcontinental expedition of Captains Lewis and Clarke, under instructions of President Jefferson to cross the plains and mountains to the Pacific Ocean, left the Mississippi on their venturesome journey, May 14, 1804. Their first winter encamp- ment was made among the Mandan Indian villages, not far from the present site of the town of Bismarck. During the winter of 1804-05 their time was mainly occupied in preparation for the con- tinuation of their journey westward. They were in frequent com- munication with the Indians, and received occasional visits from a few straggling French voyageurs and traders of the North-west Fur Company, who came from their headquarters in Canada as far as the Missouri. On the eve of the departure of the expedition, the following spring, Captain Lewis sent back a number of men with despatches, journals, and collections addressed to the government at Washington.

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1887.