

an interest in the greatness, the grandeur, and the boundless resources of our national heritage.

THE TWO GREAT RAILROADS.

It is rather an awkward and embarrassing circumstance that the road which runs up the valley of the Platte, and that which runs up the valley of the Kansas, should both bear nearly the same name. The first is the *Union Pacific Railroad*; the other the *Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division*. This sameness of name arose out of the original programme, which was, that the Kansas road should be carried up the Republican Fork of the Kansas river, thence across the Platte river at the 100th meridian, and there unite with the Platte road. But by Act of Congress, of July, 1866, the Kansas Company were authorized to build their road up the Smoky Hill instead of the Republican, and make their junction with the other road at Denver, or that vicinity, at about the 105th meridian. This change retarded the work on the Kansas road considerably; but it greatly shortens the line to Denver, and leads the road through a much better country—one of good soil, abundance of water, and through a section abounding in coal and pine timber.

But what is of still more importance, the road by the Smoky Hill route has a slight southern bearing as far as the western line of Kansas, at which point, or near it, it is in contemplation to change the direction of the main line to the southwest, through the southeastern corner of Colorado, and thence, through New Mexico, Arizona, and Southern California, to San Francisco. The original plan, however, of pushing on to Denver, is to be carried out. The feasibility and the advantages of this southwestern route, *around* the mountains instead of *over* them, are fully discussed in my concluding letters; and I trust the reader, who will favor me with an attentive perusal of the facts and arguments offered, will agree with me in the opinion that this is by far the better route to the Pacific.

RAILROADS A NECESSITY IN THAT COUNTRY.

To subdue and occupy such a country as that beyond the Mississippi, will require greater forces than were employed in the conquest of the section of our country east of that river, where,