TEN THOUSAND.

HISTORY AND MAP

OF

KANSAS & NEBRASKA:

DESCRIBING

SOIL, CLIMATE, RIVERS.

PRAIRIES, MOUNDS, FORESTS, MINERALS,

ROADS, CITIES, VILLAGES,

INHABITANTS,

AND SUCH OTHER SUBJECTS AS RELATES TO THAT REGION—
POLITICS EXCEPTED.

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PREFACE.

It cannot be reasonably expected that a book of this kind, respecting so new a country, could be free from errors, but it has been the studious and anxious desire of the Publisher to present to the public the best description of Kansas and Nebraska that could be given at this period—hoping the work will prove a valuable guide to those who visit the country, and deeply interest all who read it, thereby stimulating your humble servant to improve the next edition.

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KANSAS AND NEBRASKA.

KANSAS CITY, MO.,
January 1*st*, 1855.

MR. EDITOR:—I very much regret that a train of unforeseen circumstances have interposed to effectually preclude until now, the possibility of my entering upon that description of the Kansas and Nebraska Territories which I promised you long ago. But I trust that my extensive rambles and close observations over these Territories, will enable me to make my communications satisfactory to you, and of no trifling value to those who are directing their thoughts or steps towards this interesting country. It is a matter of vast importance to emigrants and all others, who have an eye to Kansas or Nebraska, to have laid before them such information as will enable them to determine and reach the very point they desire, without any other guide. Such a description, I shall endeavor explicitly, yet faithfully, to give in these communications. We anticipate the greatest rush, upon the opening of navigation and Spring, to this field of high promise and enterprise, which has ever been directed to any portion of the great West.

The Missouri river is, of course, the great highway at present for reaching the frontiers of this country, while

the Platte river carries you far beyond and through the heart of Kansas Territory. The geographical position of Kansas will inevitably make her the point of outfit and departure of individuals and companies traveling across or destined beyond the great American Desert, as well as the place of transhipment and exchange between the far West and the Eastern States, and *vice versa*. A home market and extensive commerce must ever be hers of right, in consequence of the central position she occupies. Bounded as she is, on the East by Missouri, on the South by the Indian Reservations, Texas, and New Mexico, on the West by Utah, and on the North by Nebraska, and carrying across her face the natural lines for the great thoroughfares to Santa Fe and San Francisco—she cannot but be an object of interest to everybody who covets a home on the prairies. Governor Reeder of Kansas, who may be better authority than your humble servant, in a letter to a friend in Pennsylvania, writes, as follows:

"This is a most lovely and promising country. There is no finer under the sun, and next summer it will be a rich harvest for all kinds of building mechanics and laborers. Last season stone masons and carpenters got $2.25 and 2.50 a day, and laborers $1.25 and $1.50. A legion of them will be needed early in the Spring and all Summer. If you have any to spare send them right along. We shall pay out in the Territory, near a million dollars in building, and a man can be earning the highest wages and getting a good farm at $1.25 per acre, at the same time. The Government alone will spend $100,000 or $150,000 in stone buildings at Fort Riley. The stone mason, carpenter, bricklayer, plasterer, lime-burner, &c., can lay the foundation of a fortune here the first year. Send them on, I know they will not repent it. We have as yet had nothing I would call winter, and I doubt if it will be any colder. Spring opens about the 1st of March,

timber is more than two miles broad. Many of the oaks are five or 6 feet in diameter, and the cottonwood is often even larger than that.

In some places on the north side of the Kansas, the timber is short and unthrifty, and has a scraggy appearance. In general, however, it appears quite equal, if not superior, to the best timber of other sections of our country. It consists of white oak, black oak, red oak, hickory, sugar-maple, soft-maple, cottonwood, poplar, elm, sycamore, black-walnut, hackberry, wild cherry, ash, beech, linden, locust, honey locust, and black locust. Pine and other timber, the growth of colder climates, abound on the western border of this Territory.

INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

A large portion of the fine timber lands which I have alluded to, along the Kansas river, are owned by the Indians; but it is confidently expected that Government will soon make some arrangement for the purchase of these lands, because that is so very essential to the speedy settlement of the country, that the measure is absolutely demanded. At the mouth of the Kansas, the Wyandot Indians own six square miles of land; and the only suitable grounds for a town site, on the south side, between the Missouri line and the mouth of the Kansas, is within the limits of this six square miles tract. Then, another Indian farm, beginning on the west line of the Wyandot plantation, but upon the north side of the Kansas, and extending 40 miles up that river and 10 miles wide, has been reserved by the Delawares, and covers all the bottom

and timbered lands on the Kansas and its tributaries, within the limits of this 40 by 10 miles tract. Thirteen miles west of the latter reservation, commences the Pottawatamie lands, 30 miles in length and 14 in width. Four miles in width of this tract lies on the south side of the Kansas, and 10 miles in width on the north side. Eighty-nine miles up this river, carries you out of Indian territory; and all west and north of that point, is Government land, and open for settlement.

Besides the reservations already mentioned, there is another on the Kansas river, but altogether south of it, which belongs to the Shawnees. This reservation has its eastern boundary about four miles above the mouth of the Kansas, and is 10 miles wide by 40 miles in length along that river. The Kaw Indians, also, have a small tract, near Council Grove, which it is said they are ready to dispose of; and it is generally understood and believed that nearly all the southern portion of this Territory will be open for settlement this Spring. In the northern district of Kansas, the Iowas have reservations of considerable extent; and in the southern district, the Ottowas, Kansas, Sacs, and Osages also, on the head waters of the Neosho and Osage rivers. Each of these reservations embrace some of the finest tracts of land in their respective districts.

Having thus briefly sketched the outlines of the Indian reservations in Kansas, yet explicitly enough, I trust, to give the reader a correct idea of their whereabouts, as well as what lands are open for claim and settlement, I may now anticipate his inquiries about

PRE-EMPTION RIGHTS.

"Any person being the head of a family, or widow, or single man, over the age of 21 years, and being a citizen of the United States, or having filed his declaration of intention to become a citizen as required by the naturalization laws," has a right to "claim" and take possession of any number of acres of unoccupied public lands, not exceeding 160. A dwelling must be erected upon it, and the claimant reside there in person, and improve and cultivate the land claimed, or enough of it, and reside long enough upon it, to constitute the "settlement" which the law requires. If he does not make the claim and reside upon the land in person, anybody else may erect a shanty thereon, and by occuping it in person, hold the claim in spite of any previous occupation by proxy. The claimant or pre-emptor must "enter" his claim in the proper land office, within 30 days after the land has been surveyed, and within 12 months, payment must be made. Although the law does not specify whether the payment is to be made within 12 months after settlement, or 12 months after survey, yet it is supposed that 12 months after survey was intended to be given the claimant for making it to the Government. No individual can hold more than one claim, and he must make oath that he does not claim that for the purpose of selling to another, or on speculation. Nor can any one make a claim or "enter" land by pre-emption right, who already owns 320 acres in the Territory. The pre-emption act was passed on September

4th, 1841, and may be found in Vol. V. of the *United States' Statutes at large*, pages 453–458.

Until the lands are surveyed, a claim is made by measuring off, as nearly as he can, 160 acres of land, and then the claimant puts up the foundation of a dwelling. This is, in most cases, composed of from 4 to 8 logs. Sometimes it is nothing more than a pile or wall of stones, and lastly, a stake, with the claimant's name cut or marked thereon, until more can be done. All these matters are governed by "squatter law."

COST AND PRODUCTIONS OF A FARM.

These lands will cost, of course, $1.25 per acre, or $200 for 160 acres. The first "breaking" will cost $2.25 to $2.50 per acre, while fences and buildings cannot, as yet, be so easily estimated.

Ordinarily, these lands may be estimated to produce, under careful tillage, say—

Corn, - - -	50 to 100	bush.	per	acre.
Wheat, - - -	20 " 25	"		"
Oats, - - -	35 " 45	"		"
Potatoes, - -	200 " 300	"		"
Hemp, - - - - - -	1000 lbs.	"		

Of these products of the soil, on account of the drought and the increase of the number of consumers, wheat flour brings from $6 to $6.50 per cwt.; corn, $1.50 per bushel; and other things in proportion. Horses, oxen, mules, and cows are not selling for much more than the same animals would bring in Ohio, Kentucky, or Missouri.

The prairies, everywhere, produce abundance of hay and pasturage for stock; and horses, neat-cattle, and sheep will doubtless do well. The prairie grasses are uncommonly nutritious, if the condition of cattle which I have met with, may be considered fair evidence of that fact. For the raising of stock, as well as the cultivation of grain and fruits, there is no portion of the West that appears to be preferable; and, at the present high prices of everything, there is a home market for all that can be raised.

KANSAS CITY.

Kansas City is on the southern shore of the Kansas and along the west bank of the Missouri, at the junction, of course, of those rivers. It now has about 1,000 inhabitants, or at least, is estimated to contain that number, though I have no means of ascertaining the exact figures. A natural ledge of rocks for a wharf, 30 feet depth of water in the river, at low stages, and as fine a plat for a city, between the wharf and the high bluff in the rear, as can be found on the Missouri, seem to mark it as the natural locality for the largest commercial town on the borders of this embryo State, or within the Kansas valley. This ambitious little city, now striving to her utmost powers for the whole of the emigrant, Santa Fe, and California trade, is the scene of active preparation in the Spring, of parties and trains for a long and tedious journey across the plains of the wild, wild West. Long lines of emigrant parties, preparing to leave, or on their way out of the city, every day for a long time after the

opening of navigation on the Missouri, are novel sights to the new-comer, and give him something of an idea of the South-west and Western trade. Mules are mostly used for propelling their clumsy, schooner-built wagons; yet, the trains to Santa Fe and back, make the trips with great regularity.

