

uable works have been secured; being mainly donations from authors and publishers, of Boston and its immediate vicinity.

The soil in the town is eight feet deep. In the immediate vicinity are many beautiful farms; as well as numerous prairie and wood claims, yet untaken. Within 30 miles, there is woodland in tracts of one thousand acres. On the route thither, the writer passed through tall, thick grass, which often completely hid from sight both horse and rider, that they could, only with much difficulty, make any progress. Within a circuit of five miles, it is estimated there are at least six hundred inhabitants.

Some of the finest farm claims in the Territory are to be found in this section, and particularly on Wild Cat creek, in the valley of the Big Blue, and on Cedar creek and other of the tributaries of the Blue.

The earliest settler here was Hon. S. D. Houston,\* who located in this region when no other than Indians were round about. He is a highly intelligent, strong-minded, clear headed, active, and industrious person, who would be an accession to any place.

Among the earliest who migrated from the East, and here selected a local habitation, was the Rev. I. T. Goodnow, a Teacher of repute, formerly the Principal of an Academy in East Greenwich, R. I. In a Letter by him written last Spring, respecting this place, he says:

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\* This gentleman, than whom no one is better acquainted with the character of the interior, says, in a letter to G. W. Brown, Esq., "Missouri people and superficial explorers, have labored to create the impression that west of the Big Blue the country is mostly a desert. The precipitous nature of the country in and about Fort Riley, is well calculated to foster this impression. This mistake, however, is gradually being rectified, and people are now discovering that the 'country is still west.' Recent explorations on the Republican Fork of the Kansas, show that that stream alone is capable of sustaining a large emigration. Rich bottoms, from one to four miles wide, cut at right angles with beautiful creeks, and well supplied with wood, are found to extend some 150 miles west of Fort Riley. Settlements the past Fall have been commenced on Solomon's and the Saline Forks of the Kansas. Travellers tell us that this country is equal, if not superior, to any portion of the Territory." The writer would add, as regards *natural resources*, which when availed of, will prove a mine of wealth, this section is unsurpassed.