

THE GREAT PACIFIC RAILROAD.

NORTH PLATTE STATION, UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD, }
 NEBRASKA, *December 24th*, 1866. }

Editor of the Washington Chronicle:—

I address you from this station on the world's great highway, the Union Pacific Railroad. The distance from Omaha is two hundred and ninety-three miles, and it is short of the west end of the completed track twelve miles, making the total number of miles of track in running condition, west from Omaha, three hundred and five miles. When we consider that two hundred and sixty miles of this road have been constructed during the present year in this out-of-the-way country, to which the iron, rolling stock, pine lumber, and many other essentials of the road had to be transported from St. Louis and St. Joseph by water, on account of the railroad connection being incomplete over Iowa, with Chicago, we are struck with amazement and delight at the boldness, enterprise, and energy with which this great undertaking has been carried forward by the Company constructing the road.

A road constructed with such celerity naturally conveys the idea that it has been caused by the level character of the Platte Valley, through which it runs, and must have been accomplished at the expense of the good character of the track. But one has only to traverse it, as the writer has done, to assure him that this has not been the fact.

I know no road in the country, except it may be the great railroads in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan, which have been perfecting for a score or more of years, that can compare with this road in the general good character of its embankments, cuts, ditches, station houses, water tanks, depots, round houses, machine and car-shops, and all the other adjuncts which are essential to the construction of a first class railroad.

To ride over the road and through the almost limitless valley of the Platte, with a speed equal to that experienced in the great railroads of the States I have mentioned, is to start within you ideas of the greatness, power, and progress of our country, which you cannot get in any other way in connection with the arts of peace. The power of the Government was shown in suppressing the late rebellion against the rightful authority of the nation, but equally is it now shown in the peaceful, happy, and yet powerful manner in which it is