The west line of the State of Missouri runs along here, on the west bank of the Missouri river, and across the very mouth of the Kansas river, without touching it. The city is wholly within the State of Missouri, while the mouth of Kansas river is wholly in Kansas. On the north bank of the latter river, the land slopes gradually northward from the point at the junction of the Kansas with the Missouri river, and forms another beautiful site for a city; but the depth of the water and approaches to the shore are not equal to the south side, and as another obstacle in the way, may be mentioned, the fact of the land being owned by the Wyandot Indians.

Leavenworth City, 26 miles north of Kansas City, is a very new town—a squatter city—a city lately composed of tents only, but now boasting of several stately buildings, and of the rivalry of its elder sister, Kansas City.

Fort Leavenworth is three miles and a half above Leavenworth City, and is only noticeable as a fort, and on account of the natural beauty of the place. It stands upon a bluff wearing an air of European cultivation, and resembles a fine park in the distance, much more than a wild field, in nature's keeping, which it mostly is. This Fort and Leavenworth City are both on the west side of the Missouri river, and in Kansas Territory.

Three miles up the Missouri, and on the east bank of that river, stands the noted town of Weston, which is said to number 4,000 inhabitants. It is the principal commercial town of Platte county, Missouri. Platte county has 40,000 inhabitants—two-thirds enough to form a State—and this county alone can furnish Kansas with all the food she lacks during the process of settlement.

As the Kansas river traverses the very centre of the rritory, and waters and fertilizes it from west to east, we may reasonably expect that emigration will follow the course of this stream and its tributaries, until every acre of land near them will be taken up or claimed. Persons in pursuit of lands, and landing at Kansas city, will need no other guide to find the best, or at least the most valuable, than the course of that river. And, whether they locate above or below Fort Riley, they are sure to be at no great distance from the great eastern or western thoroughfares through the future State of Kansas. The line of travel westward from Weston, Fort Leavenworth, and Leavenworth City is mostly by way of Fort Riley, and always possibly will be. It will be remembered that this Fort is at the junction of Smoky Hill and Republican Forks—the two principal streams forming the Kansas by their union —about 140 miles from its junction with the Missouri.

Republican Fork branches off to the north-west, through a beautiful country, well watered by this stream and its numerous tributaries, with handsomely-timbered banks, while the prairies on either hand, are high, rich, and fertile, and abound in elk and antelopes. The river

bottoms along this stream are generally about 2½ to 3 miles wide, and their soil is a rich, black vegetable mould. This valley, where it is timbered, and the high prairies generally, are everywhere covered with a variety of grasses—some poor and scanty, but far more commonly luxuriant and heavy. About 265 miles from the mouth of the Kansas, the Republican Fork obtains an elevation of 1,500 feet, and is making its way rapidly towards the "Father of Waters."

The Smoky Hill Fork bears away to the southwest, towards a milder climate and a somewhat deeper soil. This branch also traverses a delightful country, which will soon be swarming with active, industrious inhabitants.

The next question, then, is: At what points along these natural channels of commerce, will the largest towns spring up, or be born full-grown, as some have of late in our country on more sterile soils? The Oregon, California, and Santa Fe routes along the Kansas, already show the beginnings of such places; and settlements have been formed and claims made for some distance around the vicinity of the supposed town-sites, while equally as rich soil, between these locations, remain unclaimed. Among the places where settlements have been made on the road from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley, are: Wild Cat Creek, Big Blue River, Rock Creek, Vermilion, Lost Creek, Catholic Mission, Soldier Creek, Grasshopper River, Stranger Creek, Hickory Point, Salt Creek, &c., all on the north side of Kansas river. Then, on the south of that stream, where the Santa Fe road crosses the tributaries of the

Neosho and Osage; and then again in the northern district, on Wolf Creek, Nemaha, and on the upper waters of Vermilion and Big Blue rivers, settlements have likewise been begun. A company have already made a large settlement, where the Government roads to Forts Kearney and Laramie cross the Big Blue. Doubtless, many other settlements of lesser note have been begun in this region, and will be heard from ere long. But among all these localities, it seems to me, none are more happily situated, in point of beauty, or in reference to the natural channels of trade and commerce, than

FORT RILEY.

This Fort does not stand, in fact, where the maps have it, between the forks of the Kansas, but on the north bank of the Republican, something like half a mile back from the stream. The ground rises gently from the Kansas and Republican, until it forms a wide and beautiful eminence of moderate heighth. Upon this broad plat stands Fort Riley, looking down the wide valley of the Kansas and up the valleys of the Republican and Smoky Hill. The buildings are all new and imposing, having been built only little more than half a year ago. The location was made and the position established, in November, 1853. The principal structures, which are of white limestone, add greatly to the charms of the landscape, in the eye of the traveler, who has long, perhaps, been accustomed to see such uncultivated regions adorned only by tents or log cabins. But to any eye, this is indeed a lovely

picture, where beauty nestles in the bosom of nature, and smiles graciously through her mother's ringlets, which cluster and drape around her form and features in the shape and substance of tangled forests and waving woodlands, green prairies and silvery-winding streams. From the crest of the bluffs west of the Fort, the Republican valley is laid open as far as the eye can reach to the north-west; while, to the east, the dark green line of forest timber, 3 miles in breadth, with openings here and there, affording glimpses of the silvery stream, stretch down the valley of the Kansas under an equal extent of vision. And again, to the south-west, from the same position, a view is commanded of the tall oaks, elms, cottonwoods, sycamores, &c., which stand straight and defiant, and full three miles broad in front, while the rear is hid behind the horizon in that direction.

A substantial bridge, upwards of 200 feet long, here spans the rapid, sparkling Republican Fork; but the Smoky Hill Fork is crossed by ferry, on the route to Council Grove. Among the improvements and facilities calculated to build up a town at this point, we should not omit to mention the steam sawmill, erected by Government, between the forks of the Kansas. Government will doubtless, as far as practicable, encourage the establishment of a town here, and remove its military position farther into the wilderness, so soon as the Kansas valley settlement reaches Fort Riley. Six months ago, not a claim had been made above Fort Riley on either the Smoky Hill or Republican Forks, and I very much doubt whether a dozen have been made there up to this time.

Materials for building, whether of wood, brick, or stone, are abundant and convenient in this vicinity. Beautiful white limestone crop out of every bluff, and clay, suitable for good brick, is not lacking. Veins of bituminous coal, of very good quality, are found along these streams, and in various parts of the country. Lead, tin, and zinc have been found in these parts; and on Smoky Hill Fork a strata of excellent gypsum has been discovered, which may prove of great value to the cultivators of the soil. On Turkey Creek, large beds of copper and potters' clay have come to light, to be added to the list of Kansas minerals.

The tract of country lying between the Smoky Hill and Republican Forks is doubtless worthy the early attention of settlers, though I am not able to describe much of it from personal observation. It must be well-watered by Grand Saline and Solomon's Fork—two streams branching off from the Smoky Hill.

I have spoken, as yet, only of the northern and central divisions of Kansas, and will continue to direct the reader's attention to some of the features of those sections which remain to be described. It has been stated that the bluffs about and in the rear of Fort Riley commanded a view of the valleys and large streams in that neighborhood. It might have been said, with the same truth, that they overlooked the wide-spreading prairies, in some directions as far as the scope of vision can extend. Bryant may have seen the prairies from this position, and been in raptures or in ecstacy as he saw them here, like an ocean

"With all its rounded billows fixed
And motionless forever"—

stretching from the western to the eastern, and from the northern to the southern horizons, in an unbroken view, except where they are here and there relieved by clumps of timber, looking like islands peering above the waves of an agitated sea, which, by some freak of nature, had become petrified at the moment of unusual commotion, and before the lofty billows had time to subside. The same picture, so lovely in the green velvet robe that mantles it in Spring, and which in this dress has power to move the soul with emotions that language is impotent to describe, is often in Autumn changed by fire into a blackness that fills the heart with gloom and sadness by its funereal aspect. But when these wide wastes have become populous, as they soon may, the fires will then no longer make their annual visits, as they now do. Lines of Osage orange hedges will enclose many plantations, and flourish without danger from prairie fires. The prairies on either side of the Kansas are from 75 to 100 feet above the bed of that river, and their high rolling surface and ever-changing aspect, gives to that region a novel and picturesque appearance.

In the broad view which we have taken of the country around, from the bluffs in the vicinity of Fort Riley, many a rippling stream has been overlooked, and many a deep and wooded ravine, lying below the general surface has been undiscovered; while dark forms along the horizon, too distant to be clearly defined, will prove on a nearer view to be fine groves of woodland, wearing more of the air of civilization, than some of the neg-

lected parks of more cultivated regions. The timber of these isolated spots seldom stands as compact as those of larger forests, but they consist generally of respectable sized, scattered trees, looking as though they had been planted for the purpose and shade of a pleasure-ground. Some of these little forests are large enough to supply fencing and fuel for several large plantations, while others afford scarcely enough for one. By-and-by, when Government timber and prairie lands are not found together, as at present, the settler will consider himself lucky if his claim covers as much of one of these islands of timber as will suffice his purpose in the cultivation and improvement of a farm. He will appropriate first, the heavier forest into the valleys of the larger streams, and, if necessary, select his plowlands on the high prairies above the bluffs adjoining. Some inconveniences, however, would attend such a selection; as for instance: on the road from Fort Riley towards Council Grove, the bluff is very high, steep, and difficult of ascent or descent; and although the soil of the valley is rich and deep, yet it is too thickly covered with rank vines and shrubbery, as well as great, tall, thrifty trees, to be cleared and cultivated; while the prairies above and so near, are all ready for the plow and the farm-house.

