

we might in a moment communicate with our friends at home from that distant region among the yells of the aborigines. For one, I enjoyed it more than I can express, and my gratitude to the gentlemen who invited me to participate in this great occasion is greater than I can express. To the people of Chicago, to the Mayor of the city and its officials generally, I also wish to return my most sincere thanks for their abundant hospitalities. They have done all to promote our pleasure, and make interesting this great excursion, that men could do.

“I am thankful that I am enabled to return my thanks thus publicly to all who have contributed to our enjoyment, and with this expression will detain you no longer, as there are to follow me gentlemen who are much better able to describe the scenes through which we have passed. They will now address you.”

GENERAL SIMPSON'S LETTER FROM NORTH PLATTE.

The following letter, copied from the *Washington Chronicle*, signed “Westward, Ho!” was written by Gen. J. H. Simpson, U. S. Engineers, and President of the Board of Commissioners, appointed by the President of the United States to examine and report, for his acceptance or rejection, completed portions of the Union Pacific Railroad.

The name of General Simpson is also very honorably identified with some of the most important surveys that have been made across the continent, by order of the Government, for railroads, wagon roads, and military posts.

It will be found to contain much valuable information respecting the character and progress of the work; and it is inserted here by permission of General Simpson, for the purpose of affording the latest reliable information upon that subject, as well as a complete and official refutation of the slanderous articles recently published in St. Louis and other papers, which are evidently hostile to this road, with reference to the manner in which it has thus far been constructed:—