

LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
Washington, D. C., July 21, 1876.

SIR: Capt. William Ludlow, Corps of Engineers, Chief Engineer Department of Dakota, has submitted to this office a copy of the report of his reconnoissance from Carroll, Montana Territory, on the Upper Missouri, to the Yellowstone National Park, and return, made in the summer of 1875. It embraces the reports of reconnoissances by Lieut. R. E. Thompson, Sixth Infantry, and scientific reports by Messrs. George Bird Grinnell, Edward S. Dana, and R. P. Whitfield.

I have respectfully to recommend that the report be printed at the Government Printing-Office, and that 1,500 copies be furnished on the usual requisition.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. A. HUMPHREYS,
Brig. Gen. and Chief of Engineers.

Hon. J. D. CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

Approved by the Secretary of War:

H. T. CROSBY,
Chief Clerk.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *July 21, 1876.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER,
Saint Paul, Minn., March 1, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of my report of the reconnoissance of last summer from Carroll, Mont., over the Carroll road, to Camp Baker, Mont., thence to Fort Ellis, Mont., including a brief tour through the Yellowstone National Park, and the return journey to Carroll. Accompanying my report, for incorporation therewith, are those of Messrs. Grinnell and Dana, which will be found both interesting and valuable.

A map of the reconnoissance is presented, which shows the authorities used, in addition to my own field-notes, which were made as complete as possible. Two sketches are added, one of the Judith Basin and the other of the Upper Geyser Basin, to be inserted in the proper places in the report.

A set of astronomical observations at Carroll, Camp Lewis, and Camp Baker, three principal points on the Carroll road, are furnished; also a tabular statement of latitudes, longitudes, distances, &c., and a list of distances on the Missouri River, from a survey by the United States Boundary Commission. The region included within the limits of the Yellowstone Park is, for its area, the most interesting in the world. It is situated at the very heart of the continent, where the hidden pulses can, as it were, be seen and felt to beat, and the closely-written geological pages constitute a book which, being interpreted, will expose many of the mysterious operations of nature. My own interest in this land of wonder is so keen as to lead me again to hope that it will be protected from the vandalism from which it has already suffered, and that the suggestion of an accurate topographical and geological survey, to complete the work so well inaugurated by Professor Hayden, may be made the subject of favorable consideration and recommendation by the Chief of Engineers.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM LUDLOW,
Captain of Engineers.

THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. A.,
Washington, D. C.