"THE DIVIDE."

Everywhere in the West, the highest ground between two streams is called "the Divide," and often the whole tract is known by that appellation. The whole region across which the road from Fort Riley to Council Grove

passes, is known and designated by the name of "the Divide;" and besides being destitute of timber for 15 miles, is the poorest soil within a 100 miles. Fragments of stone are scattered all over the surface, while springs and streams appear to be nearly or entirely wanting. Yet Clark Creek, about half-way between, is a very sparkling, clear little stream, along the narrow valley of which, fine-looking lands, well protected from the winds by the high bluffs, offer opportunities for the selection of fine farms, with plenty of pasture on the high, contiguous prairies above. Eight or nine miles further on, the traveler finds himself on the crest of a height, quite overlooking the head branches of the Neosha and Osage; and from thence, their courses through the plain below may be followed with the eye, until they are lost in the distance. In the view before him, there is a most lovely farming district interspersed with hills and valleys, woodland and meadow, sufficient for all the purposes of a settlement.

Council Grove, an old trading post, on the Santa Fe road, is situated in the midst of this fine country we have just described. Not much of a village, to be sure; but it contains some log cabins, and the Methodist mission house or school for the Kaw Indians. This place, or some other not far from it, must eventually become a town of considerable importance; because the very fine country about, will soon be thickly settled, and require a place for marketing the farmers' produce and purchasing the necessaries for a family. It may become something of a depot for the Santa Fe traders and travelers. Here we pass one of the last out-posts

of civilization. A long and monotonous journey from here is before the voyager toward New Mexico and California.

Before I enter upon any description of the country farther west, I will turn the attention of the reader southerly, to the point where the great Arkansas river crosses the southern boundary of this Territory. He will observe by a glance at the map, that this noble stream makes its exit from the Territory about 150 or 160 miles west of the Missouri line, but up stream from here it winds along away into the Rocky Mountains and Utah, watering and fertilizing the valleys through which it meanders. The foot-prints of civilization are nowhere to be found throughout the whole extent of country where the Arkansas flows in the Territory of Kansas. But the time is not far distant, when settlements will spring up there, and the spires of churches and court-houses will be seen lifting their heads among the hills and plains of that region. The omnipresent Yankee will be there, making claims and building dwellings, factories, mills, churches, and railroads. He will be there with clocks, tinware, boots, shoes, and wooden nutmegs, with cottons, calicoes, and satinette; he will be there with choice lots of school-ma'ams and perfumery; in short, the Yankee will be there with all the world and "the rest of mankind." Within, and to the south of Great Bend, lie the vast salt plains of that region; while from thence, westerly, for many scores of miles toward the Rocky Mountains, level plains, destitute of timber, and only covered with a scanty verdure, stretch their desolate

forms along under the canopy of Heaven. I am unable to say how far the Arkansas may be made navigable in the Territory of Kansas, nor is it a matter of much consequence, since the products of that country are destined to find a market by the way of a railroad, passing Great Bend, eastward, toward the Missouri river. Settlers will naturally and rapidly work their way up the Arkansas through the Indian Territory, and settlements from the south, along the Arkansas, will meet the settlements from the north, which are hastening on, by the way of the Kansas and its tributaries, to meet their cotemporaries at or near the Great Bend.

YANKEE SETTLEMENT.

A settlement has been made during the past summer, on the point between the Kansas and Waukereusa, about fifty miles from Kansas City—all the lands between these towns being occupied by Indians. Only a few months ago, nothing indicating a village was to be seen there. All at once a city of tents covered the ground, and people busy as swarming bees, were occupying them, and bringing together the more substantial materials for habitations and commercial establishments. Before the setting in of winter, nearly one thousand people, it is said, had collected on and near the spot. This company have selected one of the most beautiful, and perhaps, all things considered, the most desirable situations in the Territory. It is, indeed, a lovely place, and commands a wide view of the country around. The power of combination is here displayed from the very outset.

Nothing but concentrated skill and united capital could change such a spot in the wilderness of the West into a bustling, busy town in so short a time. A large town has been laid out, and an auction sale of choice claims was had, at which upwards of fifty choices were sold at a premium of five thousand dollars. Lumber will be supplied by the company to emigrants, at about $10 per thousand. The two steam saw mills, and various other machinery to be run in connection with them for other purposes, are fully completed. They have a printing press working by steam, and they are dashing off the printed sheets with a rapidity quite equalling presses of the same kind in full-grown cities. In order that there may not be a scarcity of food in the settlement, the company procure it in advance, and furnish it to citizens at lower rates than they could otherwise procure it for themselves.

They have likewise purchased a large hotel, in Kansas City, which is kept expressly for the reception of emigrants. In the course of the coming season churches, school-houses, stores, shops, factories, &c., will be added to the rising city, and the settler will find at once the privileges and advantages of older communities prepared for his comfort and advantage.

There is no spot in Kansas at present, that promises greater inducements to those removing to the Territory.

KANSAS RIVER—RAILWAY TRANSPORTATION.

The Kansas is not a very deep stream at low water, but sufficiently so for the navigation of small steamboats and other craft not drawing more than twenty inches

or two feet of water. Such is the opinion of most people who have seen it at different points, although it has neither been tested nor sufficiently examined as yet with a view to determine the fact of its navigability at low water.

For two or three months of the year, no doubt, boats will be able to run 450 miles up the Smoky Hill Fork. But whether the Kansas and its branches shall prove navigable for such a portion of the year, as to make them of any value as commercial channels, remains to be determined. Nothing short of a thorough survey can prove the practicability of this matter where the water is low. It is certainly to be hoped that a survey will not long be delayed, and that when completed, the report may show a sufficient depth of water, as I verily believe it will, for the navigation of small craft, at the lowest stage of water, and at any time of the year when free from ice. Railroads can never compete with water communications for the transportation of heavy freight. No vehicle can be made to run on land that will transport goods from one section of the country to another as cheaply as they can be floated on water. An experiment has been going on in this country for the last 15 years at least, which has tested the difference of expense of transportation by the different methods now known, and in operation. It has been proved that only a little more propelling power is necessary to move a narrow boat of 200 feet on the water, than it does one of 100 feet; while, of course, the longest boat carries twice as much freight as the shorter one. On the other hand, it is frankly and freely

admitted, that doubling the length of a train of cars on a railway makes double propelling power necessary to move it along on a straight line and level surface, while every additional car adds to, and increases the resistance on curves and up-grades. It is also admitted that railroads cannot sustain themselves at the rates of transportation which have brought them into competition with the boats on rivers and canals. The following extract is from the address of the President of the Railroad Convention, lately held in the City of New York, to take into consideration these and other matters with a view of increasing the charges, and lessening the speed of passenger trains, and runs thus:

"The concurrent testimony of this and all other Railroad Conventions, after comparing their general experience, and subjecting the proposition to thorough discussion is, 'That the minimum charge for the transportation of passengers under ordinary circumstances, should not be less than three cents per mile.' Sufficient consideration has not, heretofore, been given to the cost of relaying the track after years' service on active roads, nor for provision, in a surplus or sinking fund, for those periodical renewals of materials and machines which new and sanguine enterprise is not prone to take into account, but which time, the regulator of all things, will require to be respected, presenting too often an unwelcome demand for expensive assistance. The cases where less than three cents per mile per passenger are charged, can only be justified by peculiar circumstances, and constitute the exception, rather than the general rule.

"A protracted monetary stringency has revealed the weakness and too confident calculations of many a promising project.

"More than 20,000 miles are now in operation in the United States, at a cost of upward of $600,000,000; one fourth of this capital, or $150,000,000, is estimated to be entirely sunk to the stockholders, and in New England the proportion is still greater. What legitimate business in any country presents such disastrous results? What would be the general sympathy if the bank or insurance capital of

the country had met so disastrous a fate? What a fearful admonition is thus furnished to beware of inordinate extensions of public works at this period, or the accumulation of a permanent debt?"

Although this extract purports to take into consideration the increase of charges on passenger transportation only, it will at once be clearly seen that the business of carrying passengers cannot be alone chargeable with producing these disastrous results. The wear and tear to the track is produced more particularly by the ponderous freight cars, coupled into long and formidable trains, than to passenger cars merely, though the latter run at a more rapid rate.

If then, as is assumed, transportation of goods by water, where practicable, is, and must remain to be the cheapest, it is of the first importance to the whole Territory, but especially to the interior of this country, to know how far the Kansas and its tributaries are navigable for vessels of the necessary capacity for a profitable business in the transportation of freight. If heavy goods may be carried on the Kansas to Fort Riley, 140 miles; up the Smoky Hill, 400 miles; and 360 miles up the Republican, then a more capacious, and nearly three times as long a canal as the Erie, through the State of New York, is already excavated from the Missouri westward, in the very lines they would be made if left to the hand of art.

The waters for canaling are here in abundance, and the stream is broad enough to permit the use of steamboats, and the saving of tow-path and horse-flesh, without danger of washing the banks by the action of paddle-wheels or propellers. As the expense of fitting

it for canal purposes would be trifling, it cannot be doubted that it will be early appropriated to that use.

The settlers at Kansas City, Yankee Settlement, Fort Riley, and the points of termination on the branches of Kansas river, will be deeply interested in this matter.

RAILROADS.

A Railroad, intended as the first link of the great central route from St. Louis to California, has its present western termination at the mouth of the Kansas river, and it is said that this road is soon to be opened to Jefferson City—130 miles from the Kansas line.

