

from venturing so far up as he otherwise would. A shorter side-wheel steamer, of very light draught, adapted to the navigation of these interior rivers, will soon be put on the trade. We left Fort Riley on the return trip, on Wednesday morning, and came down 'kiteing.' Passing rapidly in review the splendid scenery of which we have attempted to make hasty memoranda, we entered the Missouri about daylight next morning.

Before concluding these brief notes, it must be remarked — in reference to the productions and climate of Kansas Territory — that there are, no doubt, superior hemp lands in its central and western portions; but Nature unmistakably indicates stock-raising as the proper and most profitable occupation for the farmers who shall settle there. In the great Kansas Valley below Pattawatomie, and in the eastern region along the Missouri, there are some of the finest hemp lands in the world. Wheat, corn, oats, and vegetables, grow as well there as in any of the Western States. Those in the Platte Purchase, immediately east of the Missouri River, who attend to fruit-growing, say that their apples, peaches, plums, &c., cannot be surpassed anywhere; we can see no reason why as much may not be said of the same crops in the region across the river.

The winters are generally dry and pleasant, and the roads fine; but little snow falls, and this lays on the ground only for a short time. Sometimes, however, there are very 'cold spells' of weather, but they are not of long duration. For instance, the masons in Parkville, Platte Co., Mo., quarried and laid stone last winter with but little interruption on account of the weather. Common cattle, colts, mules, and sheep, can be wintered on blue-grass, provided the pastures are allowed to grow up in the Fall, and the stock have a little corn or hay occasionally. February and March are frequently quite pleasant, and much plowing can be done in the mellow dry loam of the Kansas Valley. The summers are quite warm and long, the thermometer (Fahr.) not unfrequently marking up to near one hundred degrees in the shade. The high prairies, however, are generally fanned by cool refreshing breezes; and as we ascend the branches of the Kansas from Fort Riley, there is a rapid rise to a cooler region. In May and June there is a superabundance of rain; but the latter end of summer and fall are generally dry.