

VI.

THE PARTING SUPPER AT LAPORTE—JOURNEY TO DENVER—RETURN TRIP OVER THE PLAINS TO KEARNY—MEETING WITH BEN HOLLADAY AND FRIENDS—RAILROAD TRIP TO OMAHA—TRIBUTE TO THOMAS C. DURANT—REMARKABLE PROGRESS OF THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD—TROUBLES AT THE HERNDEN HOUSE.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, *Monday, Oct. 8, 1866.*

LAPORTE TO DENVER AND KEARNY.

After a most excellent parting supper from the antelope, killed the previous day, and other fixings which our hostess, Mrs. Taylor, provided in her best style, Mr. Williams and myself parted from our friends, Gen. Dodge and Mr. Evans, at Laporte, on the evening of October 1, and took the stage for Denver; which place we reached for breakfast on the following morning, without accident or adventure. The succeeding day was spent in preparing for our departure eastward.

On Wednesday morning, October 3, we took our seats in one of Ben Holladay's best coaches, in company with Senator Chaffee, of Central City, Colorado bound for a connection with the somewhat more comfortable cars of the Union Pacific Railroad, at the nearest practicable point, which we hoped to be Plum Creek, or some point further west.

The roads were in excellent condition; and nothing worth noting occurred to break the dull monotony of our passage over the dry and sterile plains, covered with low tufts of yellow frost-bitten grass, and the