The great interests and efforts which are being brought to bear upon the subject of the Pacific Railway, seem to render it almost certain that a road over the Great Central Route will soon be in progress. The chances, we think, are decidedly greater in its favor since the rejection by Congress of the Northern and Southern Routes. One road can be, and eventually will be constructed. But the question interesting us is, will it follow the Kansas? If we were called upon to answer this question, we should unhesitatingly say "yes." Among our reasons for this conclusion, we will say that the valley of the Kansas runs due west, and is the nearest to the great center and natural artery of commerce between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and nearer and more directly in line with the best and easiest passages of the Rocky Mountains yet discovered. Railroads must have fuel as near as possible at hand, and as they are more or less dependent upon way-travel and way-freight for support, this valley forms the only

feasible route in the proper latitude for the succe sful working of a railroad to the Pacific.

The tributaries of the Kansas reach far up among the Rocky Mountains in the right direction, and their banks, as well as those of the Kansas proper, afford the wood and the coal for fuel, as well as the timber for the track. Along this valley also, will be large and important towns with their thousands of active inhabitants, and the rural districts along the line will be proportionally populous. On this route, then, will be people who are to afford the way-freight and passengers indispensable for the maintenance of a railroad. As there is no other stream that affords all these advantages, the natural conclusion is that, that if ever a railroad to California is built, it must go up the valley of the Kansas river, at least, as far as Fort Riley.

FARMS AND HEDGES.

I have often been asked how far out upon a prairie a farm can be cultivated. Some 16 years' observation in the West, will, perhaps, enable me to give the inquirer such information on this head as will be found by experiment to be correct. Among my first observations in Illinois many years ago, I remember several of my acquaintance who located on the prairie 10 miles or more from timber. Their wood and fencing was all hauled that distance, and no coal had been found nearer than that to their farms. Yet these men went forward prosperously with the cultivation and improvement of the lands they had selected. They each owned a lot of timbered land on some stream near where saw

mills were in operation, and the timber being sawed into lumber near where it grew, fencing stuff of that kind cost them not more than rails would have cost hauled half as far, while the board fence made a much neater looking farm than those inclosed with rails, and added as much more to the value of the farm as there was difference in the cost of the fences. I have known many others who have been equally successful, farther away from timber, where coal was abundant for fuel, and wire and hedges were resorted to for fencing. As for building material, there is plenty at hand in the ravines of the prairies. Limestone, good and abundant, and some sandstone here and there, afford the best and cheapest material for a house, if the farmer will content himself with a rough substantial building. Without coursing the stone, the walls of a house may be built very cheap from this material. But there is plenty of good material for brick, and these might be dried in the sun so as to make a house preferable to logs, and equally as cheap. Sawed lumber will be procured almost anywhere very soon at reasonable prices. Log buildings in a prairie country must always be expensive when compared with light balloon frames or stone walls, on account of the quantity of timber they consume. And in point of neatness or comfort, the log house bears no comparison with either a frame, stone, or brick building to live in. Nothing should induce a settler to build a log-cabin but dire necessity; nor should he waste his timber for either buildings or fences of that kind. By sawing it into boards a small quantity of timber comparatively, will suffice for the buildings and fences of a farm, and when

they are erected, the premises will at once sell for much more, as a general rule, than the difference in cost. But there can be no necessity for consuming the timber of the country for fences.

The Osage hedge is easily grown, and is well adapted to the prairie country. Fields inclosed with this hedge would wear an agreeable aspect on the open prairie. Like the farmer's grain, grass and cattle too, it would be growing while he sleeps, improving while he works, progressing by sunshine or storm, by daylight and darkness. He has only to sow the seed and transplant the germs, and nature builds the fence, and perpetually keeps it in repair.

It has always been a subject of wonder to me that the inhabitants of prairie countries have not given the Osage hedge a better and more faithful trial. It is to be presumed that the cause of this neglect exists in the fact that there is a general belief, that the hedge requires more care and protection for two or three years, than their limited means will permit of generally in a new country. It is true that some little care and labor is necessary to grow the Osage Orange, but is not care and labor necessary to grow wheat, or corn, or potatoes?—Is care and labor not necessary to obtain an orchard or rail fence? With due care, an impervious hedge is obtained the third year, in the following manner: Prepare the ground carefully as for a little nursery, plant the seeds in April, or as soon as the ground is dry enough. The following spring (in April), transplant the young plants in double rows where you want the fence. The ground, of course, where you transplant

them, should be plowed deep, well manured (if practicable), and made loose, and kept free from weeds.—These young plants should be cut off down to the yellow bark near the ground, when transplanted. They should be set about six inches apart in the lines, and so that the plants shall not be opposite each other, but half way between, alternately throughout the hedge. Shoots will then rapidly spring from the plants, and branch out thickly close to the ground, forming a fence sufficiently tight and close in three years, to turn any stock. The average quantity of seed required, is estimated to be at the rate of one quart for one quarter of a mile, or four quarts per mile of hedge. The conclusion from these facts is, that prairie farms may be successfully cultivated, and made profitable at any distance from timber, if coal and railroad are at hand.

TUMULI.

Those who have seen the mounds of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and some other sections of the West, will be surprised to find that, instead of the artificial character of the various shaped mounds of those States and sections, the elevations of a similar aspect at a distance, on a closer examination, prove to be more solid structures in Kansas. Not unfrequently regular stratas of rock are found running through, far above the general surface of the country; and showing most clearly that instead of having been formed by the ingenuity and hand of man, many of them are only the productions of some power which is hidden below the surface of the earth. Some mysterious agency has lifted many a lofty mound

out of the bosom of the prairies—perhaps, only to break the monotony of the scene. Convenient, as places of observation and defence for generations which have long since passed away; these natural elevations perhaps gave to them the first idea of building similar structures where nature had not performed that office for them.—Mounds or tumuli are first seen in western New York; thence along the southern shore of Lake Erie; and we find them increasing in size and numbers in the southern portions of Ohio. They are seen thence with more or less frequency throughout the whole extent of the valley of the Mississippi.

Humboldt reported having seen mounds of a similar character in various parts of Mexico, while on his journey of discovery through that country many years ago. At a much later period, Stephens visited many ancient remains of the labors and skill of a people in Central America, who have left no other records of their history behind them, than that of cities and statues, now lately covered by almost impenetrable forests. Returning to our own prairies, we find the traces of an ancient people in the ruins of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin; and a vast number of low mounds of all shapes, literally covering and fortifying the ridges of the prairie around Waukesha, in the same State. The principal difference between those we have mentioned here and those in Kansas, consists in those of the latter region being on rather more of a magnificent scale; and the fact that some of these contain such stata of rock as we have already stated.

Whatever may have been the object of those who

built the artificial mounds, nature had here prepared structures which would answer the purpose of fortifications, observatories, temples, and tombs. That the artificial ones were used for some of these purposes, we have the best evidence possible, in the fact of their abounding in human bones. It is said that iron tools were not used in the construction of them; yet many of the squares and parallelograms make much more of a conspicuous figure after the lapse of unknown ages, than the defences thrown up in the Atlantic States during the revolutionary war.

But without stopping to speculate as to who were the artisans of the artificial mounds, we may admire the singular beauty of many of both those and the natural ones; and no cultivated mind can help contemplating them with the deepest interest. As the traveler slowly wends his way over or across the plains of Kansas, and his weary limbs and burning brow call for repose, he finds no shelter among the billows, or on the levels of the plains that surround him. But even the distant mound covered with green foliage, as it generally is, and standing in bold relief on the verge of the horizon, invites him to its shade. Thitherward his steps and his anxious eye are directed. He has been traveling where the country appeared to rise constantly from his feet toward a higher point to meet the horizon. He has longed to reach a position where he could stand and take a survey of the vast campaign. Notwithstanding his wearied limbs and burning brow, he rests not until the summit of the elevation is attained. He glances over the plain—then up to heaven with solemn reverential

awe. Blue ethereal curtains drop from the zenith, and hang lightly over the distant verge of the magnificent and undulating prospect before him. He gazes in silent wonder on the flowery field. Anon, he inquires mentally within, for whom is all this waste of ever varying bloom, that squanders its fragrance upon the air? Why bud and blossom all these plants that make the vast arena spread around one endless floral wreath, encircling the fortress whereon he stands? For whom has nature lavished all her store of brilliant hues—her blue and purple—her crimson, and her golden dyes for ages past, to fade and perish, to be born and die unseen, except by savage and untutored man? A solemn stillness everywhere prevails, and loneliness takes up her empire in his heart. The distance betwixt him and domestic firesides and happy homes, appear interminable, and his intercourse with the latter, effectually cut off by the towering walls of ethereal blue, that shut him in on every side. He thinks of the busy multitude that once enlivened the landscape—some of whom may be tenants of the monument under his feet—and fancies their phantoms are flitting around where he is. Jacob, fleeing from his injured and enraged brother, towards Haran, as he pillowed his head on a stone, and covered himself with the canopy of heaven, could not have felt himself farther away from the habitations of men, or more exposed to the eye of Omnipotence, than a lone explorer of the wilds of the West, when he occupies the pinnacle of a prairie mound. What place more fitting for the deliverance of heavenly messages than the tops of such observatories amid these solitudes? Mount Horeb itself

is scarcely as retired from the gaze of vulgar eyes and unsanctified ears, as these isolated hills that dot and beautify the plains of Kansas. We cannot much admire the mind or the heart of man who beholds or regards them with indifference. When on an uninhabited prairie, we have fallen upon a group of these mounds, and have thought of the mass of human bones that mouldered beneath—the busy mind has found ample scope for reflections and associations of the past with the future.

And now, as we hurry along with the tide of emigration, to appropriate to ourselves the rich soil and estates of those, who for long centuries have slept in the tombs of that wilderness made bare by their industry and toil, we can scarcely do less than reflect on the "brief period they strutted through life's poor play," or drop a tear on the soil where they rest.

