

whitened bones or decaying carcasses of innumerable cattle which had fallen out by the way, until we reached Fort Kearny on the following Saturday morning for breakfast.

Mr. Williams, however, did not lose an opportunity of impressing upon our minds, as we met and passed the long emigrant and freight trains, wending their slow and tedious way to and from the more distant West, the truth and practicability of his favorite theories in relation to the formation and ultimate destiny of this portion of the country, which were :

First.—That the Great Platte Valley, extending, as it does, in a direct line eastward, nearly six hundred miles from the base of the Rocky Mountains to the Missouri Valley, was intended as the great thoroughfare for the overland commerce of the world.

Second.—That the Platte River itself was intended, in the first instance, to supply water to the early pioneers and emigrants in their pilgrimages to and from the Rocky Mountains; and subsequently to afford the means for irrigating the immense plains along its borders; and thus render it eventually one of the finest pastoral and agricultural regions upon the continent. And,

Third.—That the perpetual snows upon the mountains were intended to furnish an unfailing supply of water to the mountain streams which flow into the Platte; and thus, during all time, afford the means of irrigation to the extensive table lands along the eastern base of the mountains.

BEN HOLLADAY AND FRIENDS.

At Fort Kearny we met the veritable Ben. Holladay himself, with his agent, Mr. Street, and travelling companion, Dr. Sayre, of New York city; together with a