

and training of thorough-bred horses. Our next stopping place of importance is Topeka, the capital of the State. Here we stop for dinner; and I was very agreeably surprised to find that the *cuisine* of the railway restaurant also improves as we go farther West. This one is a nice brick hotel, owned by a company, and the table I sat down to, as comfortable as one could wish; plenty of good plain food and attentive waiters. Evidently the management of this railway appreciates the fact that the best plan to find the way to a traveller's heart is through his stomach, for nothing so agreeably astonishes one nowadays as to get a good wholesome meal at a railway eating-house.

Topeka was first located in 1854, and now has a population of about 12,000. Here are the great Rolling Mills for rolling railroad-iron, which are leased and operated by the Kansas Pacific Railway; the beautiful building of the Capitol, Washburne College, the Topeka Female Seminary, and no end of handsome stores, banks and private residences. But "onward" is the word, and taking my stand on the rear platform of my sleeping car, I enjoy the fresh balmy air and lovely scenery, as we glide along through the celebrated Kaw Valley, with its broad and beautiful bottom land, its numerous timbered creeks and rivulets, and the gently undulating prairie in the background. It is the 10th of November, but the air is still warm and pleasant, and an overcoat would be oppressive.

Smoothly we steam along through the luxuriant corn-fields and rich farms of Shawnee county, until we