INDIANS, AND INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

We have alluded briefly in previous chapters to Indian reservations in Kansas, and we have said that they embrace some of the finest and most desirable portions of the country, as well as a large share of the timber on the Kansas river and at the mouths of its tributaries. The first, is that of the Wyandots on the south side, and at the mouth of the Kansas, six miles long. The second, is that of the Delawares, lying on the north side of the Kansas, and is 40 miles long by 10 miles broad. Intervening between this and the Pottawatomie lands above, is a block of Government land 13 miles wide.—The Pottawatomie reservation is 30 miles long and 18 miles wide; four miles in width of which is on the

south side of the river. The fourth reservation on this stream is that of the Shawnee tribe, entirely on the south side, and 40 miles long by 10 miles wide. Nearly 80 miles along the Kansas, including the bottom and the timber, as well as much good prairie, is in the hands of the aborigines in the country. Some few of the latter are partly civilized, but the mass are sufficiently described by saying they are Indians, and probably will remain such while they live. It cannot but be seen and felt by the whites, that these Indian lands are so occupied as to be not only nearly useless to the Indians themselves and the country, but to be great obstacles in the way of the settlement of the Territory. Settlers have disregarded the treaty with the Delaware Indians, and probably not less than 1500 have already located on their lands. How government is to dispossess them, or how the difficulty is to be adjusted with the Indians, are matters of much speculation. These lands would sell at auction for from $50 to $60 per acre, but the claimants will combine to keep them in a shape to be purchased at government price, and the general opinion is that they will succeed. The Attorney-General has decided that the intention of the treaty was to exclude the right of pre-emption to settlers, and bringing the the lands into market at a public sale, unshackled by "squatter" claims or "squatter sovereignty." Opposing opinions have been published by lawyers about the country, and it seems more than probable that in spite of treaties, the whole of the tract will be held by the claimants.

It is a question how these lands are to pass into the

hands of the whites without injustice to the "Red Men," and yet we cannot doubt it will be done before long.—But it seems impossible that any of the lands on the Kansas should be retained by the Indian tribes for any length of time; and yet, if a change of title to their lands must take place, it is to be devoutly hoped that justice to the original owners will be the prominent feature in the transfer. It is surely bad enough for these sons of the wilderness to be obliged to give way for their pale-faced brethren, without being cheated by Uncle Sam and all his progeny, as well as debased by their fire-water and example.

The untutored savage is not devoid of local attachments, of associations, or of a sense of right and justice. We have studied the Indian character enough to know that theorizing upon the subject, as some have, is not equal to the lights of observation and experience. The time was, when more than 60 tribes existed in the Mississippi valley, many of which are now nearly extinct. The patriarchal tribes seem to have inhabited the eastern and southern States, and those of the north-west are branches, originally speaking the same language, but which in process of time, has become so much corrupted and changed, that an interpreter would be required to enable them to converse together. As we ascend the Arkansas river, and pursue the Neosho branch to the northward, across the south line of Kansas, we find on its head waters the Kansas, Sacs, and Ottawas; and on the other waters of the Osage, the Osages. These four tribes are yet undisturbed in their possessions, but cannot long remain so. Toward

the head waters of the Arkansas river, were formerly seen bands of the Camanches and Apaches, who came down from their mountains to hunt the buffalo and the elk on the adjacent plains. But the establishment of Fort Gibson on that river has changed somewhat the hunting ground of these tribes. As it is known that the lands belonging to the tribes in the southern part of Kansas are among the best of the Territory, and that the Arkansas river is navigable at least to Fort Gibson, the next rush, after the lands of the valley of Kansas and its tributaries are taken up, must be to the valley and bottoms of the Arkansas and its branches. Whenever that event happens, the Indians may as well gather together their moveable effects, and start for new hunting grounds.

The gradual extinction and decrease of these tribes, one after another, have been the theme of serious and melancholy reflection among intelligent and benevolent men.

We have always had men in our country who would constantly avail themselves of the opportunity to distribute ardent spirits among them. But our government has generally practised towards them a uniform and dignified moderation, and an unceasing forbearance.—Its provisions to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors among them have been severe, and in most cases carried into effect. Yet the strictness of our laws in this respect has been one of the most constant themes of complaint on their part; and the manner in which we have withheld the poisonous whiskey from them has been considered by them as the result alone of our covetousness:

it has been the watchful care of successful administrations, which has prevented them from destroying one another. Had it been the policy of the nation to exterminate the race in the shortest way, as has often been declared was its object and intention, nothing more would have been necessary than to encourage these savages, excite their jealousy, and stir up their revenge, and let them brutally kill one another. But, on the contrary, it seems to have been the ruling maxim of the government to ward off all the evils possible from this unfortunate and devoted race. In the language of an eminent explorer and author, we say, "Let us pity them. Let us practice forbearance toward them until the end. Let us teach them Christianity and the arts. They are not the less objects of our pity and of our untiring benevolence, because the causes of their decay and extinction are found in their own nature and character, and the unchangeable order of things. It is as natural as the laws which govern and control our existence, that savages should give place to civilized men, possessed of the strength, spirit, and cultivation of the present social condition and compact." They must and will fade away before the influences which are operating against them, as morning dew melts before the sun. But as we see written in legible characters on the signs of the times, and know that the days of their national existence are nearly numbered, we may not let them pass away without some reflections and regrets on the sad destiny to which they are hastening.

The Delawares, Pottawatomies, Wyandots, Shawnees, Osages, and others in Kansas and Nebraska, are perhaps,

physically, and possibly morally, not unlike the race throughout our country. But there are differences of stature, sensibility, intellect, standards of opinion, and usages among them. The complexion of those we have mentioned, is not what may be termed the "red skin," but of a darker and more coppery hue, not altogether unlike the color of well-smoked bacon. And the same unchangeable tinge is observable in the new-born infant, that you see in the man of fourscore years. There is no part of their external appearance that more strongly distinguishes them from other people than their hair.—It is always, in all the tribes, under all circumstances, and in each of the sexes, black, until changed by age. It is generally straight and lank or matted, and in other respects, resembles the horse's mane, but much finer.—"In walking, they place one foot in a right line before the other, and seldom turn their toes from that line. In this way, they instantly discover the track of their own people, as distinct from that of other races. The forehead is broad, and almost invariably retiring in a small degree. The nose is prominent, and the base of the nostrils has a remarkable expansion; the lips of an intermediate thickness, between that of the whites and the negro. Cheek bones high and more strongly marked; face below the eyes uncommonly wide; eyes of a deep, solemn blackness when in repose, but shining and lustrous in excitement." The squaw has a very distinct female conformation and delicacy of rounding of the limbs, as unlike the harsher and more brawny masculine form of the male, as possibly can be. There is a much more strongly marked difference between the

general moulding of the form of the squaw and the Indian, than there is between the white male and female. This seems to be a refutation, directly in point, of the system of those "strong-minded" female philosophers of our day, who assert that the frailer form of the American female, is only owing to the want of exposure and early gymnastic exercises and habits of the male. Yet, it is notorious that the squaw is not only untrammelled by stays and braces, but from the time of her advent into this world, is left to the intincts and actions of nature;—she gambols and frisks through childhood in the open air, and exposed to all weathers;—as years increase, she gradually engages in the out-of-door toils of the Indian woman; she becomes the hewer of wood and the drawer of water for the Indian camp, while her coarse, uncouth lord reposes and smokes in the shade; yet these daughters of the rude wilderness have the utmost delicacy of limb, the fine contour of joint, and a more feminine slenderness of foot, ankle, and hand, than the most pampered daughter of civilized indolence and luxury.

"The Indians, as a race, have countenances that are generally unjoyous, stern, and ruminating. It is, with them, either gloomy taciturnity or bacchanalian revel. They seldom jest—generally speak in an under-tone, and loquacity is with them an indication of a weak mind and trifling character."

Some persons have the idea strongly impressed upon their minds, that a journey through this part of the western country is extremely dangerous, perhaps, absolutely foolhardy and presumptous to think of. But we

can assure all such persons, that their fears are entirely groundless; that a journey in Kansas is attended with no more danger than it would be in Illinois or Missouri —that they need not go to much expense to arm themselves to meet the Indians of the eastern part of this territory at present. Revolvers, bowie-knives, shot-guns, rifles, and dirks would be likely to be carried a long time without finding occasion to use them in combat with any assaulting foe. The "Red Men" of Kansas have too long mingled with their white brethren to give much vent to hostile feelings, if they have any. The encroaching wave of emigration, while it has corrupted their morals and stimulated their passions in some respects, has chastened their belligerent feelings and actions in respect to the encroachments of our people. We have said in substance, that the Delawares had lately ceded their lands to the United States in a treaty lately concluded with that tribe, which has been ratified by the President and Senate of the United States. The foregoing remarks upon the subject of Indian hostility, the uselessness of burthening one's-self with arms for defence, will not apply to a journey over the western portions of this country. He, who proposes a journey across the western plains of Kansas, should equip himself with all the implements and ammunition sufficient for a struggle with individuals and parties of wild and desperate savages. The inhabitants of these far-off regions are not much changed in character from what they were at the time of Pike's or Long's Expedition.

As we ascend the Arkansas towards its source, the country becomes less wooded—the plains more sterile—

the face of the whole country more desolate, and the savages more wild and barbarous. The latter have their homes among the Rocky Mountains, and roam abroad over the plains in search of game. When on these expeditions on horseback, they pursue their game or their foes with all the spirit of the Bedouin, and with far less generosity. They find the buffalo, elk, deer, and antelope in great abundance on the most sterile prairies of that region; and their skill in capturing these animals, and their feats of horsemanship are said not to be excelled by any equestrians on the globe; and, consequently, are not to be lightly esteemed as an adversary in a fight. Our best troops are not a match for equal numbers of these agile, dexterous warriors, who, by clinging to the mane and against the side of their horse, can discharge their deadly arrows at their enemy, while they keep between themselves and their foe the body of the animal they ride.

