

and killed prairie-dogs, owls and rattlesnakes, in the immediate vicinity of the same town.

FIRE ON THE PRAIRIES.

Reaching the lower end of the Platte Valley a little after dark, the excursionists were electrified by what, to most of them, was their first view of a night-fire on the prairies.

The train was immediately halted, and time given for all to drink their fill of the sublime spectacle. The flames extended in an unbroken line a distance of from fifteen to twenty miles ; and one end of the belt of fire was so near, that we could feel the heat, and distinctly hear the roaring and crackling of the devouring element, as it swept over the plains with almost railroad velocity, and shot up its forked flames into the sombre smoky sky.

“What surprise awaits us next?” “When, and where will these wonders end?” “We did not know that this was in the programme!” exclaimed the excursionists, little dreaming that Mr. Durant had given private instructions upon this very subject, as the train passed up the valley two days before.

RETURN TO OMAHA.

The train arrived at Omaha at about ten in the evening. Carriages were in waiting to convey the excursionists either to the Hernden House, or the steamer “Denver,” where an excellent supper, and good quarters awaited them. And all retired to rest, “perchance to dream” of the “loved ones at home,” whose happy faces would soon be seen again ; and whose ears would soon be tingling with the most romantic and improbable tales,