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A twelve Months practical life in Kansas Territory written by an Actual Settler

Preface—among the several reason which induced the Author to write the following work, is the first is that now the tide of emigration is comencing again to flow into Kansas wide Fertile & most beautiful territory it is of the greatest importance that those who are going forth with their wives & Children their property yea their all on earth should have all the information concerning the country to which they are making a Pilgrimage leaving behind them the places of their birth the lovely & endeared Localitys of their Childhood mirth & Joy endeared by many precious remembrances of past events. but is highly necessary that this information they receive should be of that kind on which they may fully rely they have so much at stake that they want truth & the whole truth & nothing but the truth. the second inducement for the author to take up his pen on this subject is that at the present time there are many persons going about giving Lectures on the subject who know little or nothing about it who spend a little time riding over part of the territory make a few observations ask a few questions & then come to the east & consider themselves quite qualified to give lectures on this important subject & bringing out before the publick remarks a far from the truth as light & darkness & thus leading the industrious & deserving emigrant far astray — the third reason on which he has to stand is without any egotism on his part that he is able to give all that information that an emigrant may require being truthful & extensive having travelled

of the territory & taken his claim plowed his Land sowed his corn &c built his Cabin cut down cut down the Logs cleared the brush with his own hands he feels with pleasure & confidence that he can give to those who intend to emigrate such information as will be found to be of the most valuable & useful character & in the following work will be found every information which is useful for them without the the least degree of fiction or exaggeration of any kind.

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with him

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1 The Authors Journey from New York to Kansas —

Oct^r 3^d 1854 we embarked in one of the Large Steam boats running between New York & Albany (I forget the name) I had taken a birth in the Cabin & was proceeding towards it when a ruffian came up I suppose employed by the proprietor & says going to Albany Sir. I answered yes & cabin passage first Class — this is the way then he says & instead of leading me to the Cabin takes me to the Deck the vessel was going out Immediately so there was no escape & Oh what a dreadful Scene presented itself to my view as the Vessel was just leaving the Dock the porters was busy bringing in the freight on their backs regardless of the limb & body of the passengers who were lyeing about in heaps which would frequently produce dreadful oaths & Screams from those who were in pain Boxes beds chairs & tables was piled up in pyramids

The place was so hot & the air so impure that I could scarcely bre
in fact it made me quite sick I frequently had to force my way throug
a Multitude of emigrants of all Clases & from all country to get a
little fresh air to save my life beside being Annoyed by the screams
of & Barking of Drunken Men but at length this Night of horrors
children
paped away & the bright Morning Appeared we found Ourselves at
Albany a busy Old fashioned but respectable looking City I had just
time to get my breakfast when the cars was ready for starting which
broke up the parley of many a carman & passenger the carman over
chargeing the passenger refuseing to pay it but the carman always came
of Victor as he would Sit on the most valuable part of the Luggage &
Swear that he would not move untill he was paid his Demand soon
the cry all aboard would be heard the poor cheated passenger rather
than loose his luggage would pay the imposing Villain & then pursue
his Journey our Route lay through a beautiful tract of country corn
& fruit was ripe & being gathered in Orchards & Cornfields lined
the road with their heavy crops forest trees with their leaves of every
hue formed a most delightful landscape so congenial to the mind of
the intellectual traveller we likewise passed through many thriveing Town
& Citys teeming with life & energy so cheering to the man of business
at night we arrived at Buffalo but being dark & the City badly lit
up I could see but little of it but the Docks are large & well
filled with Steamers the one we embarked on was the Nightengale
with a company of the United State troops foot- bound for Fort Scot
but they did not apear to be very cleanly or very Soldierly the New York
City Militia was as far above them in every thing apertaining to the
Character & apearance of a good Soldier as the heaven is from the ea
I believe they were all Irish & Dutch & well deserved the character of Dirty
butter

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The Lake was very rough & many of the lady passenger especially was dreadful sick & confined to their birth we was 20 hours croping the Lake at length arrived at the city of Detroit a large & fast improveing city when I arrived the railroad Depot I perceived on the white walls in Large black letter beware of theives & pickpocket I had not been there 5 minuts before a friend touched my arm & said look at I did so & I perceived the porter an Irishman had cutting open the Lid of a French redicule basket & was takeing out its contents I says to him Oh there what are you about you consummate Scoundrel you rob a Man before his face in broad day light you have placarded over your walls caution to the publick to beware of pickpocket & theives when they apear to be born & bred on the premise the only answer I had was a broad laugh—after much trouble & difficulty we got our Luggage on the rail again bound for chicago we found the prairie over which we travelled very many miles very low but very rich & fertile & apearing capable of producing any kind of root vegitable or fruit that can be found in any other part of the State the soil for a considerable depth is black the country through which we paped presented to the eye of the traveller very many lovely & interesting landscapes frequently we beheld on a fine elevation a noble & substantial Mansion tastefully surrounded by a variety of shade tree with a beautiful Vesta in front of the Mansion then there would be a fine park studded over with many large noble patriarchal looking trees of different Discription enamelled with a ~~b~~ith a rich green sward of superior character most interestingly dotted over with the finest Specimen of cattle when to put a glos on the whole Landscape would be seen a delightful Silver Stream by moon light & under & under the Mid day Beams of the Glorious Sol Streaming forth like a Serpentine Sheet of Gold & here you behold a beau

Lake on whose glittering surface are gracefully gliding several noble Swans with their snow white Bosom & Magestic Apearance but on & on we dashed with our iron horse through these Delightful scenes & frequently through many a mile of forest full of tall & Stately tree with leaves of an endless variety of Shades of colour & very frequently would be seen peeping forth from the rest of the forest tree the much admired Sugar maple with its bright Scarlet leaves very frequently on our route there would be accidents happening to the engine which would detain us for an hour & sometimes two when numbers would get out in search of water & some would go wandering through the Shady & winding mazes of the forest in search of Wild grapes which were hanging forth in large purple Clusters their exterior appearance was most pleasant to the eye & their luscious Juice was most refreshing & agreable to the taste others was most assiduous in their search for persimmons while some was dashing through the woods with great rapidity fearfully apprehensive that the train would go of without them in search of the much admired papaw while many others was to be seen with bunches of wintergreen in their hands & when the cry of all aboard was heard it was amusing in some respect to the passengers dashing through the green leaves of the forest stumping over ravines tearing their way through brake & brier to the great defiguration & damage of their fine broad Cloath with perspiration streaming from every pore of their body & many of them in great danger of getting broken arms heads & legs then on we sped through towns & cities with amazing rapidity until the great & unparrelled thriveing city of Chicago which a few years ago was a Wilderness but now blooming with all the beauty & verdure of the Rose

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blooming with health for it apears to be a very healthy place
blooming with busines for it is all life & energy blooming with
prosperity for additional buildings & improvements are going up every
day we got our luggage safely removed removed from one Depot to the
other which was a mile & had it checked this is an highly important
piece of busines as I am now going to show a young man that came
up with us from New York who as the common observertion is was
not so sharp as he should be or not quite compus mentos he did not
think it worth while to trouble about a check at Chicago & consequently lost
his all which he had packed in a large trunk & to make the matter
worse he goes to a lawer to recover it ~~for~~ for him Oh yes says the
Lawer I have often been engaged in busines of that kind & have always
been succesful & for the trifling sum of 5 Dollars I will faithfully
engage to get your trunk in 2 day but the 2 days arrived but the
trunk never arrived thus the young man lost his trunk & 5 Dollars
through not securing a check we left Chicago in the night &
travelled on through Joliet & many other places till we arrevied at
Alton & from then we took Steam boat & sailed up to the city of
St Louis which might be called the city of Steamers for when you
cast your eyes upon them first they appear out of number — we were
surrounded by a Past quantity of runners carmen & Hotels men
earnestly soliciting our patronage I soon engaged a carman & had my
luggage on board the same Cloon & then the passenger got mixed more
closely together & become more acquainted with each other - I should
have obtained that at St Louis Many of the passenger with myself
availed ourselves of the opportunity of purchasing many article
which was absolutely necessary for the outfit of a Squatter
& here I would remark that I found St Louis one of the Cheapest

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City for provisions ever I was ever in during all my travels either in Europe or America. Oh ye lovers of the finny tribe oh ye admirers of the delicious food produced for our tables by the denizens of the deep if ever you take St Louis in your travel go into the fish Markets & there you will behold glittering for Silver pyramids of the finest & freshest fish in every variety & what is most pleasing to those who are lovers of fish like myself is that they are very cheap I ~~[illegible]~~ was witness to a purchase of a Lot of fine fresh fish which cost less than 3 cents per lb in hardware to they sell a good article for a very low price but to proceed on my journey nearly all the Passengers were emigrants to some part of the Vast region beyond there were Soldiers going to some fort or Military Station — Lawers Shrewd Men some free Soil & some pro Slavery many a politi cal battle would they engage in both party clever Armed Capapee but the Free Soil men having the best Battle ground to fight upon always came of conqueror there apeared likewise every kind of Mechanic & a Roman Chatholic priest but he was carefully avoided by every Passenger except a few French Catholics not one of the others would speak to him or scarce look at him he was dressed very conspicuous having a peculiar kind of hat with a very long black coat every time I look at him all the horid butcheries & Bloody Martyrdom of the Roman chatholics rose up before my minds eye & made my blood run chill & unfortunately there was a horde of young pickpockets & theives who was continually watching their opportunity & committing many thefts & robberies article was frequently lost no one knew were ~~they was~~ & they was never found the boat was over crowded with passengers very many who & consequently there was could have no berth but was obliged to stow away their overcoats Carpet sack & Guns in the best place they could

About the cabin & very soon the pockets was emtied the carpet sacks cut & plundered & the barrels & locks of the Gen Hafferd with mud & other rupbish — we had but little Sickness on board considering we were so overloaded, there was a deck passenger who was very sick with the Cholera when I heard of it I went down & haveing some excellent cholera medicine with me I freely offered him some but there was a host of persons around him with various thing, in there hands ready to give him while one was in the act of pouring down his throat a large quantity of a dark kind of fluid each person with their different nostrum felt apsured that their alone would save him from death I then felt apsured that as I was a perfect Stranger I should have no chance to give him any thing however valuable my medicine might be the poor fellow appeared to be in the greatest agony & his great broad bosom heaved with pain but a few hours terminated his distress here below & his wife was left a widow & his children fatherless & they buried him at the first city we came to on the river side in the middle of the night — the river was very low & the boat heavy laden the river was frequently as low as 3 feet & we often Struck Snags on one occasion the vessel had a great hole rocked in her side by a Snag, which delayed us for a considerable time to get her repaired soon after She got some distance aground & we had no hopes of getting her of for some time therefore it was thought best for as many of the passengers as thought to go a shore thereupon about fifty of us left the boat & Rambled over the woods

& hills looking after various kinds of fruit & arriveing at a backwoodsman cottage we found it very agreeable to sit ourselves down to rest & we found the old gentleman very communicative at a little distance from his garden there was a tree which two Old Missourians gravely pronounced to be a bee tree & therefore contained a vast quantity of honey after stateing the case to a number of greenhorns with great energy they persuaded them to make up a Joint Stock company each paying in a certain sum to have his share of the honey but to behold when these imaginary rivers of honey came to be explored they amounted to just no honey at all & the result to the poor victims was no honey & no Money for the money was spent in liquor much to the annoyance of the Joint Stock Company we continued on shore for a considerable time Amusing ourselves by hailing vessels that was going down the river & haveing a little pleasant conversation with them but often had the Mortification to see them pass our Boat which was still fast in the Land - the day wore on fast & we soon found that we was not Angels or Spirits of any kind not even chameleons but Mortals & such as could not exist without something more substantial than air the plain fact is we began to get very hungry & the captain & mate haveing wished us to go out of the boat did not care to send a boat to fetch us back or send us any food we was therefore obliged to find a plan to obtain some there happened to be a boat moored on our side of the shore

which we engaged of the owner to go over to the Steamer to
fetch us some provisions at a very high price he like the rest
of the world knowing we was famishing took advantage of our
situation one of our party went with him & came back with some bread ham
& beef but all who was allowed to partake of this timely supply
of the staff of life had to pay 1 Shilling which many I
believe objected to because they loved ~~their~~ money better than
they loved their Stomach but for my part I felt thankful
for the opportune arrival & immediately took the opportunity
of enjoying the repast & I must confess my inner Man felt much
the better for it but soon we was in another difficulty night
drew on fast & it began to get chilly & we felt very uncom
fortable fearing our portion was to be there all night we
therefore got some cord wood which was on the Shore & made
some first rate fires which made quite an illumination so
that we could be distinctly seen by those on the boat &
they as clearly seen by us we made all kinds of Motions &
all kind of Shouting to attract their attention & induce
them to fetch us aboard for along time it seemd in vain
but at last we heard or thought we heard a slight paddle on
the water we listend & looked with great attention & to our
great Joy we found that it was in reality the Steamer boat
then there was such a crowd around her ~~that~~ that there was the
greatest difficulty to get in but I most fortunately obtained
a berth in the forst boat with the compliment of a few

