

with us. Salt is also alleged to be very abundant on the Saline fork; the waters of the Smokyhill are often quite brackish, and when the boilers of the 'Excel' are filled from that river, there is a slight incrustation of salt deposited. Specimens of coal, both bituminous and anthracite, and of tin, lead, and iron ore, have been brought in. Hints have been given that gold abounds, but in parts—*unknown!* There cannot be a doubt, however, that valuable minerals will be found cropping out beneath, or interspersed in the primitive formation, as we ascend toward the Rocky Mountains. The country rises very rapidly in that direction from Fort Riley; up the Republican, for instance, the ascent, in the first three hundred miles, is said to be two thousand feet. The rock in vicinity of Smokyhill is principally limestone; and the river bottoms are a sandy loam. The upland prairies are broken, but of black, rich soil, particularly where limestone predominates; the valleys are also very rich, and the soil mellow. Passing over the high uplands, often there is nothing to be seen but prairie spreading out beyond, till it is lost in dim distance; when all at once, as if by magic, you come upon a

'Woody valley, warm and low,'—

with fine springs and clear running water. This is, indeed, a well-watered region, and must be salubrious and healthy. We previously mentioned the scarcity of timber above Pattawatomie; it may here be added, that it is inadequate to supply what would be needed for agricultural purposes, and hardly sufficient for firewood. Here and to the westward, a new era in agriculture must be inaugurated—a new system must be practised. Nature demands that it should be so. Instead of clearing timber lands, as in Eastern States, the citizen-farmers of Kansas must grow their timber. There is fuel wanted, but coal, in many places, can be got with little labor; houses must be built, and fences made, but in the absence of sufficient timber, excellent rock for all purposes can be procured in abundance; or, for fencing, the farmer can hedge himself in most completely with Osage Orange. The country abounds with the most luscious grapes. Stock of all kinds are remarkably healthy; and these rolling prairies will make the finest sheep-walks in the world. In fact, this may be designated the PASTORAL REGION OF AMERICA. The gardens at Fort Riley look well; and we procured some beautiful wild prairie flowers.

The difficulty of navigating the Smokyhill with a stern-wheel steamer of such length as the 'Excel,' prevented Capt. Baker