The trained Indian horse, like his rider, in the arts of Indian warfare, seems as skilful in his movements as a reasoning animal, regarding and obeying instantly the slightest motion, while running, as he always does, without anything to guide his course except the hand of his master. These savages often ride in a circuit around the objects of attack, pouring in volleys of arrows towards the center, bewildering and speedily overpowering well-disciplined cavalry, by their well-directed shots and horrible yelling, which frightens horses unaccustomed to the unearthly sounds and hideous looks of painted Indians.

The following extract from "Notes of a military re-

connaissance from Fort Leavenworth, Missouri, to San Diego, California, by W. H. Emory, Brevet-Major, Corps Topographical Engineers—made in 1846–7, with the advance guards of the 'Army of the West,'" will be found highly interesting and instructive:

"Between Fort Leavenworth and Pawnee Fork, the country is a high rolling prairie, traversed by many streams, the largest of which is the Kansas, or "Kaw," and all but this river may be forded, except during freshets. The beds of streams are generally deeply indented in the soil, and their banks almost vertical, developing where the streams make their incision in the earth, strata of fossiliferous limestone, of various shades of brown, filled with the remains of crinoidea.

"On the bank of the Wah-Karrusi, where the Oregon trail strikes it, a seam of bituminous coal crops out.—This is worked by the Indians, one of whom we met driving an ox-cart loaded with coal to Westport. For the most part, the soil is a sandy loam, covered with rich vegetable deposit; the whole based upon a stratum of clay and limestone.

"Trees are only to be seen along the margins of the streams; and the general appearance of the country, is that of vast rolling fields, enclosed with colossal hedges. The growth along these streams, as they approach the eastern part of the section under consideration, consists of ash, burr oak, black walnut, chesnut oak, black oak, long-leaved willow, sycamore, buck-eye, American elm, pig-nut, hickory, hackberry, and sumach. Towards the West, as you approach the 99th meridian of longitude, the growth along the streams becomes almost exclusively

cottonwood. Council Grove Creek forms an exception to this, as most of the trees enumerated above flourish in its vicinity, and renders it, for that reason, a well-known halting place for caravans, for the repairs of wagons, and the acquisition of spare axles.

"On the uplands the grass is luxuriant, and occasionally is found the wild tea and pilot weed. As you draw near the Pawnee Fork, 99° west of Greenwich, the country changes, almost imperceptibly, until it merges into arid barren wastes. The transition is marked by the occurrence of cacti and other spinose plants, the first of which, we saw in longitude 98°.

"Near the same meridian, the buffalo grass was seen in small quantities, and about noon our party was cheered for the first time by the sight of a small "band" of buffalo, two of which we killed, at the expense of a couple of fine horses, which never recovered from the chase. Horses occasionally fed on grain, become very weak feeding on grass alone, and should never in that condition be subject to quick work. A violation of this precept, has lost many volunteers their horses, and entailed trouble without end on many experienced travelers "Westward bound." The next day, immense herds of the buffalo were seen.

"We were now on ground which is traversed by the nomadic tribes of Pawneee, Sioux, Osages, and occasionally Camanches. Their range is seldom farther East than Council Grove. The country thence (East) to the western borders of Missouri is in the hands of Indians, owing allegiance to, and receiving stipends from the United States; they live in log houses, cultivate the

soil, rear cattle, and pursue some of the arts of peace. They form the connecting link between the savage of the plains and the white man of the States.

"The latitude of our camp a few thousand feet South-east of where the road crosses the Pawnee Fork, is 38° 10′ 10″; and the longitude by chronometer, is 98° 55′ 22″. The height above the sea, indicated approximately by the barometer, is 1,932 feet: the point is but a short distance from the junction of the Pawnee Fork and the Arkansas river.

"The section of the country embraced between this point and Bent's Fort, is totally different in character from that just described; but the change is gradual, and may be anticipated from what has been said in reference to the appearance of the country so far East as the 98th degree, or the 97 meridian.

"Our route from Pawnee Fork to this point was along the Arkansas river. The approximate height of Bent's Fort above the sea, is 3,958 feet; and the height where we first struck the river at the bend, is 1,658 feet; the distance between these points being 311 miles; the river is about seven feet and four-tenths per mile. Its bed is of sand, sometimes of rounded pebbles of the primitive. It is seldom more than 150 yards wide, and but for the quicksands is everywhere fordable.

"The bottom land, a few feet above the level of the water, varies in width from half a mile to two miles, and is generally covered with good nutritious grass. Beyond this, the ground rises by gentle slopes into a wilderness of sand-hills on the South, and into prairie on the North. There are one or two exceptions: for instance, at the

Great Bend, the sand-hills from the South impinge abruptly on the course of the river; at Pawnee Rock, a long swell in the ground terminates in an abrupt hill of highly ferruginous sandstone; and 10 miles above Chouteau's Island, the hills along the river are vertical, as if a river had cut a passage through them; and, as you approach Bent's Fort, the hills generally roll in more boldly on the river, and the bottoms become narrower, and the grass more precious.

"At these places the geological formation can be seen distinctly. On the lower part of the river, it is conglomerate of pebbles, sometimes shell cemented by lime and clay, overlaying a stratum of soft sandstone, which in turn overlays a blue shell, and sometimes the richest description of marl. Higher up the river, we find the same formation, but in addition, argellacious limestone, containing ammonites and other impressions of shells in great variety, and in more than one instance, distinct impressions of oyster shells. The dip in both cases about 6°, and a little north of East.

"The soil of the plains is a granitic sand, intermixed with the exuviæ of animal and vegetable matter, supporting a scanty vegetation. The eye wanders in vain over these immense wastes in search of trees. Not one is to be seen. The principal growth is the buffalo grass, cacti in endless variety, and very rarely that wonderful plant, the Ipomea leptophylla, called by the hunter, man root, from the similarity of its root in size and shape to the body of a man. It is esculent, and serves to sustain human life, in some of the many vicissitudes of hunger and privation to which

men, who roam the prairies as an occupation, are subjected.

"*July 24th.*—Near the dry mouth of the Big Sandy Creek, the Yucca Angustifolia, palmetto of the Spaniards, or soap plant, first made its appearance, and marked a new change in the soil and vegetation of the prairies.

"The narrow strip which I have described as the bottom land of the Arkansas, varying from half a mile to two or three miles wide, contains a luxurious growth of grasses, which by the judicious selection and distribution of the camps, sustained all the animals of the army of the West, while on the river. The only tree of any magnitude found on its course, is the cottonwood (*Populus Canadensis*), and it frequently happens that not one of these is seen in a whole day's journey; and the buffalo dung and wild sage constitute the only fuel to be procured. About 35 miles before reaching Bent's Fort, is found what is called the "Big Timber." Here the valley of the river widens, and the banks on either side fall towards it in gentle slopes. The "big timber" is a thinly scattered growth of large cottonwoods, not more than three quarters of a mile wide, and three or four miles long. It is here the Chyennes, Arapahoes, and the Kioways sometimes winter, to avail themselves of the scanty supply of wood for fuel, and to let their animals browse on the twigs and bark of the cottonwood. The buffaloes are sometimes driven by the severity of the winter to the same place, to feed upon cottonwood.

"In addition to the cottonwood and grass mentioned, we find in the bottoms wild plum, wild cherry, willow,

summer grape, cat-tail, scouring rush—a powerful diuretic upon horses—Mexican poppy, and other plants. The animals of this section of the country are the buffalo, deer, antelope, elk, marmot, wolf, agama, cornuta, &c. Except the buffalo, game is very scarce, and cannot be depended upon to support a column of many thousand men."

As the line of march of the army of the West diverges here from a direct westerly course, and goes South, into New Mexico, we can follow them no further. But this account carries us to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, and describes the general character of the country fully to the mountainous district of western Kansas Territory.

NEWSPAPERS IN KANSAS.

The "Free State" is published at Lawrence, on the Kansas river. The "Kansas Herald" at Leavenworth, on the Missouri, and the "Squatter Sovereign" at Atkinson.

The "Kansas Herald," now enjoying the luxury of a comfortable shelter, was born under tree. Its first breath was drawn in the open air, on the open prairie, on the banks of the open Missouri, in the open world.—With such an advent, we may expect a healthy subject and great tenacity to life, as well as usefulness in its career. May it survive until all its predictions and anticipations of *Leavenworth City* are fully realized.—That this will be a trading point of considerable magnitude, there well may be the fondest hopes and expectations.

Last October, the site of the town was covered with

bushes; but now the place has, at least, seventy buildings, and a population of about 300. It looks quite city-like, if one three-story Hotel, half a dozen stores, the requisite number of groceries, saloons, shops, printing offices, and dwellings for that number of settlers, can be said to look like a city. By the side of New Orleans and other large towns, it might not wear a city aspect. But, away out here on the very edge of sunset and civilization, it is a very London; to those who have been born and always lived and looked only upon prairies, it is akin, if not equal to ancient Rome and modern Paris. It is to be one of the starting points for emigrants Westward-bound. Seven or eight thousand Mormons are expected to obtain their out-fit, and to start from there to Utah, early in the Spring. Two traders with 60 wagons, and another with 40 wagons, are said to be preparing to start from thence across the plains.

The country naturally tributary to this city, has a rich soil, good water, temperate climate, and some very good timber. No doubt, this town is destined to grow rapidly, and become one of the cities of Kansas.

NEW TOWNS.

We mean by new towns, those villages which have received a location and a name, during the present winter. We have the following:

Grasshopper Falls, which has abundance of good water power, excellent soil and fine timber. It is situated on the Grasshopper river, and takes its name from that stream.

