

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 height. 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