

although very much aided by navigation on the lakes, and on the Ohio and other rivers, settlement was half a century creeping from the Alleghenies to the Mississippi, as it had been an entire century making its way from the tidewater of the Atlantic to the western slope of the Alleghenies. In the trans-Mississippi region, where Nature assumes vaster and sterner features, and where there are few available rivers to aid in the work, artificial means of transportation are imperatively necessary, and must first be supplied. The old process must be inverted. The locomotive must precede the plough, and the town the farm. Even Kansas, with all its fertility — except for a comparatively short distance along its eastern border — could not be occupied in any other way. Colorado, except a few of the best of its gold mines, is practically valueless until reached by rail. New Mexico, with its rich resources, pastoral, agricultural, and mineral, is yet almost an unknown land to our people, although we have had possession of it for twenty years. Arizona is still more isolated and unknown, rich as it is in mineral treasures. California we reach by sea, and by passing through the territory of a foreign nation. And what is true of the line here indicated is equally true of that of the road which runs up the valley of the Platte, and which opens a way into the territory of the great Central Plateau, and of the remote Northwest.

THE EXCURSION.

At the invitation of JOHN D. PERRY, Esq., President of the Union Pacific Railway Company, Eastern Division, a large party of ladies and gentlemen, including many members of Congress, set out from Philadelphia on the 31st day of May, 1867, to make an excursion to Fort Harker, in Kansas, 225 miles west of the Missouri river, then the terminus of that road. Handsome and commodious saloon and sleeping-cars were provided, which were taken entirely through and back, and everything that well-directed generosity could do to render the excursion pleasant and agreeable, was done. Col. SAMUEL S. MOON, of Philadelphia, who had charge of the expedition, will be long and cordially remembered by the excursionists, for the graceful courtesies extended by him to the members of the party.

As we progressed through State after State, our numbers