Rock City is on the Military road from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley, between Rock and Vermilion Creeks, on a pleasant spot about 60 miles West of the Missouri, adjoining good timber and rich prairie.

Somerville is 16 miles from Fort Leavenworth, where the Government road crosses Stranger Creek; and we also hear of another place called Alexandria, on the same stream, but its exact locality we cannot state.

The settlement at the junction of Smoky Hill and Republican Forks has received the name of Pawnee, and is justly regarded as the future mart of the interior of the Territory.

GAME.

Emigrants would probably be glad to know what use they are to have for their rifles and fowling pieces in Kansas. We cannot encourage them very strongly that they will find any profitable employment for them at all. Game is very scarce all over the Territory. Neither prairie chickens, quails, turkies, nor deer are at all plenty in the eastern half; but buffalo, deer, and elk are plenty in the western portion of the country.

It is a singular fact that wild fowl, of the habits of Grouse, are seldom seen on the uninhabited prairies, but increase and keep pace with the settlement—feeding in winter at the farmer's stack, and in summer in his cornfield. Wild and untameable as quails and prairie chickens generally are considered to be, they nevertheless seem to prefer a joint occupancy of the country with civilized man, and to make a contribution from their numbers now and then, to grace his table and

tickle his palate, in exchange for rations from the wheat stack and cornfield of the Lord of creation, to the freest enjoyment of the uncultivated prairies without them. They have greatly increased in all the settled portions of the prairie country, as fast as the different sections have been reclaimed from the wilderness or wastes of the West. It may, therefore, reasonably be expected that these birds will follow the tide of emigration to Kansas, and multiply as rapidly as they have elsewhere, under the same circumstances. But there will be time enough intervening to earn the price of a load of guns, before the hunter will find much use for them in Kansas. There is a very general, but mistaken notion, that all uninhabited countries are filled with wild game of every kind and color. A solitary gopher, a single wolf, and a pair of deer may, by chances long and far between, be seen in Kansas; but nothing else to shoot, unless it might be what many people think it less harm to kill—an Indian.

The feathered minstrels that wake you with the dawn of morning at the East with their heavenly music, are not among the creatures that animate and enliven this treeless land. Neither robin-redbreast, sparrow, or bob-o'link sing for the emigrants, or make their nests in the prairie; and very few of any species of bird are yet seen in the country. A blank, which is perceptible to the senses of sight and hearing, remains to be filled up, as the apple, the peach, cherry, and plumb tree on which they love to sport and sing, obtain a footing around the habitations in Kansas. Birds are social beings, and some will make their nests wherever there are fruit and

shade trees, and inhabited dwellings, about which they find protection and securely flit and sing.

VOTERS AND COURTS.

It makes rather a humiliating and sudden transition to drop down from Ornithology to politics just now, but for the lack of time and space, we are obliged to insert all we have to say about the late election in Kansas exact here, and it is only this: The official returns show the whole number of voters in the Territory at that time to have been 3,036, in 13 election districts. Three Judicial Districts have been organized, and terms of Court will be held as follows:

First District.—At Leavenworth on the third Monday of October; S. D. Lecompt, presiding. Second District.—At Tecumseh in April and October; Hon. Rush Elmore, Judge. Third District.—At Pawnee in April and October; no Judge named yet.

The following statistics, collected by a gentleman in Missouri, opposite the mouth of the Kansas river, may be found interesting by way of showing what may be produced in Kansas, unless the Missouri river running between should make a difference in the soil and climate that we are not looking for. The calculation is of the amount of land one slave can cultivate there—the yield per acre, and the market price. It is for Platte county, Mo., near Kansas:

Hemp, 7 to 8 acres	800	to 1200	lbs.
Corn, 10 to 15 acres	10	to 20	bbls.
Wheat, 10 to 15 acres	20	to 45	bush.
Oats, 10 to 15 acres	30	to 50	"

Value of Products at home.

Hemp, 2½ tons, at $80 per ton	$200
Corn, 100 barrels, at $1 per barrel	100
Wheat, 5 acres, 100 bushels, at 80c per bushel	80
Oats, 5 acres, 250 bushels, at 30c per bushel	45
Total least yield, at lowest price	$425
Hemp, 4½ tons, at $130 per ton	$585
Corn, 300 barrels, at $2 per barrel	600
Wheat, 5 acres, 225 bushels, at $1 per bushel	225
Oats, 5 acres, 250 bushels, at 40c per bushel	100
Greatest yield, at highest price	$1510

The gentleman adds: "So far from this statement being extravagant, hemp has sold, the past season, for $150 per ton, wheat for $1.25 per bushel, and corn for $3 per barrel."

Our sketch of Kansas will conclude with section 19, of an act entitled

An Act to organize the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: That all that part of the United States included within the following limits, except such portions thereof as are hereinafter expressly exempted from the operations of this act, to wit: Beginning at a point on the western boundary of the State of Missouri, where the thirty-seventh parallel of north latitude crosses the same; thence west on said parallel to the eastern boundary of New Mexico; thence north on said boundary to latitude thirty-eight; thence following said boundary westward to the east boundary of the Territory of Utah on the summit of the Rocky Mountains; thence northward on said summit to the fortieth parallel of latitude; thence east on said parallel to the west boundary of the State of Missouri; thence south with the west boundary of the said State to the place of beginning, be, and the same is hereby

created into a temporary Government by the name of the Territory of Kansas; and when admitted as a State or States, the said Territory or any portion of the same shall be received into the Union, with or without slavery, as their constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission: *Provided*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to inhibit the Government of the United States from dividing said Territory into two or more Territories, in such manner, and at such times as Congress, shall deem convenient and proper, or from attaching any portion of said Territory of the United States: *Provided, further*, That nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to impair the rights of person or property now pertaining to the Indians in said Territory, so long as such rights shall remain unextinguished by treaty between the United States and such Indians, or to include any Territory, which, by treaty with any Indian tribe, is not without the consent of said tribe to be included within the Territorial limits or jurisdiction of any State or Territory; but all such Territory shall be excepted out of the boundaries, and constitute no part of the Territory of Kansas, until said tribe shall signify their assent to the President of the United States to be included within the said Territory of Kansas, or to affect the authority of the Government of the United States to make any regulation respecting such Indians, their lands, property, or other rights, by treaty, law, or otherwise, which it would have been competent for the Government to make if this act had never passed."

We shall omit here the ensuing sixteen sections relative to the organization and government of the Territory, because they are precisely like the provisions in the bill respecting the organization and government of Nebraska, and which (bill) so far as it relates to the latter Territory, we shall include entire in our sketch of Nebraska.

NEBRASKA.

In entering upon our description of Nebraska Territory, we have a wide field before us, much of which has hitherto been but very imperfectly explored, and equally vaguely described. While it was seen away off n the distant background, in the rear of "the West," or the frontier settlement of our country, people contented themselves with the random sketches of single explorers, and the reports of trappers, hunters, and Indian traders; but the time has come when the curiosity of the world has become excited in regard to this tract of country, lately christened by the euphoneous name Nebraska. She has made her bow within the borders of civilization, and astonished everybody by her sudden appearance inside the frontiers. By the magic influence of railways and magnetic wires, she has been brought from the dim and distant background which she occupied in the past, unperceived by the superficial observer, until she made her *debut* as a Territory among the settlements, and was seen bound in the bundle of Uncle Sam's recognized treasures.

The word Plains, when applied to the prairies of Kansas and Nebraska, has heretofore been understood as signifying a region outside the pale of civilization. And it conveys the idea of a vast, level, woodless wilderness, alternating with grassy swells, and sandy wastes—with sluggish streams and marshy swales, Indian wigwams, painted warriors, wild beast and desolation. In the picture which it unfolds to the immigration, there is, in the foreground, clusters of native huts—

where the smoke lazily curls from the apex of conical bark cabins—the indolent native reclines in the shade, and unclad youth sport on the unfenced lawns. In the rear are herds of buffalo, elk, and deer, grazing in quiet security; while the light-footed hunter is seen stealthily threading the ravines towards the lair of his game.

Beyond these, all else is solemn stillness, lifeless, repose—nature apparently asleep—uninviting barrenness, and fearful monotony. How vastly different are the ideas of the same land, when civilization lends to it the magic of another name, and styles it "West!" This word indicates an inhabited and habitable land, enjoying the special care, attention, and protection of the general government. It is hallowed by a thousand agreeable associations, and expresses hopes, fears, expectations, desires, and joys. It is associated in the mind with the vast and beautiful, the grand, the noble, the pleasant, the sparkling, the delighful, and the amusing. It is suggestive of a clear sky, a pure atmosphere, a rich soil, limpid waters, magnificient streams, waving fields, plethoric granaries, herds of cattle, droves of swine, pleasant villages, capacious farm-houses, quiet homes, groaning tables, glowing hearths, happy faces, quiet conscience, contented mind, troops of children, apple orchards, blackberry bushes, strawberry beds, prairie chickens, venison hams, corn dodgers, plates of bacon, pumpkin pie. The word West sounds honeyedly in the ear of the starving millions across the briny deep; for the soup-fed peasants, it savors of substantial beef, pork, potatoes, corn cakes, and wheaten bread.—Both to the housed and the homeless, the poor and the

needy, it presages inestimable blessings, in pleasant independent homes, replenished purses, bounteous stores, and boundless freedom. The oppressed of every land, sigh for the wings of a dove at the sound of a word so prolific of happy suggestions. How full and fraught with meaning must be a word, the sound of which sends a thrill of pleasure to the hearts of the lofty and the lowly, from the prince to the beggar, of every land in every clime! Thousands are cheered by its sound, and inspired with a hope of better days. See the hordes who have fled from starvation and despotism, under no other impulse, but that imparted by the word West written in their hearts, stamped on their minds, and guiding them to the land of promise!

