

covered with ice of the same thickness. By the latest accounts received, the rigor of winter had abated.\*

The winters are, notwithstanding, usually mild, and there is rarely sufficient snow for sleighing. A gentleman of high respectability, told the writer, that soon after he took up his residence near Kansas, he purchased an excellent, new sleigh, which he used a few times that winter, and before another opportunity occurred (several years subsequently) the vehicle was so far decayed as to be utterly unserviceable.

On the subject of *winter* weather we have dwelled at some length, as numerous inquiries have been and are constantly being made in regard to it.

We will briefly glance at the other seasons. Our acquaintance with Kansas, writes Mr. Brown, ranges through seven and a half months, commencing with the middle of November 1854. Those months, with the exception of April, have been all we could have desired. April, owing to the high winds that prevailed, (which was also true in other sections of the Country,) proved very unpleasant. June was one of the most

\* Lest some individuals, forgetful of their own recent experience here, should imagine Kansas a second Siberia, and the reports heretofore given of its climate, high colored and deceptive, it may be well to state that the past winter has been an extremely rigorous one throughout the Union, and in Italy and various other parts of Europe celebrated for a mild climate. In Philadelphia, the coldness of the month of January was eight degrees below the average for the last thirty years. At Meadville, Pa., January 25th. the Thermometer fell to 30° below zero. So cold has it been in South Carolina, which has usually been supplied with ice from New England, that some persons have cut and stored away their own ice. In Mobile, on Jan 22d. the mercury stood at 25°, and ice on the shady sides of the streets gave no indication of thawing. In New Orleans, ice formed on the canals and in the gutters an inch thick, and in exposed situations much thicker. Water, in cisterns, was frozen in the faucets, so that it could not be drawn, and icicles were hanging around; fires and overcoats, and warm coverings at night, were in great demand.

In Texas, on the upper Brazos, the Thermometer stood at one degree below zero; cattle were dying and several travellers had perished from the severity of the cold. Similar instances might be adduced sufficient to fill many pages, were it necessary. As with the land, so has it been with the water: Long Island Sound has been closed; the Western rivers blocked with ice; the Mississippi for all purposes of navigation has been shut its entire length; even the inhabitants of "the briny deep" have been sufferers; the Nantucket Inquirer of January 23d. advises us, the excessive cold weather has been particularly severe upon the eels on the coast, hundreds of bushels of which have been driven ashore and raked up on the beach.