

NEOSHO VALLEY.—This is a beautiful region, and is considered in an especial manner admirably adapted for grazing purposes. It lies S. and S. W. of Topeka. A correspondent of the Kansas Tribune says: "The soil is rich and very fertile, the timber excellent, the country well watered, and the prairie gently undulating." Mr. B. C. Dennis, in an account by him sent to the writer, observes:

"After visiting every point on the Neosho, from Coffachee* to Council Grove, and also every settlement on the Cotton Wood, I must say that in regard to soil, timber, and *all* natural advantages, it cannot be surpassed. There are some heavy settlements on the Neosho River, but still vacant claims may be had hard by; while on the Cotton Wood 'there remaineth yet much land to be possessed.' The present settlers are a thriving and industrious, and, for the most part, an intelligent people. The friends of freedom are greatly in the majority. I would say to all who are looking for homes, do not fail to explore the Neosho Valley. Here is room enough and to spare. The land is goodly, producing abundantly almost everything desirable to the eyes, and pleasant to the taste. Corn does well. Potatoes, the past season, yielded bountifully; so with nearly everything planted."

The Herald of Freedom, on the authority of Mr. Holmes, who has recently "travelled through that region and is very well acquainted with every part of Kansas, represents this as the best portion of the Territory now open for settlement. The timber is better and more plentiful; the water is good, and in the Cotton Wood flows the whole year; springs are abundant and wells easily dug; the face of the country is high and rolling."

On the north fork of the Neosho, there are some pro-slavery families, more particularly in the vicinity of Council Grove; but very few have located on the Cotton Wood. A thriving Colony of Free State men have taken up their residence near the junction of the Cotton Wood with the Neosho; and claims may still (Spring of 1857,) be obtained there.

"The mouth of the Cotton Wood is 60 miles in a

* *Coffehigui*, if we mistake not, on Whitman & Searl's map.