Hard knocks & bruises all the others were fetched in proces
of time but very slowly as the last party came on board the
Steamer at one in the Morning sometime after this an individ
dual contrived to get up another Joint Stock company of a little
Different charracter to the last the man who got this up bore
about him a slight cast of respectabality but he was in
reality an awful Swearer & Drunkard — there happenned to be
on board the boat in the cabin an old Dutchman who had
sailed with us from St Louis but singular enough he had no
hat from the commencement of the voyage this dissipated man
like many others of the same stamp like Satan seeking how he
might & whom he might devour pitched upon this poor old
no hatted Dutchman who could not speak a word of english
as the grocend work of his villinous plot he went round to
all the passengers pulling a very long face & & acting very
hypocritically & quite out of charactor & said that he
that he had to go round on the present busines which was one
of begging as he was a very bad beggar but he was forced
to it from feeling of pure humanity as he could find no one
else to take up the case through he had tried again &
again he said the case stood thus there was a poor man
on the cabin how he managed to get there he could not tell
but he believed he had not got a cent in the world &
as he was standing outside the cabin for a little fre
air the wind blew of his hat & he was an old Man
& had no money to purchase another & was in a

Of a few hard knocks & bruises I felt very thankful when once more safely harboured in the Steamer I ensconced at the Supper table they all came on board at Different times the last party had their Supper at 10 Clock the next Morning at length we reached Kansas City being 7 Days makeing our Journey from St Louis we were all glad to leave the Boat being quite tire of the Voyage we had our luggage removed to a large Hotel on the Levee near the landing of the Steamer called then Opnion house but now the American House at that time this was the only hotel in the city of Kansas & their Charges was very high but there was no choice

2nd the author first Tour of Exploration to find a Suit able Location

But in the first place I think it would be right to give a Discription of the City of Kansas & in the next place take a hasty Glance at the persons that composed our band of Emigrants or Pioneers —— Many persons writing in letters to their friends & for the Newspapers have greatly misrepresented Kansas City some have stated that it was a place of no account very dirty & filthy & that the houses apeared to have been inhabited by Pigs & Dogs only this in my estimation was far from being correct others have stated that it was a poor little unimprovable place whose trade was getting worse & worse every year & that while other places was going down but this is a Grop

Misrepresentation as in fact its trade is continually increasing the Merchants there apear to be doing a great amount of businep with the Indians who always pay in hard Cash & who take nothing else in return they will take no Bills of any kind they say white Man make it white Man keep it the Kansas Merchants do a vast amount of businep with Mexican traders sometimes a train of an hundred Waggons will going to Mexico laden with all kinds of goods from Kansas city the trade that is carried on between the Santafee Traders & the Kansas Merchants is immense & continually increases the harbour of Kansas is Natural & easy of Accep to Steam Boats one of the best harbours on the rivers there is a great number of Boats going up & down every & all call at Kansas a great & profitable trade is carried on between St Louis & Kansas the City itself lies on the side of an hill there is a great number of respectable houses & More being erected every day they are generally painted white with green window shades there his an handsome brick church on the top of the hill near the post office with a cupalo & Bell in it it is principally supplied by Methodist Preachers but preachers of all kinds of Denominations are at liberty to preach here the City is governed by a regular corporation Mayor common counsil Men &c &c there is a printing office in the place doing a good busines in the place & likewise publishes a newspaper supported by several merchants in the city & edited by a talented man but as it regards ~~but as it regards~~

its political or proslavery Principles of course as a lover freedom I am decidedly opposed to it — in the next place I have to notice or glance at at those who came out with us & a company which came 2 days after which we formed into one & here let it be distinctly understood that we came out freemen paying all our expenses out of our own pockets unsha[ke]n by any Emigration Company whatever & so here we stood our a company of about 50 one was a cutler from New York but a native of Sheffield in England who when we landed from the boat was shaking mightily with the ague ~~but~~ but he soon got the better of that he was 36 years of age & said that his wife & family was in england who he intended to send for when he had found a location & built his house No 2 was a broken down Dry goods Man & Stated that he came from New York city but wherever he came from it was evident that he intended by some means ~~on~~ out of ~~other~~ other persons pocket & such was is character that he would not be particular how he done so that he could blind the party by his hypocrisy & hast for an honest man & I am sorry to say that he was to successfull in number of cases that came under my notice of takeing advantage of the ignorant & unwary he represented that he was sent out by a large Society who had immense funds in their possession ready embark in building houses forming cities giving employment thousands thus he got many to believe that it was much to their interest to keep in his favour & do every thing that he wished them & believe every thing that he

Said & follow him in all his coceneils & to believe that he
was infallible he told them that he had letters of recommendation
from all the principal people of New York & of course he must
direct all the movements of the company & all the movements of
their Lash on which he kept a Double bare eye he informed
them with the most profound Gravity that he had letter of introd
uction to the Governors & Judges Indian Agents & all the Influen
cial men in the Territories Including all the Indian Chiefs & all
the Indian Interpreters &c &c & all the Delegates that had
been to Congress to settle Indian affairs armed with all this
supposed Authority he marched forth with all the Immaginable
Composity in the world & bids defiance to all opposing powers
Armed at all points he presented a regular Chivalrick x against
all parties who suspected his villany of whom I happened to be
& he always avoided me as much as possible & never seemed
easy in My presence he seemed to be afraid that I should
say something that would explode all his Gas & show up
in his real natural character a poor Miserable broken down
Merchant & as since confessed not worth 25 cents whenever
I approached him especially if he was in company there was very
much of the aspen leaf character about him a violent
tremor would seem to shoot through his very boots afraid
that his peacocks feathers would be torn away & that
he would appear in his proper but most uncomely form
& the blackest & ugliest looking of all the Jackdaw tribe

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He went hither & thither in Kansas city & got his name
registered as the on great reservoir of information to the exclusion
all other sources he would represent as fudge and Gas & pulling
one of his longest faces which was naturally long enough &
stroking down his frightful looking beard he would say with
solemn voice they were all vile impostors & monstrous humbugs
& so most of the party quailed under him the believed
they believed that all that all their prosperity was rapt
up in his good Grace & favour when he frowned it
apeared to be death & when he smiled it Appeared to light
up a heaven of Joy in their countenance Oh what a
tremendous power did this vain poverty stuck unprincipled
Scoundrel apear to have over a great portion of the party who were plain
Strait forward industrious unsuspecting persons not
aware of the depth of the awful depravity of the human
heart they felt perfectly conscious that they had no
inclination hurt others in any form or injure them
pick their pockets or any thing else they had not there
fore the least suspicion that there was any one near
them so unprincipled as to want to suck them to
sleep & suck their life blood out of them especially
as the heartless cruel bloodthirsty undermineing Vampire
Bat was the religious sanctimonious looking Man
who had all the host of Indian Official Government
officials even the Governer himself & all his suit & all
the great & good men in the territory were ready to come
forward at the Shake of his wand if not to kiss his great toe

but to give him all encouragement & protection & if it
was necessary—even to call out forces in his behalf ——
but to proceed this little great man calls a meeting on Sunday
evening when he informed them though the meeting was to be
of a religious character yet he thought it not out of the way
sometimes in especial cases to introduce secular matters likewise
So after some hymns had been sung some prayers had been
offered up & an exhortation given this little goliath puts
forth his scheme & tells them there would be a great meeting
of all the party the next morning monday on the hill at
9 o'clock & he hoped that not one of the party would omit
attending as he had a little more matter of great interest to bring before
them — but we will leave this arch villain & all his schemes
for the present as we shall have a great deal more
to do with him at a future period — I proceed to notice
other characters in the party No 3 was a tall dark looking
man about 35 year of age of very stern appearance he came
from a place near Rochester in New York State & professed
to be brought up as a surveyer very much taken up with
No 2 & seemed to wish to be his right hand man that he might
share in his spoils which he believed would be great he professed
to be a religious man a Baptist No 4 was a baptist Min
ister who very much wished to form a Colony & to be their
minister he proposed that when we found a place
suitable in Texas & in possession of land wood & Water
that we should settle down there & form a City & mark
out a great number of lots to sell but so much a Share

& thus as he proposed got into a large & profitable scheme & so far to have our claims all around & to have the city in the middle from which we was to obtain a boundless source of treasures & those that was of his opinion was to have a bit of cord tied to their coat button holes he was a man about 38 years of age & 5.8 inch in height strong built rather inclined to stoop & very keen looking No 5 was a typo founder from New York quite a young Man very volatile & very vain thought no persons opinion right but his own & in order to support his own opinion in opposition to others in order to make himself look big & some one of importance he would tell some of the most glaring falsehoods ever concocted under heaven which rendered him very despicable in the eye of all lovers of the truth he was a fine looking man of good countenance 5.10 in height 26 years of age No 6 was a man born in England but had been in America at least Canada for many years he had brought with him a large quantity of thread & needle goods what he intended to do with we could not imagine he was a man of very little mind very excitable very ignorant & you could soon get him into a great blaze of passion he was a stout built Man 40 years of age 5.7 in height No 7 was an English man had been many years in the british army fought in many hard engagements received several wound bore a most excellent Character in the army received

his Discharge with a pension & with a most excellent character which he well sustained when out of the army he married a wife when he left the army a very smart young Lady who he brought with him to Kansas he was a fair complexion open countenance 5'6 in height 30 years his Lady was a fine looking person 24 years of age below the average height & about No 8 was another Englishman & likewise was a Soldier in the British or rather had been but not like the other deserter had honorable discharge with a good character but deserted his Regiment the royal welsh Fusiliers under very dishonorable & disgraceful circumstances under which if he had been taken in England he would have been shot he was always from a Child a notorious bad character & every welshman & English man might well be ashamed of him he was born in wales a disgrace to his fine & noble country - he commenced his career (which should be a warning to all youths who are inclined to vicious propensetys to avoid them early in life) by sticking pins in his May beetles & making them spin for his fiendish amusements & hellish gratification of spirit - the next thing was to get all the flies he could collect together in a Box with Spars so close together that they could not get out but he could see them starve to death - the next infernal amusement was to all the cats he could possibly collect together for miles round & tie their tails together & saturate them deeply with turpentine & then set them loose

all of a yellow blaze of fire - the next Specimen of his abilities in the line of cruelty was to get a Dog in a large town of a great population to tie a tin Kettle to his tail & let him run through the town or city over he happened to be getting a larger collection of Dogs as he proceeded onward in his tremendous noisy & mad march to the number perhaps of an hundred all these he would take with him into every Store as he passes through thronging the Street with Dogs of all kinds blocking up the Thing or queen's highway leaving no room for passers by bruising foot passengers boys especially Lady, all this does uproar continues to the great amusement of Mr Soldier & many others like him & of kindred spirit who very much enjoys the fun until the police interfere & with a very great Deal of difficulty amidst the Barking of a hundred Dogs & Shouting of 500 rowdy boys he lets the poor thing at liberty by which time of the frightened not unfrequently without getting severely Bitten for in many instances the Dog is quite Rabid or raving mad the next Specimen of his abilities in this line was to hunt up with the greatest Assiduity Industry & perseverance all the Dogs he could find in every city town or country where he happened to be (& this would be a great number as he was engaged as a Stable boy in different cities and nearly all over Scotland) & engaging in his employ a number of other wicked Rascals of like

