

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 ecstasy as he saw them here, like an ocean