

Nebraska is *geographically* in the centre of the most important country on the globe, and will soon be so, *politically and commercially*, if saved from that curse of all commerce and politics, *slavery*.

The soil of Nebraska, for the most part, is unsurpassed for richness and depth, by any in the world. True, in some parts, as near the mountains, and some other places, it is thin and sandy, but for hundreds of miles from the Missouri State line, not an acre of waste or poor land was to be seen on our route. The land is gently rolling, thus giving an endless variety to the scenery, as well as ridding the country of all low marshes, swamps, and stagnant pools of water, so productive of malaria and disease. Lest it should be thought that this is written for effect at the present time, and, therefore, the representation too strong, I will quote upon this subject, a line from my journal written on the spot, in April, 1849, after visiting the Wyandott tribe of Indians in this territory, as follows: "The land they occupy is immensely rich and very beautiful. All this region, both the Indian territory and this side of the Kansas river, (in Missouri,) is superior to any I ever saw for cultivation, and if it were occupied by New England society, I would never think of visiting California." The soil is not only rich, but well watered. Not only are the clouds more prodigal of their treasures than at Salt Lake Valley, and in California, during the summer season, but streams of pure water are to be found, at short intervals, in every direction. These streams are almost invariably skirted with timber, in the eastern portion of the territory, and can afford water power in abundance, for every kind of manufactures.

Of the climate, scenery, &c. &c., I may say something hereafter, as well as give some quotations from my journal, kept while travelling through the territory in question, should you think this worth publishing.

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Agreeably to my promise, I will say a word of the climate, scenery, &c., of the proposed new territories of Nebraska and Kansas. This vast tract of country, extending, as it does, as far south as the southern borders of Virginia and Kentucky, and as far north as the northern portion of the Canadas, must, of course, have a variety of climates; but it is of that portion lying in the latitude of Ohio and southern New York, I propose to speak. In this latitude, the climate is agreeably mild and