

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 territory, 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