

Fort Kearny, in 1859 and 1860, an order was issued forbidding the soldiers to shoot the buffalo on the parade ground.

Proceeding westward 7 7-10 miles, we reach

**Alda**—a small station just east of Wood River.

After crossing the river, the road follows along near the west bank for many miles, through a thickly settled country, the farms in summer being covered with luxuriant crops of wheat, oats and corn. Wood River rises in the bluffs, and runs southeast until its waters unite with those of the Platte. Along the whole length of the stream and its many tributaries, the land for agricultural purposes is surpassed by none in the Northwest, and we might say in the world. The banks of the river and tributaries are well wooded, the streams abound in fish and wild-fowl, and the country adjacent is well supplied with game, deer, antelope, turkeys, chickens, rabbits, etc., forming a fine field for the sportsman.

This valley was one of the earliest settled in Central Nebraska, the hardy pioneers taking up their lands when the savage Indians held possession of this, their favorite hunting-ground. Many times the settlers were driven from their homes by the Indians, suffering fearfully in loss of life and property, but as often returned again, and again, until they succeeded in securing a firm foothold. To-day the evidences of the struggle can be seen in the low, strong cabins, covered on top with turf, and the walls loop-holed, and enclosed with the same material, which guards the roofs from the fire-brands, bullets and arrows of the warriors.

From Alda, it is 8 1-10 miles to

**Wood River**—a small station. Here can be seen one of the old-fashioned specimens of plains station-men, in the person of Charley Davis. He keeps an eating-house and saloon, where freight and emigrant trains often stop for meals. Charley's specialty is the "Jerusalem Pickle." A good "square meal" is served for 50 cents.

Passing on 7 5-10 miles, we reach

**Shelton**—a side-track, where a flouring mill, store, and a few dwelling houses constitute the place. To the westward 5 8-10 miles, is

**Gibbon**—It is situated in the midst of a fine farming country, was once the county seat of Buffalo county, and is a thriving

place, with a population of about 100.

Proceeding, it is 8 4-10 miles to **Shelby**—(formerly Kearny)—a small station of little account.

Westward again 4 miles, and we reach a place of some importance,

**Kearny Junction**—named for the old fort of that name on the south side of the river, nearly opposite—the county seat of Buffalo county. Here the Burlington & Missouri River railroad, and the Denver & St. Joseph railroad, form a junction with the Union Pacific coming in from the south, on the same track, which crosses a bridge over the Platte River, two miles distant.

In 1873, the first few buildings were erected here, since which time the place has improved wonderfully. It now contains a population of over 1,200, with two weekly newspapers, the *Times* and the *Press*, and one daily; think of that, O ye Pilgrims! for a place only five years old—the *Daily Press* would be a credit to any city of twenty times the population of this!

The local business coming in on the B. & M. and the St. Joseph roads, makes this place one of unusual activity and business promise. The town contains the usual county buildings, which are built of brick, has two banks, six fine churches, two schools, many stores of all kinds, several hotels—the Atkins and the Grand Central are the principal—and some fine private residences.

The country around the town is not as good agricultural land as we have seen further to the eastward, yet some good crops of grain are raised, and large quantities are hauled here, to be shipped to the East, West and South.

From this point *west*, the country is occupied principally by the stock men.

Stages leave here daily, except Sunday, for the Republican Valley, and all intermediate points, carrying the U. S. mail to Franklin, Bloomington, Republican City, Orleans and Melrose, where connections are made with stages for every town in the Upper Republican Valley and Northern Kansas.

Let us take a look at the grounds on which stood old

**FORT KEARNY**—This post was first established at Fort Childs, Indian Territory, in 1848, by volunteers of the Mexican war—changed to Fort Kearny in March, 1849. In 1858 the post was re-built by the late Brevet-Colonel Charles May, 3d Dra-