

of the Smoky Hill, he has traversed the greater part of his journey to the gold region. In fact, there is every reason to believe that the gold region extends to the upper valley of the Kansas river. Gold has repeatedly been picked up by the Indians, in its channel. We are more particular about this route, as it is naturally the great central thoroughfare west. Along its course there are places for settlement farther west than by any other route in Kansas. On this route civilization will extend farther at an early day. It is not only the shortest route, being nearly a direct line, but affords the best roadway that can be found anywhere in the Territory."

But how happens it that this route is not already opened? The reason is obvious. The Santa Fe road has been a great thoroughfare for many years, for nearly 400 miles toward the mines. So of the great Northern Military route, which crosses the Platte, about 250 miles from the mines. For the limited trade, which the Mining Region has heretofore furnished, from the trappers and mountain men, the trail via St. Vrain, intersecting the Military Road, at the South Platte, was most convenient, or by about the same distance, it found its way southerly to the Santa Fe road, and thence a good road to navigation. Either answered a good purpose. But the immense trade to be carried on with that region in 1859 will surely seek a direct route, and that route will be up the Smoky Hill Fork; until it is fairly opened, however, we would not advise emigrants to take it, in preference to the well established routes. It is a matter of some importance to know which, all things con-