

healthy, not subject to extremes, either of heat or cold. In summer, although the thermometer may stand at eighty or a hundred degrees, the heat is not oppressive, owing to a gentle breeze, that rises in the early part of the day, and continues till late in the afternoon. This breeze is nearly as regular in its appearance as are the trade winds on the Pacific coast, and is as pure and healthful; hence, whatever damps, fogs, or noxious gases, of any kind, may have been generated during the night, they are early displaced by the wholesome air from the distant snow-capped mountains. It is, doubtless, owing to this free circulation of the air, that the cholera,—which proves so fatal in the heavy wooded bottoms of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, whenever that disease visits this country—seldom or never seeks its victims in the open prairies of this territory. Such was the case in 1849, and also in 1835, according to the testimony of a missionary at Council Bluffs, in that year. The climate of Nebraska varies, not only in the different latitudes, but also in the different altitudes. While on its eastern borders no frost can be found, and the grass is from three to nine inches in height the first of May, on its *western*, near the "South Pass" of the Rocky Mountains, ice in abundance may be found in the middle of June, and on the mountain tops are perpetual snows.

The scenery of this territory is as varied as the climate. The monotonous level of the river bottoms, the beautiful rolling prairies, the picturesque bluffs of the Platte, the grand and stately piles of granite on the sweet Water, and the sublime heights of the Rocky Mountains, afford sufficient variety to feast a lover of Nature a lifetime. There is probably no other country, of the same extent, that contains so much variety and beauty of scenery as this, neither is there any country that has scenery like it in many of its characteristics. The scenery of the Platte, in the vicinity of Scott's Bluffs, stands unrivalled, and unapproached, even in the picturesque. It is not only *sui generis*, unlike every other in character, but surpassingly beautiful. Rev. Samuel Parker, in describing the bluffs on the Platte, says: "Many of them are very high, with perpendicular sides, and in every imaginable form. Some appeared like strong fortifications, with high citadels; some like stately edifices, with lofty towers; I had never before seen anything like them of clay formation. And what adds to their beauty is, that the clay of which they are composed is nearly white. Such is the smoothness, and regularity, and whiteness of the perpendicular sides and offsets, and such the regularity of their straight and