

completion the mammoth work which they have undertaken.

When it is remembered that this great transition has been accomplished in one short year, in a country destitute of labor, materials, and supplies; and with nothing but the dangerous and uncertain navigation of the Missouri River to rely upon during the summer months as a base of operations, it must be admitted that a new era is dawning, or rather has already been successfully inaugurated, in the history of railroad construction.

#### ARRIVAL AT OMAHA—DEPARTURE OF MR. WILLIAMS.

Arriving at the Omaha depot in the early evening, we were met by our genial friend Major Bent, of burnetizing notoriety, who kindly assisted us to the Hernden House, and saw that we were comfortably quartered for the night.

We found, however, that the Hernden, which has long been regarded as one of the most prominent institutions of Omaha, was in a sort of transition state, and its guests, as the farmers say, "between hay and grass." Our long time friend, and distinguished host, Mr. Allan, had been called upon by Dr. Monell, the landlord, to surrender its use and occupation into the fair hands of Mrs. Brownson, who had recently leased it, and stood ready to enter upon the duties of hostess as soon as Mr. Allan could find it convenient to evacuate the premises, all of which the said Allan seemed in no haste to do.

An entire week had been spent by the parties in strategy and legal skirmishing, during which it was not unusual for Allan, on visiting the kitchen in the morning, to find Mrs. Brownson's cooking-stove standing in the place of his own, which had been thrown over the adjoining