Spirit with him & the scoundrels would frighten them nearly to death & they rejoiced to see them in their highest pitch of sorrow — he continued on in this way until arrived at Manhood & obtained a situation as foot man in a nobleman family & there he soon lost his situation for slandering the character of his fellow servants & for creating a commotion & disturbance in the house — & then he wandered about without employ no person would take him on or employ in any kind of office whatever every one was disgusted with he became a fugitive a starved & ragged vagabond & no man gave unto him & at last he was necessity of enlisting for a soldier to save himself from starvation & when in the army himself for a little time & got promoted to be a corporal & as soon as he found the officers to place any confidence in him & placing government funds in his hands. the then turned traitor they say stole the money & every thing belonging to government that he could take & turn into money he did so & send for his wife ~~for he was~~ (for he was married while in the army) & set out for america & then in a few weeks he obtained employ as a rough carpenter & even after he was married & settled down in america he still carried on his old practices & would get up in the night & be 2 hours from his bed in the cold night killing cats when he came with as he had his wife & child his wife appeared to be a fine woman on first aquaintance with her but as you had an opportunity of further aquaintance with her religion which she professed to ~~enjoy~~

to enjoy amount to

to just nothing & you would find her to be a
false & deceitful person on whom you could place no dependan
at all She was tall & well grown the man was 5.7 Stout
built 25 Years of age No 9 was a young man of the name
of Jones a Tinner by trade very harmless in his but very easily
taken in by others 5.6 in height Heni built 26 years of age
from new York State apeared to be of very good Character
No 10 was another Tinner from Rochester & of a very dissipated
Character a fine looking healthy young 5.9 in height 24 Years
of age but I might as well finish up with him as he went
as far as most for worked there a little while was Stricken
down with the Cholera & died in a few days No 11 was a
very respectable man of good means having a family of
8 Children all very orderly & well behaved he came from
Waterbury in New York State his Wife was a very Respecta
ble & excellent lady the Husband was a Scotchman 5.6
in height rather Stout built — No 12 was a Short built
ruffian of like looking man who had been many years in
California whose family was now in New Jersey State
he was 5.10 in heighth a very great Blackguard
& very much given to falsehoods & always carried a revolver
Stuck in a belt by his side No 13 was a person from
Rochester of a very Sour & Sulky disposition he always apeared
to be brooding over some plan of Mischief & frequently his
plans would be developed much to his Shame & disgrace
he professed to be a baptist a very religious Man but on

Arrant Hypocrite & great impostor he was 35 years of age 5.7 in height he was of Dutch extraction & brought a wife & child with him his wife was to much like him of Irish extraction No 15 was a very excellent young man a Baptist 25 years of age came from Rochester of good reputation Stout built 5/11 in height had been brought up in the farming business — No 16 was a gentleman from Rochester a person who sustained a good character for reputation & for wealth he was by profession a baptist & was considered likely to become a father to the settlement 5.7 in height Stout built & 27 years of age No 16 was a young Man from Rochester a Carpenter of the first class a very steady & quiet Man professed no religion & minded his own business 5.9 in height 30 years of age & very Stout he had a Wife with him a fine looking woman of whom some persons spoke very slightly 25 years of age No 17 was a young man from New York City a type founder a brother to the one afore mentioned very Stout & 5.11 in height 27 years of age he had very little to say but apeard to think very much of his Strength & abilities No 18 was a young Man from Indiana 25 Years of Age in general he was a quiet & inoffensive young man but could show himself a filthy Blackguard to frequently he was 5.8 in height had left his lady in Indiana for whom he professed great affection No 19 was his brother & apeared to be his counterpart in every thing but 2 Years older No 20 was a young

A Man from the State of New Jersey 24 Years of age 5.6 in height Stout—brought up in the farming line a Silly Polish fellow very badly educated No 21 was a respectable & wealthy man from Rochester a Baptist of good Character 45 years of age a Shoemaker by trade 5.6 in height Stout & healthy he had a Lady & Children in Rochester which he intended to bring out in the fall 22 was a Scotchman of a good reputation 30 years of age very Strong & willing to work came from Rochester to Kansas but had not been long in America there was several others who formed the party the particulars of whose Characters I cannot now recollect & now as I before State No 2 called a meeting for Monday Morning early which accordingly took place at the Apointed time No 2 proposed that there should be 2 parties formed & to go different Routes one towards the near Missouri the 50 miles the other towards Lawrence city 50 Miles to obtain further information & every one of the Male party was to pay 1 Dollar each to commence with into the general fund but there was a vast Difference of Opinion Opinions manifested in the party No 2 began to show of a little of his cupidity much to the Annoyance of others he proposed that he & one more should go with him in a comfortable buggy & 12 Dollars to be Appropriated from the general fund for their use & that a waggon should be engaged for the conveyance of the baggage

of the other party who was going in the direction of Lawrence but N° 2 very shrewedly proposed that there might a many as thought proper go with the waggon train but they would remember that they would have to pad it on foot as there was not sufficient money left in the funds after he had drew out his quantum & Moreover that every man that went in the waggon train would have to buy his own provision &c & help pay for the board of the Driver this caused a great noise in the meeting a vast amount of discussion & difference of Opinion was manifested many thought that N° 2 was taking to much upon himself & was making a very comfortable & pleasant nest for himself at the expense of other while the other party was to endure the burden & heat of the day & get along as best they could only the waggon paid for to carry their carpet Sack Guns but when N° 2 perceived the Spirit of dissension rising very high he rose up in the Midst & said fellow emigrants you know how I have laboured to promote your interest at the sacrifice of my own You know the vast influence I possess with the influencial men of the Territory of Kansas & you know likewise what a large quantity of Letters of introduction I possess from every person of Distinction in the State & City of New York / the Reader will pardon the author for a short digression here while he directs his attention to the fact that when N° 2 arrived at Kansas city he knew

no one at all in Kansas territory great or small has to his letters of Introduction from New York State & City it was all a farce they amounted to just this 2 or 3 letters from a few Leaders in a Sundry School Some men in New York City headed with to all whom it may concern— was a Sunday School Leader in this School for so long a time & of good character as far we have had Opportunity of ascertaining this was the little ~~animalcula~~ animacula which the magnified to a great Elephant) & if I see any more Signs of Dissension or opposition among you I shall withdraw it is quite Immaterial to me have it all your way remember I am not benefited at all it is for your good at which I aim at this declaration a pale lost upon the countenances of many & their language was in effect great is Diffrena of the Ephesians great is no 2— & they soon ~~Settled~~ Voted to agree to do as he wished 17 volunteers to go out with the waggon of whom I was one being strong & hearty at that time I did not wish to be left behind & I had much desire to see the Country & was as able to endure fatigue then as any of them although I never approved of the conduct of No 2— Accordingly our waggon was stored our provisions purchased & put in the waggon with a few Guns carpet Sacks & axes & now we are marching on the road to Westport 6 Miles from the City of Kansas— No 2 came as far as Westport with his Buggy & then started off in another direction— we found

on the road to Westport very pleasant Skirted on each side with Villa Woods Cornfields & cottages but it is a very hilly Country we met a great many Ox & horse teams comeing down to Kansas from various parts of the Country to be loaded with Articles in which the merchant of Kansas do a great trade we baited our horses at Westport & then proceeded on our Journey through very fine Strips of timber we are now in the territory belonging to the Shawnee tribe we reached the Methodist Mission belonging to the Shawnees it is managed by a person of the name of Johnson a very portly reverend & respectable looking Gentle Man of pro Slavery principles but very much respected by the Shawnees & every there is every reason to believe that he have been very useful in promoting their education at that time it was in contemplation of making it the Seat of Government for the Territory he informed me that he had offered the use of his extensive premises to the Governor Reeder for that purpose & he thought he the Governor seemed inclined to his offer ~~proffer~~ apears that Mr Johnson was correct in his ideas on the subject for in a few weeks it was the Seat of ~~territorial~~ Government onward we proceeded to the baptist Mission of the Shawnees which was a much smaller establishment we did not however see the Minister who we understood to be an Abolitionist & we had some conversation with

Some liberated Slaves who apeared to be very ~~happy~~ happily at work on the premis we proceed onwards through beautiful scenery over a fine road untill we came to a creek were the driver thought would be a good place to encamp for the Night we accordingly made a good fire being plenty of fuel made our coffee partook of a good supper & then went to bed having first put up our tent the Morning Sun arose bright & fair having been Saluted in the night by sounds not very pleasant to our ears such as the howling of wolves & hooping of Owls &c the Driver proceeded to get his horses ready for the start we put our coffee pot Cooked our Meat & made an hearty breakfast one of our company complained that his feet was Sore & he could not go any farther & consequently went back by the first waggon that past us we continued our Journey over a very fair road generally through a great many delightful tracts of timber having a great number of Indian cabins until at a place called Nathanoochie creek on the opposite bank lived an Indian called Blue Jacket one of the delegates to congress on Indian affairs being near evening & most of the men were tired out we thought it best to Stop there he treated us very well & furnished us with us with very good beds & first rate Supper for which we had to pay 75 cents each we were all very well Satisfied with our fare & Change Blue Jacket was a very well behaved

man one of the Shawnee nation but after we had
of our breakfast there arose quite a difference of opinion
amongst respecting the route we had better take
some travellers had called in at blue Jackets & inflated the
minds of some respecting some fine tract of timbered
& watered land on the Osage river & whether they were
resolved to bend their way-about & had resolved to go in
that direction the ballance of the parties who were
inclined to go towards the City of Laurence of which I
was one drew out part of the money which we had
paid into the treasurers hands & proceeded on foot to Laurence
city without the waggon the other parties taken it with them
we arrived at Laurence just in time to dine having
walked 9 miles but to our surprise the first persons
we observed there was those Scape grace of the
New York loafers & pickpocket I have alluded to in
a former part of the work—when the boat landed
at Kansas these sharpers Jumped on shore using
profane language indicating that they were not
going to stay any time in Kansas but would go on & get
a location before any one else we were glad to part with
their detestable company & thought no more of them
till we met again in Laurence they informed us
they endured a great deal of suffering on their journey
being short of funds had set fire to some thousand
of acres of prairie Grass by way of amusement & had

at length arrived at Lawrence without any money they said they was obliged to work to get any food Showed me their hands covered with large blisters with very sorrowful countenances I was very glad their wild tiger was ~~tamed~~ tamed a little by hunger & hard work after having dined & refreshed ourselves we proceeded to look Around us we found the city in prospective not quite so far in advance as we expected but still there was Signs of improvement a timber & grist Mill was in progress of erection & many houses or cabins of one kind & another was going up fast we met with Mr Pomeroy the the Agent for the Boston Society we found him to be quite a Gentleman & having had opportunities of partic acquaintance with him have had no reason whatever to retract from my first Opinion concerning him Some wished me to stay here but finding scarcely any timber with in many Miles of Lawrence I was not settled in my opinion whether or not I should take up my Station there or not at any rate I thought I would go back to Kansas city first as I had a good quantity of luggage there & the next Morning I Started on my way back having consigned them to the care of the hotel keeper being Seven Dollars in value Viz that is the luggage I brought with me to Lawrence the Hotel keeper promising he would Send them to Kansas any time I might Send for them — I then proceeded on my Journey to Kansas in a light waggon reaching the city in 2 days leaving

3 34

the remnant of my party in Lawrence city——
thus ended my first journey of exploration

3

The authors 2nd Journey of Exploration

No 2 had arrived 2 hours before me in Kansas city so that I arrived just in time to hear the result of his journey a meeting had been appointed to meet upon the Side of the Hill at 4 o'clock several of the party attended he commenced his manoeuvering by asking each of the party what sort of a Location they would like & having obtained their Ideas on that point he framed his Speech according he picked up a few walnuts on the road to the Mission & Selected 3 of the finest & begged a few pieces of Coal & he exulting by held out the peices of coal & says here Gentlemen I have been telling you that up that beautiful land of which I have found out ~~been telling~~ you there is inexhaustible treasures of the purest coal & to show that I am speaking the truth here is a Specimen of the Valuable article which I took from the Mines & produced the walnuts & says here is a Specimen of the fruit growing on the Soil & these are among the smallest the walnuts he had picked up his companion composed on the Shawnee ~~Land~~ reserve lands a beautiful tract of country which will come into public market at some future period these reserve lands commence about a mile from the city of west port when no 2 had finished his harrangue a collection commenced to obtain the dollars from those who had not previously

any thing into the funds- this being arranged satisfactorily as the
hardy ~~was~~ was in good Spirits- it was proposed that we should
proceed to these new found lands on the Monday- waggons Oxen
& various kinds of implements of agriculture in short every
thing that a backwoodmans life requires as soon as possible & to as
large an extent as possible was collected- & Monday mornings October
Sun seen our battallion on the move No 2 with 3 other persons rode
in a kind of Stage while the other got along the best way they
could we past through quite a different section of the Shawnee
reserved lands to those I had previously ~~t~~travelled through on my
way to Lawrence thus giving me a diversified view of more
beautiful land not yet come into the Market we marched along
through extensive prairies of the richest soil groves of
timber of the ~~finest~~ finest growth & valuable character & ravines
& creeks which shook our Oxen tremendously to pass after camping
out 2 Nights we reached the point No 2 had rowed at in his
travels the house of an Indian Interpreter whose name is
Batteestie who keeps an house of refreshment for travellers Mostly
Indians & a store well supplied with all kinds of things
that the different tribes with whom he is well aquainted are
likely to require he is a Noble looking Indian & for an Indian
very communicative — the land we had to take possession of
was 10 mile from this place all that No 2 had told us of between
the house of Batteestie was from information ~~that~~ he had received
from him we were now on a par with No 2 for we knew as
much about the road behond as he did some of the party
went to the near baptist Mission which lay to our left

