“Like a Roaring Lion”: The Overland Trail as a Sonic Conquest

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In the opening paragraph of *Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims* (1883), the Paiute leader Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins compared the coming of the whites into her homeland to “a lion, yes, ... a roaring lion.” A small
child when Euro-Americans first invaded her people's land near present-day Humboldt Lake in Nevada in the 1840s, Hopkins never forgot the onslaught. In her narrative and on-stage presentations to northeastern reformers during the mid-1880s, Hopkins detailed the environmental and social devastation wrought by Euro-American conquerors, including the depletion of game, homicides, sexual assaults, and other physical violence. Yet her opening observation suggests that indigenous peoples also experienced invasion as a sonic conquest. The phrase “roaring lion” alludes not only to the aural volume of conquest but also to the biblical passage that describes the devil as a roaring lion. Mary Peabody Mann, the...
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Masculinity in Nineteenth-Century US Donner Party Literature, the struggle of democratic and oligarchic tendencies, as in other branches of Russian law, determines the sign.