

where the busy hum of commerce may by and by speak the presence of a city. Here we saw numerous cabins of settlers; and away, as far as the eye could reach, in a southwesterly direction, the prairies were high and rolling like the waves of Old Ocean. Southward, beautiful groves dot the prairie, and the dark line of timber that stretches along the Wakarusa valley—with the great Prairie-mound, so to speak, fixed there as the land mark of perpetual beauty—the meandering river, with its dark skirting forests of timber on the north—all are scenes in Nature's magnificent Panorama, here brought within range of vision. Proceeding north, high rich bottoms extend for many miles, and we saw vast thickets of grape-vines, peavines, raspberries, and pawpaws. The timber was principally oak, walnut, ash, hickory, mulberry, hackberry, linden, cottonwood, and coffee-bean.

A few miles below the mouth of the Grasshopper, on the north, the prairie undulates gradually back from the river as far as the eye can reach. At its confluence with the Kansas, there is on the opposite shore, a beautiful bluff; and between the Grasshopper and Mud Creek, there is a prairie bottom where pioneers were making claims. Capt. Baker thinks that from this point to the mouth of the Kansas is a distance of 80 miles by the river.

For the next twenty miles the country in our course presented the same general features as those just given—on both sides, alternating prairie and timber, all capable of settlement. We passed Mr. Stinson's ferry; his house and farm are very picturesquely situated on an eminence where the upland and prairies come down to the river.

About one hundred miles from the mouth of Kansas (by Capt. Baker's estimate) we passed, on the north side, a fine bluff with clumps of trees on the top, rich rolling prairie in the background, and heavy timber above and below. A little farther up, on the left bank, a high prairie bottom comes in, which swells gracefully away southward, with copes of timber, presenting to the enraptured pioneer sites for the choicest farms. Settlements are being made there on both sides of the river.

Passing onward, we come to the mouth of Soldier Creek, which has its rise far up north, and gives variety to the landscape by its dark line of fringing timber. We next saw Pappan's Ferry. His house is on the right, in a fine timbered bottom; while on the south, high prairies, such as we have already noticed, come down to the river. Here we crossed the