

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.

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