

IV.

COLORADO AGRICULTURAL FAIR—TRIP FROM DENVER TO LAPORTE—
LAPORTE TO VIRGINIA DALE—STONEWALL CAÑON—STEAMBOAT
BUTTE, ANTELOPE PASS AND THE LARAMIE PLAINS—ARRIVAL AT
FORT JOHN BUFORD.

FORT JOHN BUFORD, LARAMIE PLAINS, D. T., }
Thursday, September 27, 1866. }

The first Agricultural Fair of Colorado had been advertised to come off on Thursday, September 20, and be continued on Friday and Saturday; but the severe storm of the preceding Wednesday had made the traveling so bad, that the Committee determined to postpone the commencement till Friday, and continue the exhibition till the following Tuesday.

On Friday morning Mr. Williams and myself were invited to visit the grounds by General Pierce, the Surveyor-General of the Territory, and General Hughes, the general agent and attorney for Holladay's Overland Stage and Express Company. We found that the grounds, which are situated about one and a half miles to the northeast of Denver City, consisted of forty acres of most beautiful plain in the form of a parallelogram, inclosed by a tight wall, composed of concrete, about two feet thick and eight feet high. Upon one side of the rectangle was an elliptical track one half mile in length, for the trial of the speed of horses and mules; and upon the other side were innumerable stalls for the exhibition of domestic animals. In the centre was a large covered amphitheatre, in which were exhibited the products of the soil, and such articles of trade and commerce as the mechanical skill of