

NUMBER 4.

As I am frequently questioned about the inhabitants and settlements on the Western border of Missouri, and about the Indians in the Kansas and Nebraska territory, I will say a word in reference to them. As I shall write chiefly of such men and things as came under my own observation, it will be, for the most part, merely a transcript of my journal.

APRIL 10, 1854.—Arrived at Kansas, on the Missouri river, at its junction with the Kansas River, where we take up our abode for the present. We take our meals, (about forty of us,) at a log hotel, for two dollars a week per head, and sleep in a storage building, finding our own beds. Our fare is chiefly bacon, or smoked pork—sides and all—bread and molasses, and eggs, with occasionally a taste of fresh beef. There are better hotels in the place, but this is near the landing, and the warehouse where our “plunder,” as the Missourians call our baggage, is stored, and hence we patronize it. Kansas is a small town, adjoining the Indian, (Kansas,) territory, built upon rolling land, containing about eight hundred inhabitants. The houses are built, some of logs, some of brick, and some of framed timber and boards. It contains three hotels—one to represent each class of houses—those of logs, brick, and timber, and several stores, besides six or eight doctors, and a school house, used on Sundays for a church.

Soon after landing, I rode, with some of the company, to Independence, thirteen miles, for letters. The road was through a most delightful country, with a rich, deep, and fertile soil. The surface is gently rolling, covered with oak, black walnut, white, and cotton wood timber. As we rode through the woods it seemed like an extensive grove, as there are but few underbrush, or low limbs, upon the trees, and the traveller can see quite a distance in all directions. The roads are self-made, and are never repaired. If they become bad in any place, or a tree falls across them, the remedy is to strike out a new path among the trees, without expense to town or county. On the road to Independence are many farms under cultivation, and the owners appear to be in easy and prosperous circumstances.

Independence, about six miles from the Missouri River, and twelve miles from the Indian territory, in a direct line, is the shire town of Jackson County, Mo., and contains a court house, some large and elegant hotels, numerous stores, and perhaps two thousand inhabitants. As we pass the court house, the sheriff comes to the door and calls out, at the top of his voice, three