Rather farther of our expected place of settlement than the
Indian interpreter the party that went to the new Mission returned
with all the information they could collect from that quarter—then
we took the Interpreter with us & proceeded on our journey through
Deep creeks tangled brushwood were none but the Indian had
passed before it was with great difficulty we could get the Oxen through
then our road ran over a fine prairie with here & there
very singular Mounds rising up to strike the travellers attention
One was called Observation Mound & another Pilot Mound at
length we reached the Osage or Marrideznie River which at
that time was very difficult to cross/ but not worst the tract
of land which was now presented to our view & on which we
had our eye for a settlement lay between the Osage & Pottawato
mie Rivers about a mile from river to river with a fine belt
of first rate timber on both sides— a site for a city was looked
out & set apart & we all began to look out for claims to suit
Ourselves as at that time there was plenty of Opportunity as
the prairie & timber of the best quality stretched up
between the rivers to a vast extent— the name of the city in
prospectus is called Osawatamie derived from the 2 rivers
Potawatamie & the Osage the water from the rivers I
consider myself to be good & healthy & have drank largely of them
A large tent was erected at first untill log houses on the different
Claims could be erected a gentleman from Rochester one of our party took a very
active part in the formation of the Settlement & ultimately was
elected by the people & sworn in by the Governor as our
Chief Magistrate which office he appeared very well qualified
to fulfill & thus ends & successfully the Authors tour of exploration

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by the Author finds a suitable & beautiful location when Our Party arrived on the rich & fertile tract of country now called Osawatamie there was scarcely a cabin in all that vast fertile & fruitful region 2 or 3 Missourean was the a month before us had cut down some logs & was preparing their cabins for erection the walnuts of large size was lying about in vast quantities in all directions in the woods Hickory nuts in any quantity likewise Acorns in great Abundance the grass was yet & for some months later good for cattle on which they fed well the weather here in October is very pleasant—it is a difficult thing sometimes to select a location even where they are plentiful & those who were like us the first party of settlers in that region had the first choice looking over different quarter sections in search an unexceptionable soil with such fine timber & good water you sometimes think this is the best timber & that is the most timber—this have got some fine building sites but on the eminence there is a little stone (which by the bye may not be an encumbrance but it looks so) while another quarter I— has no stone about but lies low likely to be overflown by the river & you stand a good chance to be nearly eaten up by Musketoes & melted by the sun in summer—& blocked up by snow in winter which always especially in a climate like Kansas drifts down into low places for my part not feeling inclined to have the product of my labour either in cultivation of the soil or in the erection of a cabin washed away by the over flowing river & not having any predilection whatever

either to the Music or the bite of the Musquitas & haveing no desire
at all wakeing in a winter Morning to perceive my window &
door blockaded by a wall of Snow I therefore chose a claim with a fine
elevation near there would be no fear of the overflowing rivers
& fine breezes blowing in the Summer quite refreshing & cooling whil
the heat is almost unbearable in the vale together with Swarms of
Musical tormentors. for on elevations we generally find the Snow of very
little depth being borne of by the winds to the vale below
the Claim on which the Author fixed his Choice had on it 50 Acres
of the choicest timber of immense Size a great part of it
there was 2 fine elevation noble Sites for building at the
back of this was a lovely overhanging shady Grove & then at the
foot of the grove rolled the Magestick silvery serpentine river
the Potawotamie 1/2 Mile from the City of Chicago off have
the Author stood by Moonlight upon the bank of this lovely Stream
Overshadowed by the tall trees wondering at & adoring the wisdom
of the great Creator & saying with Milton in wisdom thou
hast made them all — before the Author coben lay a fine
Specimen of Prairie soil of the best kind nicely pulverised & then
Rolling onward as far as the eye could reach to the utmost
bounds of the everlasting hills on the right & left belted by
Masses of fine timber forming on the whole a landscape unsurpassed
passed by any in the Settlement — & he believes he is justified
in Stateing that he has found a beautiful & Suitable location
5th
Settles down builds his Cabin & Makes Improvements

3rd the Author begs leave to direct the consideration of the expense of building a Cabin in a Settlement Alone that he is to calculate upon but the expense of boarding all the time if it is in Summer when the heat is an hundred degrees above zero he can do but little if in winter the Snow will frequently stop his progress but he must persevere with a good heart & will soon find himself possesor of a house of his own Independant of any landlord — the Author built his Cabin 12 by 14 — & 10 in height — he then cleared the brush & young timber Stumps &c that lay around the house which after considerable difficulty he managed to convert into a fine large garden were instead of Bush Weeds & Briers would be found peas — carrots — parsnips — beets — watermelons Nusk Melons — Squash Melons & tomatoes — Onions — with a quantity of Corn in the Garden — & on the prairie before the house was a fine patch of Corn & such Corn that he have not seen any were in the States save the prairie

6th

The Nature of the Soil

in describeing or endeavouring to describe the nature of such a soil as is found in Kansas Territory or especially in Osawatamie it is beyond description — Stony soil there is very little of in Osawatamie but what there is much more than what there is will be found reclaimable as the city advances in growth in making lime walls roads & houses coal or Sticks of coal have

have been found there of the very first quality
bituminous coal — Gravel is frequently found in sinking
wells &c — & sand of the finest kind & clay of various
kinds is to be found on the banks of the rivers &
in the beds of Do — but the sort of soils the Prime
& soils from which vegetation in all its Mighty & Gigantic
proportion in all its Magestic growth & with electric
Speed is a fine black mould running in many cases
a foot deep from the surface this soil apears capable of
producing any whatever you plow your Ground & plant
& plant your seed & rake or harrow it in you have
no more trouble with it as it regards Cultivation no Moulding
no hoeing but it Springs up through every Obstacle &
Grows with Amazing rapidity ~~what I have said as it regards~~
the soil in reference to one part of the territory will hold good
with other parts with but few exceptions ——

The Various kinds of timber growing on the soil

Among the noble trees of the forest will stand foremost
the gigantic Oak of an imanent height & frequently 5½ feet
through of these kind of trees we find it very convenient
to make shingles for our Cabins next is the Black Walnut
which frequently grows very large the wood is very hard &
will resist insects of any kind being exceedingly durable &
capable of bearing the Most beautiful polish being of a Most

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Variety of grain the next is the hickory which on this soil grows to an enormous size— the Author had on his Claim 15 Acres of young Hickorys growing with great rapidity— the Elm grows to a very large size & likewise the Slippery Elm so useful for medicinal purposes the Sycamore with its variegated bark Ornamenting the margin of the rivers— the Alder & Elder tree grow abundantly here & the coffeenut Tree the timber of which is of a most valuable character being very hard & haveing a grain very similar to Mahogany— Hackberry which is a very valuable wood for many purposes— the Lettuce tree— & Button wood tree grows to a great extent x there is likewise here several plantations of Willows of different Speacies I should have observed that there are various kinds of Oak Viz. the black Oak the burr Oak & the Swamp Oak & the Scrub Oak Grapes of every kind grow here in rich Luxuriance & yield a great supply of fruit the Ash & the Aspen— Fruit trees of all kinds grow well here there are many fruits & berrys that are natural to the Soil Such as Gooseberry June berry Rathberry Blackberry & Strawberry Sumach in great Abundance there are vast fields of Wild Onions or Shalots growing in different parts of the territory which prove very acceptable to the Settler to give him a Gust or relish to other kind of food the Author had some few Specimen of wild Onions on his Claim which he found peculiarly palatable when boiled & fried up— there are many things which grow on the prairies which will be found to be very excellent substitutes for Cabbage Collyflower &c Such as Lambs tongue

Hop Tops which grow here in great Abundance &
the Settler make a very palatable & wholesome liquor
from the hop blossom which grow very large — then there
there is the wild nettle which may be obtained by Cart-loads
boiled quick with vinegar put on them they are exceedingly
good & Wholesome — Wild Onions continue in season from March
to June

P th

The price of provision medical attendance &c

Information of this kind will prove very beneficial
to the Emigrant — as many parties on coming out load
themselves with Stores of various kinds — quite unnecessary
it is very different now to what it was when the first
Settlers arrived we had to bring with us at a great expense of
carriage our Flour Meal — Crackers Tea Sugar Meat
& in fact every individual we wanted but now on
the Settlement there is a wonderful alteration in favour
of the Emigrant you need bring no kind of provisions
with you but will find a plentiful supply of every
thing but Cheese & if you are fond of that (& many eastern
people are the Author not Excluded) You had better bring with You
a good supply — good the price of provisions on the
Settlement — good Wheaten Flour from 5½ Dollar ℔ Barg
to 6 Dollar Indian Meal 1 Dollar Butter 25 cents ℔ Lb
Good Sugar 10 cent ℔ Lb Soap at very low prices
Best Vinegar 10 cents ℔ Quart Port Wine 60 cents
℔ Quart Good Potatoes 1 Dollar ℔ Bushel Good Bacon

Hams &c 11 cents ℔ Best Rice 12½ cents ℔ Dry Goods
Ready made Mens Apparrel &c of every kind very Cheap—
the price of Cattle in the Settlement the emigrant will
find to vary Some parties wanting So much profit more
than other the author would apise the reader that if he
would wait a little & look around him make enquiry he
will be able to purchase Cattle very reasonable as
there are parties on the Settlements who are continually
going down to the State buying drove of Cattle at the best
advantage & bringing them up to the Settlements for Sale
the Average Price of a Good Cow & Calf on the Settlements is
from 20 to 25 Dollars (the Author is writing from experience)
the Price of a first rate Yoke of Steers is from 70 to 80
Dollars per Yoke — Sheep there is none of any importance
yet but the Author thinks they would prosper very
well especially Some of the finest & largest Specimens
Pigs are very dear although they cost the owners nothing
for keep — Horses from 80 to 90 Dollars although
Sometimes if you find an Indian in need of money you
may get a Horse a little cheaper

in the next place the Quality & Price of Medical
Attendance which is of Such Vital importance to every
Settler in a newly Settled Territory which every one
now must (from the actual nature of things) the
breaking up of the prairie Splitting of the Rail
& in the Summer great heat which the Settler may

be not be used to shows that Sickness in any part of the
territory may be very Naturally expected the Medical
Men in the Settlements as far as the Authors observation
have served him have been generally successful of course
of course there will be Quacks or pretenders in all professions
or trades every where the average price for a good Medical
Mans attendance including medicine for a Moderate disease
is 2 Dollars per Visit

The various tribes kinds of Indians their Characters &c
very many persons coming from the east especially the
ladys are inclined to think that there is something
very dreadful in the Character of the Indian they look
at them through the Mirror of their terrified Immagination
they think they see them with their body painted in
frightful colours their hands Stained with human
blood in one hand the terrible Tomahawk uplifted &
in the other a bloody Scalping knife with a frightful
number of Scalps Lieing around — but however correct
this view of the case might have been in days of Yore —
it is far from being correct now — there are a great many
tribes of Indians in various parts of the territory at the
present day & warlik tribes too — & they sometimes go to war
with each other with deathlike fury Stamped on their
countenances determined to conquer or die / the Author
have frequently seen them on there warlike expeditions

Demeanour of the Indians yet they are terribly frightened even at the sight of a squaw — one of the Settlers wifes was one Morning providing for Dinner when on looking up from the Stove & turning her eyes to one of the windows (there was 3 windows to the house) to her great horror Surprise & consternation she beheld a squaws head with her dark eyes sunk in her head looking most penetratingly at her observeing all her motions — the Settlers wife turned her eyes away from such an horrifying sight as she thought & to her utter horror to behold there was a very large squaws head there to — Still there was one window remaining & but one but on turning her head aside to that Still the dreadful & horrid looking head with the dark eyes was glaring at her She gave a dreadful Scream & having a Girl with her she sent her to the husband who was at work ½ Mile from the house to hasten home with all Speed as the Indians were all around the house & She expected before he arrived to be killed & eaten up by them — & on another Occasion a Settlers wife being at home by herself generally as her husband worked several Miles off & the cabin was in the Midst of a large prairie 3 Indians on horseback rode up & looked in through the windows at her & then came round to the door & knocked with trembling hands She opened the door (& as she informed the author) expecting every moment to draw his large hunting Hunting Knife from the belt plunge it into her heart & bear a way her bleeding Scalp

