

the internal difficulties, they resulted from slavery; and when that snake is killed, it will hiss no more here or elsewhere. During the early spring of this year, there was a spasmodic effort, on the part of Missouri Bushwhackers, to invade this State; but they were hunted down like wolves, and all is now as quiet here as in the East.

THE DROUTH.

As to the great drouth in 1860, it was simply one of those terrible scourges with which any region is liable, once in a half century, to be visited. It is known to have been such, by our settlers, and therefore does not at all enter into our calculations for the future, but for distant Eastern friends, a word about it may be in place. Having a *drouth* thus early in our history as a State, when half our time had been spent in beating back Border Ruffians, a *famine* was inevitable. There was literally no surplus of food. The people were poor. Their all was invested in land and improvements. They had no money at interest, or bonds, stocks or railroad shares, or droves of cattle or flocks of sheep to help them out.

But in spite of the terrible drouth, no rain falling for many months, sorghum, which sends its roots very deep, matured perfectly; and some fields of corn, planted in freshly plowed earth *very* early, made a good crop. The forest trees were entirely uninjured; fruit trees suffered little, and the growth of grass was sufficient for our wants. That this was an exceptional year, such as had not occurred in at least one generation before, is proved,

1st. By the experience of Missouri. Lands in that State, upon our border were, when Kansas was opened to settlement, worth from twenty to fifty dollars per acre, according to improvements; and the farmers were in the most prosperous condition, and coveted and fought for Kansas through long and bloody years, because they considered the land so valuable. They

certainly ought to know the value of Kansas; and during 1860 some portions of Missouri suffered as badly as Kansas; but having a surplus of food, there was no famine.

2d. The testimony of Missionaries who have been among our Indian tribes, for periods varying from twenty to thirty years. Rev. Francis Barker and Friend Harvey among the Shawnees, Rev. J. T. Jones—half breed—among the Ottawas, and Brother Simerwell and Father J. F. Defouri among the Pottawotamies, have all (except, possibly, the latter) been in Kansas about twenty-five years. They continue to make Kansas their home, have settled their families and children here, and consider it one of the very best States in the Union.

3d. I give here a table showing the fall of rain at various points in the United States. I obtained these figures in February, 1861, from the records of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C., copying them myself, with the aid of one of Prof. Henry's assistants. They had, at that time, no records of Western States of a later date than those given here, and so far as these go, I know them to be correctly copied. The figures are in inches and hundredths of an inch;

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Average annual fall of rain from May, 1836, to July, 1855, being 18 years, 2 months, 30.92 inches. Smallest amt., 1843, 15.94 inches, (a plenty to insure good crops in Kansas.) Next highest, 1846, 23.75 inches. Next, 1854, 24.40 inches. Greatest fall, 1844, 48.12 inches.

Fort Scott, Kansas. Average annual fall from 1843 to 1853, ten years, 42.12 inches. Fort Leavenworth is on the Missouri river, Fort Scott ninety miles from it, directly South. For these years, the fall seems to have been the greatest in the interior, contrary to the usually received opinion.

These are the only two points in Kansas for which they had records.