

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