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Such has been & is now the unfounded fears entertained by the female settler in reference to the Indian character — but if we take an impartial view of the Indian character we must pronounce it noble as far as the tribes near the territory are concerned there are tribes like the Comanches & others of which the author knows little or nothing about — but if we refer to the Iowa the Pawnees the Osages the Sioux & Sacs & Fox Delewares — Potawotamie or Wyandots we can unhesitatingly say they are a noble race many of them are exceedingly well to do in the world they are the individual owners of a great number of Ponys cattle Pigs Poultry &c they have their fine gardens their Bloom fields of Corn their Rosey Peach & Apple orchards you may see the Indians & their Squaws sometimes on the road to, west port or Kansas riding on the most noble looking & Choicest bred prancing the ground & prancing with the choicest decorations on for be it remembered the Indians takes the greatest pride Immaginable in the trapping of their Horses they like to them covered over with half Moons whole Moons Diamonds Stars &c cut out in brass washed over with Silver then their Squaws never wear any hats but their heads are covered with the richest handkechiefs or Shalls that are of immense value Cloaks &c &c the Squaws are most excellent horsewomen & they take a a great delight in showing it but there others certainly who are not so well to do in the world

whose Gardens orchards &c &c indicate a Spirit of sloth
indolence & lack of industry & sometimes poverty but there
are none of them poor neither indeed can be as the American
Government have placed at our their power at present
As they all have a large tract of land granted them & a
sum of Money yearly [illegible] more than sufficient to keep them
well every individual Indian man woman or Child
If an Indian comes to your house or cabin he does not
Ask for bread water rum or whiskey & you supply his
wants he do not expect to pay you for it because if
you go to his Cabin Sleep for a week in his own cabin
eat his bread drink his whiskey Ride his poneys he will not
charge you I cant for it a friend of the Authors was
going to a place called Sugar Creek a Settlement in the
territory but he lost his road & tried in vain to find
it but in his endeavours to do so he wandered many
Miles from it & got deeply benighted at last he
seen or thought he could see a light to which he
directed his attention & his steps & to his joy it
proved to be the light from an Indian Cabin ——
he was received with the greatest affability Cordi-
ality & the best they could afford was brought out
Bread Meat —— Butter — & Whiskey — they gave him
their best bed with the utmost show of willingness
& in the Morning after partakeing of a good breakfast
they put him on one of their best horses & a Young

Indian mounted another & after riding 10 miles placed him in his right track & after the most friendly Salutation wished him good Morning & though he insisted on paying something for so much kindness Yet he would not take one cent — take another Illustration of Indian character when the author was on his first journey of exploration there was several of the party who did not feel in the least inclined to sleep in the tent but went about in quest of Indian house to sleep in they was successful in their efforts & found a very comfortable cabin neatly fitted up by a new married couple of the Shawnee tribe they gave our men a good supper gave up their own bed & a very good bed they said it was & took a skin for themselves & laid down in it by the fire side while the strangers where sleeping snugly in their comfortable bed when the Morning arose the strangers asked them what they had to pay the Indians seemed surprised that they should ask such a thing & could not be prevailed on to take any thing — The author have had dealings frequently with the various tribes & have always found them without exception men of honour with the strictest integrity in dealing they are men of few words but what they say they mean — they have a great Objection to take bills in the way of trade they will have specie they

will not take paper money of any kind they say white Man Make it white man keep it ——

10th Advice to Emigrant before they commence their Journey ——

In the first place I need not say that it is necessary to get all the Information respecting the place or Settlement to which he intends to emigrate but get all he can from practical or experimental Sources from plain Straight forward cultivators of the Soil men who have been through the furnace in the next place find out the Shortest & cheapest Route by rail if you can if You can afford it take first Class all the way the next thing provide yourself with very Strong trunks or Boxes well bored & Screwed for you will Astonished to See how the rascals of porters will dash your things about & turning it bottom upwards try to Shake & knock it to pieces in order that thing may fall out — you will find plenty of Pickpockets at the different Station beware — Do not take any more things than you will really want as you will be able to buy most things now at the Settlement at prices not much in advance of home prices & the charge of goods for passengers over 80 lbs is most enormous & that Charge continued in a great many

be particular in getting the Checks for your luggage & be sure & keep them upon that its safety depends you may meet with persons that will say to you give me your check & I will for your luggage all right & you may never see checks or luggage any more
be careful with whom you form an aquaintance with on your journey especially those who would wish to pry into your business
& when you land at Kansas get to the Territory as soon as possible either by Stage or by hireing a team according to the quantity of luggage you may have

11

Advice to emigrants when they arrive at their place of Settlement
After you have seen your luggage safely deposited in the Inn it will be well to make enquiry of the Landlord in reference to Claims or to persons who wish to sell out & you will generally find the Landlord tolerably well posted up in these matters Some
Some emigrants when they arrive at a Settlement begin to prepare for a long tour of exploration & not only prepare but prosecute their Journey & frequently spend more money than they could purchase a fine timbered Claim for near the town or Settlement
it is most likely that this fair fine Claims may be

Purchased from 50. to 100 or 150 Dollars - or I should have said that Squatters will be most likely willing to sell out for those sums & that will be found much more ~~profitable~~ profitable than wandering hundreds of miles & eventually returning unsuccessful & much lighter in Pocket- than when you set out

there is another important consideration for the emigrant viz that when you are about to purchase a Squatters interest in a Claim examine it well & previous to the Closing of the purchase in reference to the quality & quantity of the timber - Soil - water &c & especially if there is a good building Site on the Claim

It have not been unfrequently the case that Settlers after residing some time on their Claim have become Dissatisfied finding out that a certain claim which they could have obtained on much more easy terms than the one on which they are residing had much more & better timber than they thought for & frequently they are the subject of a great much uneasiness of mind the result of not well examining a quarter Section before they gave it up & very often the worm of remorse is mourning the Vitals of their peace because they Did not sufficiently examine the Claim on which they have settled

12th Description of Characters on the Settlement Emigrants put on their guard against them ——

It is frequently the case that the cash (little or much) which a emigrant brings with him into a new territory is the fruit of many years of hard toil & Industry therefore the Author feels it is especial duty to give the Alarm, Against those Sharks with which every Settlement is more or lesp infested in the territory

it is more than probable that soon after you arrive in the Settlement you will be visited by one or two or more of these Dangerous Individuals who will tell you Most likely that they were the founders of the Settlement that they came out with the very first Settlers & that when all the others were discouraged on account of the insurmountable difficulty which apeared to surround their path & in consequence thereof was ready to turn back & leave the Settlement altogether but they (the Sharks) like brave persevering & Noble Generals rallied up the dissatisfied disappointed & dispirited Settlers urged them to look forward to brighter & more cheering Scenes told them them that there was better days coming boys & they will also try to make you believe that having infused life & Spirit into them by their heroic Speeches & examples that the others fell to work with gigantic energy that the noble & gigantic lofty trees fell before the force of the Axe that the woods echoed with the Sound of the back woodsman stroke & that all things assumed a prosperous

Apearance & went on as merry as a marriag bell—
they will be very likely to point you to various Improvem
ents made on the Settlement within the year at the same
time insinuateing that none of these Improvements could
or would have taken place had it not been for their
Overwhelming influence & indomitable courage & &
unparrelleld perseverance the author have often heard
a Shark of this description say had it not been for me
there would have been no Settlement at all I gave up
my claim for the good of future generations that the
Settlers might be benifilled while I have no claim but must
borrow money to purchase the rights some Squatter interest
in a claim — on hearing this the unsuspecting
emigrant may be led to exclaim Oh what a useful &
noble disinterested Man — but
but Remember that while this Dreadfully Dangerous Man
is telling you all this fudge there is an undercurrent
of Self interest flowing in his breast the Secret is this
he have found out that you have got some money
& he wants to get it of you
but how will he proceed in trying to get possession
of it — why in the first place he puts a Dashing Apearance
Rides a fine horse his family is dressed at the top
of the fashion he Apsumes the Apearance of a rich &
popular Man he will mostly likely tell you that though
he hath done so much for the Colony yet he have been

yet he have been very much prosperous providence having
smiled on him & he will talk of this scheme &
that which he has in view & so fraught with
advantages & having so much money invested in valuable
property he is just now pushed for a few hundred to comp
lete a great bargain but if you feel any hesitation or
cannot conveniently do it he appears to be very indifferent
about it he says it is of little consequence whether
you do it or not as there are plenty who would be
glad to do it for him knowing his wealth & great influence
but as he was the first person he had spoken to on the
subject & as he had it in his power to, hundreds in the
emigrant way he thought he might be glad to accomod
ate him

& in this manner do these sharks work upon the feeling
of the simple emigrant till they allow them to swallow down
a few hundreds which they never more disgorge
& the poor emigrant becomes another victim amongst
vast numbers of others. & thus these sharks thrive for the present
on the credulity of the honest Emigrant

13

A true Account of the proceedings of the last
Election

the conduct of the Missourians at the last Election
reminds me of a part of a speech I heard some
years past the Speaker was endeavouring to show

56

that an Aristocratical government was better than a Democratical one as he said the latter frequently ~~Dean~~ degenerated into no government law or order but a meer rabble — at this point he raised his Stentorian Voice & exclaimed give me Aristocratical law give me Martial law give me any kind & lifting up both hands he says but may the Lord save me from Mob law —

but at the Election in Kansas Territory for Assembly men & Council men to form the Legislature at every Polling place in the territory there was Mob law in all its Disgraceful degradeing & humiliating forms — sometime previous to the time Apointed by the Governor for voteing (in fact it was the day Apointed for the Censors officers to perform his Duty in our part of the 11th District) we convened a Meeting for all legal Voters to attend in order to Propose Judges &c for the ensuing election.

A very large number attended & we Apointed nearly Unanimously 3 free Soil men as Judges of the Election & sent the Document of by a Special Messenger to Governor Reeder but such Appeared to be the clandestine & Secret rougery & power of the pro Slavery party that before it could reach the Governors hand to sign the Apointments they had Substituted 2 proslavery men for the 2 Free Soilers Apointed

57

The Governor not being aware of the proslavery trick signed the Document & so it was fixed no doubt much to the satisfaction of the proslavery party

at length the day of election arrived there was between 5 & 600 legal votes from our precinct but to our great astonishment when we arrived at the Polling Booth we free soilers were confronted by 200 Missourians not one of them haveing a right to vote & every one of these men armed with a brace of revolvers a Rifle & Bowie knife & if at any time they were challenged in regard to the validity of their vote they would answer the Challenger with a dreadful threat to blow his brains out (at the same time holding forth a revolver) if he said another word concerning the matter & when the free soil election Judge was returning from the Election in the evening many was the Rifle balls that whistled after him — & it & thus was the Kansas Election by brute force or mob law —

but it was not only the case in the precinct where the Author voted but in every other precinct in the territory the author has not the least doubt existing in his mind that if only those who had a legal right to vote had been allowed to do so there would not have been a proslavery Member in the Council or in the Assembly

Chapr 14 58 58

~~It is a most pleasing~~

Character of Governor Reeder in Kansas Territory

It is a most pleasing task for an author in writing a Sketch of the character of an individual (however brief that Sketch may be) to have it all sunshine round about him & to be enabled to look upon him enlightened by the steady & unwavering light of truth as a diamond of the first water without the slightest shade to dim its transparent lustre & full orbed Splendour

let us then in the first place view him as a lawer how boldly calmly & logically has he reasoned on some of the most intricate & knotty points of law brought forward by the most smart crafty & able lawers & counsellor of the proslavery tribe they would fire on after the other volley of eloquence & sophistry at him but when he had cleared away their smoke (for it was but smoke) he stood forth clearly as the conquering hero

but again view him as a Governor of a New Territory surrounded by proslavery enemy, who was determined if possible not to be governed & not only to but took the advantage of ~~throwing~~ casting the most formidable Obstacles in his way that lay in their power ——

