

And we came away from the fair grounds, after witnessing one or two trials of speed between a lot of second or third class trotting horses, impressed with the idea that this young and unfledged State was bound soon to take higher rank in the confederacy than some of the "Old Thirteen."

Under the new programme, the trial of the fastest horses, and riding by the ladies, which we would like much to have seen, had been postponed to the following week.

FROM DENVER TO LAPORTE.

On the afternoon of Saturday, September 22, we again left Denver, by Holladay's Overland Stage Line, for the scene of our future explorations in the Black Hills, north and west of Laporte. The light from the stars and waning moon was barely sufficient to reveal the dim outline of the ragged sides and crest of the mountain ranges as we passed within a few miles of their base, and across Clear, Coal, Boulder, St. Vrain, Little and Big Thomson and Cache la Poudre Creeks, that flow from the huge gorges in their sides.

We reached Laporte, a distance of sixty-seven miles by stage road from Denver, at daybreak on Sunday morning, and found most comfortable quarters at the stage-station, kept by Mr. Taylor; and were joined, in the evening, by General G. M. Dodge, Chief Engineer, and Mr. James A. Evans, Division Engineer, of the Union Pacific Railroad.

We were now about to enter in real earnest upon the rough and adventurous features of our excursion. General Dodge commenced our education by intimating in the most gentle manner, that we would be expected to feed, water and clean our saddle-horses during the trip.