If Americans are charmed and led captive by it, we wonder not that it fascinates the less enlightened sons and daughters of other lands, forced by tyranny to hate the country of their birth, whose soil reluctantly yielded them only a scanty subsistance.

If *we* look with rapture on the broad, fertile acres of the West, with what ecstasy may they be permitted to behold this prairie land, teeming with wealth, and rivaling Eden so strongly in beauty, that the inhabitants of that paradise below, might be supposed to regard us as the most favored of the two.

> "But let us try these truths with closer eyes,
> And trace them through the prospect as it lies."

We will endeavor to give the emigrant a general description of the country at large, in the first place; and then lay before him a view of their different divisions,

their climates, productions, streams, soil, timber, *et cetera*.

The distance between the northern and southern boundaries of Nebraska is over 600 miles, and this distance covers a great variety of soil, hills, plains, and streams, as well as different climates and productions. The southern boundary of the Territory is about 540 miles from St. Louis, by way of the Missouri river.

The belt of country, partially wooded, extends from 2 to 400 miles west of the Missouri, and from thence commences that ocean of prairie which constitutes so striking and impressive a feature in the country beyond that river. On this vast plain—more or less covered with grass, and, in great extents, but in other parts nearly barren—the grand difficulty in the way of cultivation will be the want of water. Yet, it would seem, from the fact of the subsistence of immense herds of buffalo, elk, antelope, and other animals, that the day will come, when shepherds will be watching their flocks all over the boundless meadows of the plain. There is no doubt about the character of the Desert, in respect to its grazing qualities and capabilities. The southern portion of the prairies in Nebraska have a sufficiently mild climate to admit of wintering stock upon them, without any other provision for their subsistence than that which nature provides. But the eastern portion of the Territory, being generally well-watered by numerous limpid streams, and having a healthy, salubrious climate and fertile soil, will rapidly fill up with emigrants from the eastern and Middle States. It will be seen by a glance at the map of the United States, that

the country north of a line through the centre of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois, and between that line and the forty-ninth parallel of latitude, has the same climate as Nebraska, unless the difference in longitude should make a difference in the temperature or moisture of the atmosphere, which we do not expect.

"The western portion of Nebraska is in part made up of hills, gradually rising and increasing to the size and sublimited of lofty snow-capped mountains, having their course from north to south across the Territory, and run like the Alleghany Mountains, in parallel ridges, though in character, they are generally more rugged, detached, and broken in their form or surface. Their black, precipitous, and frowning appearance has probably given them the name of the Rocky Mountains."

The base of these mountains is said to be between three and four thousand feet above the level of the sea, and Pike's Mountain has been given as 12,000 feet in height. There is a range of high hills called the 'Black Hills,' shooting off from the Rocky Mountains at the head waters of the north fork of the Platte river, that runs in a north-east direction half-way across the territory, and then turns directly north, to where they terminate, at the most northerly bend of the Missouri, dividing the country into two natural divisions. The northern division is completely watered by the Missouri and its numerous branches. The north route for a Pacific railway by way of St. Anthony's Falls, Minnesota, passes around north of the most northerly incurvation of the Missouri, within fifty or sixty miles of the northern line of Nebraska, and continues thence west

through Washington Territory to the shores of the Pacific ocean.

One grand and peculiar feature of Nebraska is the mighty Missouri itself, which takes its rise among the cloud and snow-capped mountains, whose ice-bound rivulets unite and combine their substance, far back among the frowning rocks and cliffs, and in the deep, dark channels which they have wrought, and left the craggy, rocky steep, with lofty, threatening brow; where eagles build their nests, and mountain kids, presumptuous, but fearless, skip from rock to rock, along the dizzy height above; where the cool, swelling waters strive to show how great a stream from little fountains flow. Gathering strength from gorge to gorge, it soon rolls on a mighty flood, and winds and toils eastward 500 miles, when, as if inspired by sudden thought, turns half a semicircle round, and glides boldly south and south by east until it loses its waters and its idendity by its conjunction with the upper Mississippi. It constitutes the whole eastern boundary of Nebraska, from the south-east corner of the Territory to some distance above the forty-eighth parallel of latitude, and thence furnishes White Earth river as a tributary to finish out the line. What was formerly called the "Gates" of the "Rocky Mountains," through which the Missouri seems to have torn itself a passage, are among the sublimest spectacles of this range of mountains. For nearly six miles these rocky barriers rise in black and perpendicular masses 1,200 feet above the river. The chasm is only about 150 yards wide; and the deep, foaming waters rush through the passage with great

velocity. A chilling sensation passes over the beholder as he contemplates in this wild and solitary region this fearfully majestic spectacle: and the time is not far in the future, when it will be visited by the curious as one of the wonders of the world.

The agents of the Missouri Fur Company, many years ago, followed up the valleys of the sources of the Platte to the opposite valleys of waters that fall into the great lake of Bueneventura on the other side. They found a good road all the way, and easily passable by loaded wagons; and were so struck with the feasibility of the pass, that they then prophesied, that, within half a century, the waters of the Missouri would be united with those of the western sea by navigable canals. Later explorers have found other passes through the mountains, that afford more direct and easy communication between Nebraska and the country beyond the mountains. Col. Fremont describes the route pursued by him up the head waters of the Platte (Nebraska), which divide the mountains, as peculiar and interesting. He passed over from the Republican fork of the Kansas river, and descended into the valley of the Platte, along the foot of a mountain, and over the long, low spurs which slope gradually down toward the broad valley of that river. He describes the country as being beautifully watered, and every hollow as having a clear, cool, mountain stream. The first morning after entering that valley, he and his party crossed seventeen branches, several of them being large creeks, forty and fifty feet wide, with a swift current, and tolerably deep. They were variously wooded, with groves of aspen and cotton-

wood, with willow, cherry, and other scrubby trees. Buffalo, antelope, and elk were frequent during the day, and, in their abundance, sometimes reminded him slightly of the Sacramento valley. The next day, they continued their journey up the valley, the country presenting much the same appearance, except that the grass was more scanty on the ridges, over which was spread a scrubby growth of wild sage; but still, the bottoms of the creeks were broad, and afforded good pasture ground. Their course brought them, in the afternoon of the second day, to the main Platte river, here a handsome stream, with a uniform breadth of 70 yards, except where widened by frequent islands. It was apparently deep, with a moderate current, and wooded with groves of large willow. The valley narrowed, as they ascended, and soon degenerated into a gorge, through which the river passed as through a gate. They pursued the narrow passage, and found it soon opening into a beautiful circular valley of 30 miles diameter, walled in on every side with snowy mountains, but rich with water and grass, and fringed with pine on the mountain sides below the line of snow. The Indian name, he says, for this paradise to grazing flocks, signifies "Cow lodge," and the enclosure, the grass, the water, and the herds of buffalo roaming over it, naturally suggested the idea of a park. Its elevation above the sea, is 7,720 feet. The Nebraska, or Platte, as it is more commonly called, collects its first waters and takes its first form in this elevated cove, and from the gorges of the surrounding mountains, and some lakes within their bosoms. The third and fourth day,

they continued through the "New Park," and fell into a broad and excellent trail made by buffalo, where a wagon could pass with ease. On the fourth day, or the seventeenth of June, they crossed the summit of the Rocky Mountains, through a pass which he says was the most beautiful he had ever seen. This elevation was about 9,000 feet above the level of the sea, and the grounds were richly covered with grasses, and afforded, besides, some scattering aspen trees.

We have now reached the utmost westerly bounds of Nebraska, and find the purest waters, fine pasture, sublime mountain scenery, crystal lakes and rivulets, bounding brooks, and roaring torrents, a pure, bracing atmosphere, and easy, natural thoroughfares, leading from the Pacific toward the Atlantic, and *vice versa*. Any country, watered by streams as fresh from pure, cool fountains as those which make up the wonderful Missouri, must be rich in that indispensable element. We cannot contemplate the vast distance from the mouth of the Mississippi to the sources of that and the Missouri, and take into account the grand ocean of waters which those streams and their tributaries annually carry to the sea, without wondering that the briny deep has not long ago overflowed its bounds. The ancient inhabitants of the old world, who did not, like Solomon, understand that "unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again," had they seen the "Father of Waters," and this monster tributary, would have been overwhelmed with apprehensions of a second "Noah's flood," without the process of pouring water from the clouds.

cent Platte river, which has a longer course than any other tributary of the Missouri. It rises in the same range of mountains with the parent stream, and, measured by its meanders, is supposed to be nearly 1,200 miles in length, and may be boatable most of the distance; though, on account of some obstructions, it is at present navigated only some fifty miles from its mouth. It is a shallow stream, which its name implies, and may possibly prove to be boatable only during its floods; But whether it is to prove of any particular value as a water communication or not, we need not now stop to inquire, though we do so before we leave the task in hand.

The valley and borders of the Platte are the regions where most of the public attention is at this moment directed; at least, that portion of the public who think of homes or speculations in Nebraska. Yet, in this Territory we have a wide field for enterprise. No other country has so many beautiful streams, or so many miles of navigable waters within its bounds. We would like to enlarge upon the wonders, the riches, and the grandeur of the Missouri. But we cannot dwell longer upon the theme, which volumes, if written, would fail to exhaust; we must leave further description of that stream, at once the wonder and the pride of Nebraska, for the employment of abler pens. New features and new peculiarities of the country, as well as new views of interesting subjects press upon our mind as we advance into Nebraska. Many of its wonders and treasures have been revealed to the eye of man, but doubtless vastly more remain to be discovered.