Many were the snares traps & pitfall they placed in
his path very many were the Abattrieses fortifications
& Ramparts they placed with the utmost of their skill
in his the road to opose his march as Governor
but in vain he escaped their snares he broke through
like a bold & able warrior all fortifications &c & establish
himself as a Governor possesed of first rate qualifications
again if we view him as a man of courage his conduct
will well sustain him upon that Ground
behold him threatened by the proslavery party with
the rope revolver rifle & Bowie knife after
the Election but did any of these things move him
did he recoil at their puny threats did he tremble
at their outbursts of wrath & fury. No Governor
Reeder was not the Man to quail but like a well
built Light House nobly withstanding the Shock
of every angry Billow & throwing forth a blaze of
to light & Safety all around
Chap~15

The tremendous indignation of the people at his
removal by a certain Individual

The O

The author would beg leave to inform the
reader that there was one thing in particular
that roused & excited the indignation of the people

60 or rather Settlers & it was this that a certain individuare high in influence & power at the present time & professing to entertain & believe in the same political creed views & sentiments with the worthy Gentleman he sent forth & aprointed with his own seal to be the Governor of Kansas & yet without the Slightest proof of the least flaw or Stain in his Character in any particular whatever but because a base lawless Murdering unprincepled proslavery Mob should request it in Opposition to the petition of respectable Settlers who alone had a right to petition or request on such an Occasion he withdraws a Gentleman mighty in the knowledge of the law Noble in principle & unsullied in character & substitutes at the request Desire or Demand of a low proslavery rabble ~~What~~ What Oh tell it not in Gath publish it not in the Streets of Askelon

Chapr 16

Their astonishment & disgust at the Apointment of Governor Shannon

Let a beloved & highly respected Minister be taken away from a congregation who have had every reason to respect & love him his department practice

& life in every particular accords strictly with his profession & theory as a man of God & faithful Minister of the Gospel —

the Church prospers under his pastorship & every thing in connexion with the Church is flourishing — what would be the surprise & disgust of the members of the Church if they found that through the influence of a disgraceful Rabble not member of the Church they should have their pastor taken from them & replaced by a man whose theory & practice was most repugnant to their feelings & conscience

take another view of the case here is an individual who have been struggling against a disease very grievous to be born an eminent physician is recommended & sent to him he soon begins to perceive under the physician proper & salutary treatment of the disease & rejoices in the hope of recovery — by some undeserrent means resorted to by his Enemys he is deprived of the services of this good physician & a Quack Doctor takes his place & throws the deleterious & bad effects of Nostrums the patient begins to languish & die

3dly here is a General who have often led his troops to glorious victory he has but to wave his sword & cry forward & they will follow him under the most appalling & alarming circumstances because they have faith in their leader they love him they would die for him —

62 — & now reverse the Scene take away their leader & replace him with one from the enemys ranks of whose character they have heard any thing but good why they can never hear of him never see him but as an Object of hatred & disgust

Is such is the Idea that the Settlers have of the present Governor forced upon them that many of the Settlements have bound themselves together by a Solemn convention to have nothing to do with him what what is the language of the Settlers at Lawrence Tecumseh Le Oparnolam — Little Creek — Middle Creek — Sugar creek Leavenworth — & a host of other Settlements this man that not reign over us

Chap^r 17

The nature of Slavery in Missouri

It is a notorious fact that Slavery as it exists in Different parts of the States is but little known by those who reside in distant States were Slavery does not exist During the author residence in the for west he had an abundant opportunity of Ascertaining the nature of Slavery in the States he have had an opportunity of conversing with 100 Slaves all belonging to Different Masters & the general account of the treatment they received was of a very mild nature they would say

we have plenty to eat^x & drink & good place to sleep & the Married men & sometimes Single are Allowed

63 - a piece of Ground which they cultivate at odd
times when not wanted by their Master & produce
all kinds of vegetables green corn &c the Master lends them
his team & they proceed to the nearest market Town or
city & very quickly dispose of them to good advantage
as the proprietors of Inns & Hotels are glad to pur
chase their produce - all the money they receive in
this way is bonafide their own but they are expe
cted to buy their Clothes with it leaving them a good
overplus of cash to do what they think proper with
it not unfrequently happens with the Married Slave
that the husband & wife are seperated perhaps 10 miles
apart - in cases of this kind the husband is allowed
to visit his wife for 2 days in the week - it is
frequently the case that a Slave or owner in possesion
of perhaps of 50 Slaves will let them out as Servants
to tradesmen merchants & farmers for so much
per Annum
So that the situation of the Slave is quite as comfortable
under their masters & Mistress in Missouri as the
situation of a servant in a free State with this
Melancholy exception they are not their own they
are bought with a price
Once every year the Slaves in Missouri have an
holiday given them about Christmas or new Years
when they meet together from all parts of the

country to enjoy themselves on these festive occasions
they frequently hire a large room for the purpose
on one occasion the Author happened to be in the house
when it was they had hired a room for this
purpose & the question was asked of an elderly woman
if they were all slaves she hung down her head as
she answered Yes for we are all slaves ——
the Author took an opportunity of asking an elderly
Man between 60 & 70 years of age who had been in slavery
in various parts of the South Virginia Carolina &c
if there was much difference in Southern slavery &
western slavery he replied there was no comparison
that there was as much difference as light & darkness
in Virginia & other Southern slave States the
slave is always exposed to the power & lash of the
Overseer but in Missouri their labour is merely that
of another farm servant exposed to no overseer or any
thing of the kind

18

The Character of the Slave there

The Idea that many of the advocates of slavery
profess to entertain of the character & organization
of the Negro race is most preposterous disgraceful
& degrading to any individual who would
dare to utter or give vent to any Idea of the kind

that the Negro is not of the human race in short that he is not a man but that he distinctly & properly belongs to the baboon or monkey tribe to displace all this nonsense & trash from the rational mind it is only requisite to become a little acquainted with them & you will not only find that they are men but many of them possessed of great sagacity but this the Author is ready to acknowledge that it is possible so to grind down even iron & what the poor African that if he was to be let at liberty in that wretched State the good policy of such proceeding might be questioned let a poor fellow of that description loose at once goaded lacerated & full of revenge he might become a terror to the neighborhood & an object of dread

Chap 19

Different kinds of Slaves

There is an old saying that have been frequently quoted many men of many minds & many birds of many kinds & there are Slaves of many minds & Slaves of many kinds but those Slaves who are of the most murderous thy designing haughty Impetuous character will generally be found among the Mixed breeds or Mulattos there appears to be a great proportion of the Spaniard or Italian Character Mixed up in their composition Dark Mysterious & bloodthirsty

Chapr 20 State of the Climate in Kansas Territory

The winters in the territory are exceedingly short but very severe generally commenceing in Janr & endeng by the first of April Snow very frequently commence in Janr & continues more or lep During the 3 Months with a Most tremendous wind which drift the Snow from the hills & various points of elevation with immense force Down into the Valley. Below frequently 7 or 8 feet in depth with most intense & bitter frost - until April when the weather assumes a milder & more comfortable apearance in the wet Season in the territory when the river banks frequently overflow to a very great Extent the rain descends not in gentle light & fulminating Showers but in Most tremendous Deweing Showers which to those who are not initiated into the nature of such rain would feel very alarming & dreadful & not unfrequently there is a large Quantity of hail of a most Gigantic size falling with the rain that beats Down on the Shingles of the cabin with such force & fierce & frightful impetuosity that it will apear as though the roof was comeing in or falling through the hailstorm will last perhaps for an hour - while the Rain will continue for a week or two sometimes

these Violent Storms are frequently succeeded by warm weather June July & August which is generally the hottest

of Month in the Year when the heat will be frequently 95–100 & sometimes 105 degrees above Zero in the Shade—

& yet during the hottest & most oppressive seasons there will be very heavy Dews falling in the night which tends very much to bring forward the crops of all kinds with very great rapidity & such is the nature of the Soil & Climate that every thing grows to a most enormous size

Chapt 21st—

Various Striking circumstances in the Authors Experience

haveing built my cabin & collected a great quantity of firewood Against a time of need I hired an ox team & with some difficulty (on account of the badness of the roads) proceeded to remove my goods & Chattels Stove &c from the boarding house to my Claim which generally received the name of Mount Pisgah from the elevated nature of its position & the unparelleled beauty of the landscape before the Cabin & in fact all around

haveing placed my house in order & arranged my furniture as I thought to the best Advantage & fixed my Stove—Pipe &c in a safe position I proceeded to build my fire & fetch my water to cook the Supper I was very much struck with the grandeur of the Scene the Sun had gone Down but the Moon was up &

& beautifully walking in her brightness shineing
solemnly & yet most lovely through the thick foleage of
the Magestick trees that thickly studded & overshadowed
the rivers bank & shining path on the clear waters of
the Noble Steam like a beautiful Globe of Molten Silver
it was Saturday night & the first night of my resid-
ence in the Solitude & loneliness of my Cabin I looked
My Supper & went to bed with feelings of great Solemnity
resting on my mind
but when the night had passed away & I had received
a goodly portion of that refreshing influence produced
by natures sweet restorer balmy Sleep — & beheld the Glo-
rious Sun of nature topping the hill with Gold & casting out
his rays of light & life through the windows of my
otherwise Solitary caben — I began to be more animated
especially as the brief Choruses of a hundred songsters
Saluted my ears & cheered up my Spirits I arose
on a beautiful Sabbath Morning the 1st of April
the nearest Neighbour I had one way was 1 Mile
& every other way was 2 Mile or more
but although alone I endeavoured to push forward with
the utmost energy to clear the brush that grew so
thickly round my Cabin & to dig up some rock
& build an hog pen with Stone & to fill up the
vacant places caused by the removal of the rocks
with some of the Choicest Mould or Soil I could

89

Got - in addition to the very large garden I made when I had cleared away the bush &c I made a small Garden before the door in which I planted various kinds of Melons Green Corn Peas - Castor Beans &c &c -
& every thing I planted apeared to thrive in beautiful order in addition to this I worked at my trade & obtained a great Amount of employment - in that way one fine Morning in the Spring as I was engaged in work an Indian of great Stature & well armed rode up & asked me if I knew who wanted to an horse & as I knew a person who very much wanted one - at the same time I answered if he did not want to much for him I might become a purchaser - I then asked his price he said 30 Dollars this might not have been to much for the Poney as he was sound wind & limb & 3 Years old but as I had to sell him again & obtain a little profit by the bargain I of course endeavoured to purchase him as cheap as I could -
the Indian was very little acquainted with the English language consequently there was some difficulty in bringing the bargain to a conclusion - we got down to 26 Dollars then to 24 & at length to 22 & after a considerable time had lapsed in trying to make out his broken language he came down to 20 Dollars & ultimately to 18 -

& finding he would come down no more I paid
him 18 Dollars in Gold & took my money which
was certainly a great bargain —
the individual whom I knew to be so much in want
of an horse lived 2 Miles from my place of residence
but I instantly commenced my Journey to his house
on arriving there I found the Gentleman on whom I
had my eye for the purchase of the horse at home
& likewise found that he still wanted one
I therefore informed him of the low price I could let
him this beautiful animal for but still he wanted
to purchase him on a lower scale still & after much
bantering on each side we struck a bargain with
very little profit on my side & as I expected ready
money & did not receive but a note due in a
week which week proved to my great disapoint
ment & hope to be 3 months & then the man died
& I never received 1 cent for my splendid poney
only a few bds &c for which I would gladly have
received the half the Money I was to have for the
poney
& thus this matter proved an unprofitable Speculation
for me in more points than one having depended
on receiving the ready Money for the poney to expend
ate profitably in my business & being disapoin
ted therein it threw me back in other things
& thus I could trace a long train of disapointments

7th Originating in the first
& now the season began to advance & the month of
may came in with its fragrant evenings & Rosey Morns
the time to plow the prairie sod & put in the corn
began rapidly to make its Approach & at the latter end
of May I had nearly two Acres of prairie plowed &
sowed with very fine Indian corn which in one
week sprang forth through the sod looking very
fine & green so very exceedingly rich & fertile
is the soil of Kansas Territory
About this time several Settlers commenced what they
call raising their log cabins of this Description can
not possibly be done by one man therefore it
is quite a customary thing to send round to the
Neighbours to let them know that such an individual
intends to have a raising on such a day
when five or six persons & sometimes more will
attend & give their very important services gratuitously
it happened to be my lot to be called upon to be
engaged in Occupations of this Description & Character
very frequently which of course I could never & did never
refuse although I was very frequently engaged in
other Occupations
in June the prairie grass began to grow very
luxuriently fresh & green I resolved therefore in
my mind to purchase a cow & calf the first chance

