

## NEBRASKA.

In entering upon our description of Nebraska Territory, we have a wide field before us, much of which has hitherto been but very imperfectly explored, and equally vaguely described. While it was seen away off in the distant background, in the rear of "the West," or the frontier settlement of our country, people contented themselves with the random sketches of single explorers, and the reports of trappers, hunters, and Indian traders; but the time has come when the curiosity of the world has become excited in regard to this tract of country, lately christened by the euphonic name Nebraska. She has made her bow within the borders of civilization, and astonished everybody by her sudden appearance inside the frontiers. By the magic influence of railways and magnetic wires, she has been brought from the dim and distant background which she occupied in the past, unperceived by the superficial observer, until she made her *debut* as a Territory among the settlements, and was seen bound in the bundle of Uncle Sam's recognized treasures.

The word Plains, when applied to the prairies of Kansas and Nebraska, has heretofore been understood as signifying a region outside the pale of civilization. And it conveys the idea of a vast, level, woodless wilderness, alternating with grassy swells, and sandy wastes—with sluggish streams and marshy swales, Indian wigwams, painted warriors, wild beast and desolation. In the picture which it unfolds to the immigration, there is, in the foreground, clusters of native huts—

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