72 I had of speaking the purchase on reasonable
terms
Sometime after this hearing that a Gentleman who
resided 8 miles from my cabin had some cattle
to dispose of that would be very likely to
suit me I took the first opportunity of paying
him a visit on this particular busines – I not only
found that he had some to sell & finding that
he was more moderate in Charges for cattle I soon
concluded to strike a bargain with him & eventually
purchased a very fine cow & beautiful heifer calf
it was on a most lovely evening that I brought
them home to my cabin with very little trouble &
having previously provided a pen to put the
calf in while I Milked the Cow –
& here I began to feel the difficulty of being alone
& although I tried every moeuvre I was master
of I could not capture for the moment I was
preparing to put the rope around her neck &
draw her into the Pen but She instantly darted
under the Cow who presented a Chevaudefrize
of Cow horn which seemed to say stand off sir
at your peril –
Therefore finding that I was not able to succeed
in the undertaking alone & having no one to

help me I was obliged although very reluctant
to give up the weary task –

73 — I therefore put them both in some of the best of the pasture to let the calf suck the cow & have all the Milk thinking that it would reconcile them to the place — I laid myself down to sleep as it was now night & arose sometime before the Sun shed forth her Morning beams but to & behold to my great surprise disapointment & Chagrin — the cow & calf had taken their departure not leaving a single trace of their track behind them

I followed them in a direction I thought they were likely to pursue but all to no purpose over hill & dale I traversed asking every one I met concerning them but all to no purpose & tired wearry & disheartened in mind I returned to my cabin but haveing business to do at Opanoolamee last soon as I had eaten my breakfast I walked over to that Settlement but not being able to settle my business with any degree of satisfaction I returned back with an heavy heart the next day was Sunday & on the Monday very early in the Morning I started on my journey to the residence of the Gentleman of whom I purchased the lost cattle but soon a violent storm came on with blackness & darkness all around so that I could not discern the road & consequently wandered a mile & much west till I reached the house of a person I knew

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very well who kindly asked me to breakfast & as I was both wet & hungry I accepted their invitation with great pleasure but just as I had finished my breakfast a man came in out of breath exclaiming have you heard the news me answered what news he replied Mr—— was drowned yesterday in the river pottawotame at the bottom of his garden I exclaimed dear me I have lost my cow & calf & now Mr—— is drowned & he owes me 20 Dollars — I then proceeded to the other place & made my enquirys but all to no purpose for they had not seen any thing of them but supposed they had gone back to the States from whence he had stolen them & as he should be going down there again in a little time to purchase more cattle he thought it more than probable that he should find them & for a certain sum of Money would return them or a portion of the Money I then instantly returned hafed by my cottage & struck out for the settlement of Opawotame where Mr—— had resided previous to his being drowned soon after I arrived a great concourse of People Assembled & congregational Minister was there who preached on the occasion an hymn was sung a prayer was offered up & the corpse was taken 10 miles to the Nea baptist Mission burial ground as he was in his lifetime a member of the baptist Church

& in death his body was buried in a baptist Grave Yard

75 8 of us that came out with him from the east followed him to the grave in the mean time a Sermon was preached in the house of the deceased at Opawotamie to improve his death ——

Soon after this occurrence several cabins was built on the side of the river on which my cabin stood one of them was occupied by a Man & his wife & child the wife was very sick when she entered the house anxious to get there although the house was not finished which was by no means an uncommon case but in a few days the Man who was previously of a Strong Constitution was Stricken down to the point of death by the fever there was no water for more than a quarter of a mile of his house what was to be done the Man so sick that he could not move himself in his bed the wife so weak that she could not lift a pail of water & a little boy not 3 Years old ——

there was another person that lived rather more than a quarter of a mile from them in quite another direction A very good kind of Man — this person & myself waited on him continually Walked his bones fetched all his water with the grass wet with the Morning dew 15 feet high I was frequently so wet in fetching the water &c that it would wash out from the tops of my boots time after time untill on account of being so frequently saturated with wet & drying

76 again on me instead of burning to coughs colds
&c as it generally will in the east it plunged me
into a deadful burning fever for
finding the fever coming on very rapidly & being
aware of the consequence & having no one to wait on
me under those distressing circumstances I immediately locked
up my cabin & went to board with the Lame
person alluded to before as the one who at the risk of
his own life helped me to save the man from death
he lived a little more than a mile from me but as
there was no path & the road lay through the
high grass bush & ravines it was not very easy of
access but however through the Mercy of God I reached
his house in safety & agreed to board with him for
a month. it proved very fortunate for me that I did so
for I was soon visited with a very violent attack of
fever & the next day the landlord was attacked
in the same way & we both had to send for
the doctor together soon after his child fell sick
& then his wife so that we were all sick together
but in our sickness & distress there was many
kind friends who volunteered their services to sit
up with us all night chop wood & fetch water &
do any thing that was needful to be done for
our comfort & the saveing of our lives I continued
to board there until the expiration of my month
& when I left the landlord apeared just as bad as

77 he was at the beginning
sometimes I would be a few days without the
fever & would gain a little strength but during the
time I was there I received a bite from a snake on one
foot & from a venemous Spider on the other which made
me very thankfull for the aid of a Doctor which
very opportunely arrived who tried every means to
deaden the poison without effect untile he at length lanced
& bit the peice affected & squeesed the blood from
the wound which was quite black & after washing
the blood away & aplying morphene to it the wound
soon became on the mending order & I had the great
satisfaction of seeing it quite heal up
but notwithstanding I was for some considerable time
unable to put that foot to the ground without great pain
but in procss of time I thought I might venture to try &
walk in case of great immergency but circumstances &
event apeared to take a circuitous rout & stand before
me saying with great force & energy here is an immergency which will warrant you in making an effort
to walk
the case stood thus the parties were I boarded were
down more or less with sickness & they had very little
appetite for any thing but vegetables now it so happened
that they had not been sufficiently long in the colony
to produce any vegetables but on my claim there was a

78 profusion of every thing of the kind & no one there to eat it & feeling a great desire that their longing & craveing for vegetables should be satisfied & knowing that I had such an Abundance I set out on my journey with a bag to procure a good Allowance for them but the grass was very high & very difficult to get through & by the time I had got my vegetable in the bag & was on my way back to my boarding house the Sun was nearly down but still I pressed on with all my might (which was not much I'll) till at length the Sun had withdrawn his rays from the earth altogether & the world was enveloped in gloomy folds of darkness

but still I proceeded & by bergang to much west was lost my way altogether at length I heard what appeared to me the terrific sound of deep water gurgling with solemn & portentous murmer at my feet forbidding me at the peril of my life to go one Step further

Then I laid my weary body down in the dreary & dark Plains with the unpleasant consideration that I must have got very near home but just Wiped it & all the horrors of a dark & dreary night in the prairie glared forth like a tigers eye upon my mind but the dreary forbodeing dismal as they were did not come up to the dreadful reality as I had not lain down 5 minutes before a broad & terrific Gleame of Lightening glared along the Prairie gloom makeing the darkness apear more

To hideous & shocking accompanied by a most tremendous clap of thunder which shook the very frame under me & then the night of horror began fully to set in for the rain descended in Mighty & tremendous torrents it reminded me of the flood that was sent in days of Old to destroy the world the fountains of the great deep appeared to be broken up & the water to issue up from beneath & I thought I could say with the Psalmist literally Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts all thy waves go over me as turn which way I would I was overflown with water & the cold chill therefrom mingling with the cold air of the night struck pain into my bones & turn which way I would there appeared to be no rest to my distracted body
& to keep myself from being suffocated by the water I put my bag of vegetables on some stones & thus was I through the goodness of God prevented from being suffocated by the flood
but the thunders roared & the lightening flashed & the rain descended in liquid sheets until the grey dawn of day appeared when the storm somewhat abated but bright phoebus did not mount her chariot any portion of the day but all was dismal dark & dreary to me there was I continually weak & hungry sipping with wet plunging into some
after taking some book or amulet & then endeavouring to

80 force my lonely way, through thicket brush & briers
(tearing my clothes & covering me with wounds from the
thorns) to gain the Summit of some Mountain from
whence I might perceive some cabin or place of shelter
to refresh & brighten up my despairing mind &
but Oh no all was dark & cheerless all the
day at length weak wet & hungry I laid me down on
the Mountain to die I had no Opinion that I could live out
the dreary night I therefore pulled out my Pocket book &
with a pencil wrote as follows I ——— was lost on
the prairie near the Settlement of Opawotame & died
on such a night 1855 (as I had no Opinion that I could
yet live another terrible night) & if any one should
find the book & would send on to my people in the
East According to the direction I had given & lay where I
had died & how they would receive the thanks of a Dying man
or I should feel under great Obligation if they would
inform some of my friends in Opawotamie of my corpse
(a few whom I named) & then putting the book under my head
I commended myself to God never expecting to see the
light of another day
but through the mercy of God I was preserved although
brought close to the gates of death I was raised up I trust
to the glory of his name the morning arose brighter than
the previous one & the dew drops shone forth
as they dipped the prairie grass like pearls glistening in the

81 rays of the Morning Sun
I thought I would try & rise & make another desperate effort
to find my way to some place of refuge but I soon found
my weakness haveing eaten nothing from the time
I left the boarding house to that Morning save 3 small
Wash melons I fell down nearly as soon as I got up from
weakness & pain in my bones but as the Sun shone out &
not a dark cloud apeared to forbode any rain I thought
I would persevere to gain the next Mountain untill I died
& thus be continual succession of walking a few steps &
falling down & persevering & keeping forward again with renew-
ed effort I succeeded through the Helping of God in reaching
a trail this of course gave me unspeakable pleasure as
I was sure I was on the way to some place of residence either
indian or white man
I proceeded on this trail or path untill I met a gentle
man on horseback with 2 boys I shall never forget the
joy that the sight of a human being inspired me with
in that dreary wilderness I soon told him my tale of
distress I eagerly asked him how far it was to any house
where I could get any food as I was dying with hunger
thinking to inspire me with courage he informed
me that I was only a mile from an house where
I could get refreshment & likewise that they were
very clever people but however I found his mile to
be 2 but as to the cleverness & kindness of the

& people he was quite correct — they received me with
the greatest hospitality & kindness they placed plenty of
food before me but on account of my long abstinence
from food & my exceeding weak state of body I thought
it best to be very cautious in that particular especially
as they informed me that I should have a good supper — they
accordingly killed a fine fowl & baked a large cake but
just as the fowl began to smell rather savoury & the cake
was baked we heard the rumble of carriage wheels & the
voice of some person saying here you a lick man will
here — & behold the landlord of the house is he inside yes
sir & in another moment a very respectable gentleman
from Ujanyembe who exclaimed Oh how glad I am
to find you —
we were ready to come back with me now as soon as to
find such a favourable opportunity of getting back I
answered in the affirmative & turning round to my
kind host & hostess I asked how much I was indebted
to them for their hospitality Oh nothing at all was
the reply & we are sure that if ever we stand in
need of help & it is in your power to help us you
will do so
After expressing my gratitude for their disinterested
kindness I got into the carriage & was soon on my
way to Ujanyembe which we reached soon
after the sun went down & arrived at his house

After partaking of a good supper went to rest in a feather bed how different to the one I slept on the 4 nights before I awoke to see a bright & glorious morning & after breakfast the gentleman took me his carriage to my boarding house the landlord & lady being very glad to see me once more alive
During my absence there was a great sensation all over the Settlement as to what was become of me some said they thought I was murdered & several parties in the Settlement had raised the report that I was worth a large sum of Money others supposed that I had fell into a ravine & was drowned but no one seemed to care for a moment that I was alive & just as the gentleman of the name of Lewis that I met on the prairie I was stating where he had seen me & when a company was being formed to search the area by means of a flag
Sometime after this I met with an accident from a calf whom the cow had forsaken & he was taken out from the pen & staked out in the prairie by day & as my landlord weak & feeble arising from the fever he proceeded to put him back again into the pen he became very furious & jumped backward & forward greatly incensed by having the rope twisted between his legs & being very strong he soon threw my

84 my worthy landlord on his back he instantly called
out to me to assist him but on my arriving & seizing
the rope he managed to get the rope twisted round me
& pulling with that force that I surely thought he
would have torn me asunder but my landlord seized
the rope at that juncture & with superhuman
energy jerked the rope from of me which was a great
although I still feel the bad effects of it & shall no doubt
to the day of my death
Sometime previous to this circumstance I heard
that my Cow & Calf had been found 40 miles distant
& had been brought back to Oparomatane & sold
again but that the person who purchased them was
sick & could not attend to them consequently consigned
them to the care of a person who had several
cows of his own on hearing this I applied to
the person but after asking several questions concerning them could not obtain very satisfactory answers & as they was removed to the residence of the owner I was determined to go there to satisfy myself
on arriveing at the place & looking for a moment
at them I was quite satisfied they were the
renegades I accordingly went into the house & informed
the gentleman of the circumstance who said
he had heard something of the circumstance &

I likewise stated that the gentleman from whom he had purchased them wished me to go to him respecting them on receiving this information I was at a loss how to act as I knew I could not walk but in a few days a gentleman on horseback called to see my landlord who was still very sick I stated my case to him & the difficulty I was in he very kindly offered me the loan of his horse to prosecute my journey the way lay thro the wild prairie without any path whatever & the grass was 6 feet high & I could not get the horse out of a walk as he would continue eating all the way so that his progress was very little more than a mile per hour & we had a vast number of ravines to cross which made the journey exceedingly tedious at length I arrived at the house & found the gentleman at home but he had just recovered from an attack of the fever & had no money but faithfully promised on the word of a gentleman that he would pay it me in 3 days I then took my departure for home but made very little progress but at length after finding my patience very near I arrived at a ravine about 2 miles from my boarding house I had been very cautious in taking him over every other ravine to walk him gently down to

86 & up again but on this occasion he took it into his head to try a leap but in doing so he failed & fell part on the bank & part down the bank I immediately on seeing his situation threw myself from his back whereupon he immediately sprang up & finding one of my feet in the stirrup became frightened & galloped off dragging me along the ground till at length my foot became disentangled from the stirrup & I was left in a bruised condition on the wild prairie with the dark shades of Evening closing around me buried & beaten & not knowing where I was Oh what was my feelings to have another night in the dewy Grass with the terrible Musquitos in countless myriads around ready to devour me & the cold wind sweeping through the tall dewy grass the prairie Nightingale singing his short song of 8 notes very monotonous all the night long no sleep for me how did I long for the Morning light that I might find some habitation at length the long sought for Morning dawned & on looking through the long grass I could see at the distance of ½ mile a Cabin lying in the open prairie but to wade through the wet grass as high as my head I knew by painful experience what that was to my sorrow & there was no other way

PM to get to the cabin & I was told what hun
gry & bruised I was I commenced my Journey & reaches
the Cabin just as the good lady was preparing
for breakfast after Stating my case unto host
Asked me what he should do for me I informed
him he would oblige me by getting me some break
fast as I was very wet bruised & hungry to which
he assented with the utmost willingness but before
we sat down to breakfast (as he was a professor
of religion & I hope a true Christian) he engaged
in family worship never shall I forget how the tune
which they sang echoed over the wide prairie
it seemed to me that the desert did bloom & blossom
as the rose & the wilderness did become as the
fruitful field we then partook of a good & substantial
breakfast & then the Master of the house prepared
for a Journey to the Settlement which was about
4 Mile he asked me if he should take me to my
Claim which was ½ mile out of his road but I
readily accepted of his offer to go in the light waggon
as I was very sensible of my inability to walk
the distance & as he promised so he performed
& kindly set me down at the door of my Cottage
I then went down to the river & fetched me up 2 Quarts
of water & it was fortunate that I did for I was immediately
smitten down with the fever in consequence of getting

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So not in the morning as it is not in the prairie as it is in the east where every thing of the kind turns to a cold cough or consumption but in the territory it's all fever so there I lay burning with thirst no one to attend to me no one to get me any thing all the day or all the night & in the morning I kneeled my trembling steps to the threshold of my boarding house

& on my arrival there I expected to have my mind pained & excited by hearing remarks made concerning the horse — so I immediately gave them to understand that I did not wish to have my mind pained by any remark made in respect to the circumstance as it was no fault whatever of mine & I nearly lost my life & twice through the horse & I believed from the direction he appeared to take that he was gone home & no one regretted the circumstance more than I did & experienced so much bodily & mental suffering in consequence as the owner of the horse was a man & very much respected & a good man —

but although I made these precautionary remark I could perceive once in a while an inclination to break through but however they managed it tolerably well & my mind was not so much pained Respecting it as I expected

but now my month was nearly expired & I was

89 Still the subject of the dreadful & burning fever

& although I had been for more than 40 years in possession of the strongest constitution yet I now felt weak & helpless as a little child

I would here remark that although I could attribute the fever & all its long train of consequences to no other source than to getting so thoroughly wet in procuring water &c for a certain individual before alluded to & it is a remarkable coincidence that my landlord who I believe was a Real good man as far as human goodness goes) laid all his affliction, fever & sickness with all the long train of consequences Doctors bill &c to the same ungrateful source — for it is a certain fact that this same man who was restored to health the same time that we was taken sick never was grateful enough to come & see whether we was dead or alive with the exception of one time when he received a letter for my landlord with express orders to deliver it immediately as it contained money but this rascal this ungrateful villain was very particular in going to my claim & spelling down one whole side of sailing

when he came with the letter he appeared highly delighted (I was not there at the time being gone to the settlement) with the thought as he expressed it that some dogs or wolves had been about my cabin & that hoped to had got into my corn & made great havoc therein

on the Morning of my departure from my host
& hostess to the Inn in Pyramotamie preparatory to
my Journey as I then intended to St Louis to stay a while
they was attentive in endeavouring to provide those things me most
that they considered I should want in my journey
So when every thing was fixed up in this particular
matter.

I commenced my Journey to the Inn being nearly 4 miles
& the heat very oppressive being at that time more than
100 degrees but I had not proceeded more than ¼
Mile from the house when in this tremendous heat
in the open prairie & a load on my back I was struck
down with the most violent raging fever.

I recollected that I could not be far from a ravine where
I hoped there would be some water I crawled on my
hands & knees to the ravine (as I could not walk
once to my Joy I found water & good water but oh
what was my sufferings from the effects of the boiling
Sun darting down his scorching burning & withering
Rays on my face

Surrounded by Myriads of those cruel unrelenting
Tormenting beings Mosquitos who lacerated me
all over with their bites in addition to this the
fever was burning within resembling a red hot
fire ball in my throat scorching up all the water

of which I poured upon it every 3 minutes I despised & drank 2 Gallons of water but the fire of the raging fever seemed to absorb it all — this torture although mingled with mercy & ameliorating circumstances continued all day & until the pearly dewdrops from the tall & fiery prairie grass — & now another night — on the prairie & oh when I thought on this & that a cold shiver ran through my burning frame but God in his goodness preserved me through that long long night also to see another day

& then I took up my burden & began to resume my journey but here I found my weakness again & after walking some distance I had to lay my burden down & proceed without it to a cottage about a mile & where I found a lad whom I paid to fetch my luggage & take it to the Inn

I found the landlord & landlady very kind & attentive I had several severe attacks of fever while there waiting for the Stage to take me down to Hannibal city which reduced me to the last stage & extremity of weakness so that I could scarcely stand in fact while waiting for the Stage on the monday I was obliged to lie on the ground from weakness arising from the fever I should have observed that the gentleman who so faithfully promised to pay me for the cow & calf on the Saturday did not prove true to his word

they said that he was sick but still he might have sent it as he had plenty of boys about the house doing nothing consequently I was obliged to sell the debt loseing a dollar on it which dollar I intended to give to the person of whom I borrowed the horse as I understood he was in low circumstances & thus through the cattledealer proveing false to his word I was disapointed of the pleasure I should have felt in so doing

on the monday I set out in the stage for Kansas city providenig myself with a large nesele to hold plenty of water in case of a fresh Attack of fever haveing a good opportunity of getting a fresh supply of water at every creek on the road the first day I had a slight attack of fever when I found the water very beneficial me rattled along for 35 miles the forth day & had very compertable accommodations at a farmers house on the road who had maried a Squaw &

& in consequence had jumped into a paradise of an estate there was a beautiful plantation of Apples with a much larger one of Peaches there was thousands & thousands of baskets of peaches spread out on large boards fixed on tressels to dry

a good supper of Prairie Chicken & but I was to sick to partake of it although as I advanced on my journey I found my health to improve very much

in the Morning I was much better & eat a very good breakfast then we proceeded on our Journey but the Horses of which we had four had not proceeded far when they got fixed fast in a Mud hole which I guess had been neglected from week to week & not repaired untill it Assumed a very formidable Appearance so much so that though the whip was stoutly applied to the horses sides & 3 strong Shoulder applied to the wheels yet the wheel horses were so disinclined to push & so much inclined to push back that we was most unpleasantly detained for 2 Hours

Chap^r
22

A brief history of the life & death of some of the Emigrants who came out with the Author & who Died in the Settlement

The first person on whose history or life & death I shall make a few remarks hath several relatives in the territory & out of the Territory still living who might not like to have the name brought before the public in a work of any kind & so out of regard to their feelings I have refrained from so doing
& here I would notice that in cases where I have not

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States names is not because it is not strictly
true but because the Characters are still living & the
Author would likewise beg leave to state here that
what he has to say in reference to the deparded however
brief it may be he had from their own lips
The first person that I shall notice whose Spirit
hath fled into the eternal & who likewise came
out with me was a gentleman Aged 47 reputed
to be rich in this worlds goods & bearing a good
reputation he professed to be a religious man &
the profession was that of a baptist
he was an industrious man late & early he would
be engaged in active employment neither was he
frightened at hardwork either under the piercing rays
of a Summer Sun or when Stern boreas blew his
blast of frozen snow over the desolate prairie oft
have I seen him although the Magestrate of the
Settlement toiling through the drifting snow with
thick Mittens & a trusty Staff in his hand & his
family face swelled & purple with the north wind
his chief fault apeared to be this Buying in making
many purchases of various kinds when he had no cash
at all in the Settlement his creditors wanted
the money but no money could be had every person that
knew him said that he had thousands of dollars

in the States & there it remained very much to the injury of his creditors

here he was undoubtedly to blame as he or any other man of property had a right to get into debt unless that property his to far Revailable that he can pay his creditors at the aponted time

he was born in Cornwall in the far west of England he was brought up in the farming line it apears his parents were wealthy but his father between being a Man of great Stature & Prodigious & unparrelled strength very passionate & easely excited was nearly always engaged in lawsuits & broils of that description he would think nothing of knocking a man down from the top of one of his highest hay or wheat reks

or stamping under his ponderous foot a lark or larter boy such freaks as this & so frequently carried on would have a very powerful influence on the losing side of his cash Capital neither would the effect of this rash passion be confined his work people or neighbours but his family frequently would have to feel very much to their sorrow the weight of his powerful arm or foot (for tho he was not very nice about the matter which he made use of) in a moment of Rage & passion

the subject of these remarks have told one more than once for some petty offence & frequently for no offence at all he would be felled to the ground often times he would have to treat parties very handsomely when his passion cooled down or bribe them heavily that they should not carry the matter into a court of law.

it is quite natural to suppose that a character of this description as he grew older & his pocket got lower would get detested by all who knew him this was precisely the case with him finding that every one around despised him & avoided his company he went to Canada & sometime after sent for the subject of these remarks who at that time was a stout youth of 18 — who felt very much in leaving his mother behind who might well be ranked among the best of women & a martyr to christianity her spirit was a spirit of perfect meekness after her husband had beaten her & cut her up with other ill usage to keep her from the means of grace she would go about her household work with all that cheerfulness & alacrity as though nothing had happened & when her husband had left her with a large family to struggle along as she might yet when in after years he sent for her to come to him the forgetting all that had past set sail for canada by

by way of the united States but soon after she
landed at new York she had the misfortune to
break her leg this was the delayed in her efforts to
reach her husband until she heard of his death
this operated so powerfully upon her mind that
in a few months she died also the subject of these
remarks who for the future I shall call John remained
in canada & obtained employment for some years
as a butcher & then coming to New York State learned
the business of a baker Pastry cook & confectioner
& Married a wife of great business part little more
than a twelve months since there was a great stir
concerning emigration to Kansas territory & believeing
that he should be of considerable service in forming
a settlement besides increasing his own wealth &
perhaps thinking he should by his example reform
& reform the morals of the people for he was very
particular in having family worship to God Morning
& evening this he continued the very morning that
he met with his death by going out of his depth in
a river at the bottom of his garden where he was
accustomed to bathe ——
the Next is J. Dean Swift it is supposed that
he was ~~christened~~ baptized in the name of Dean
Swift but not likeing the name he put the letter D. in
of his own accord — he was a young son of a