

W. N. W., about forty miles west of Fort Riley, is one of the most picturesque and fertile regions we have seen; and although the railroad only reached it this spring, I am informed that a thousand settlers are in it already. Solomon City—near where the railroad crosses the stream—is a brisk and rather pretty business place. It looks like a town that is destined to thrive. Salina, another new town, a few miles further west, is still more thrifty, containing, according to the best information I could get, nearly two thousand people. We dined there yesterday. I mingled for a while with the Denver ox-teamsters, a hardy, robust, and sociable class of men. One little party, who were cooking their dinner, wanted me to go with them. They said if I wished to go to Denver, it was the best way I could go. I asked how long it would take to make the trip? “Only a month and a half.” “Are you not afraid of the Indians?” I asked. “No; you fellows out East think and talk more about the Indians than we do,” was the answer. I declined the invitation.

The Union Pacific Railway from the Missouri to Fort Harker is a substantial and good road—better than any we found between Steubenville and the Mississippi. Between Salina and this place, where the road runs across a long southern bend in the river, there is some heavy cutting and filling.

Fort Harker is about two miles east of Ellsworth, on a beautiful piece of ground at a moderate elevation above the river. There are but few valuable buildings, nor is it likely there ever will be more; for the railroad will render even a military post at this place unnecessary. General Hancock declared that every forty miles of this road finished enabled the Government to dispense with the services of a regiment of men, at a saving, in this distant region, of more than a million of dollars a year.

At Fort Harker, this afternoon, we had an enthusiastic adjourned meeting of the excursionists, at which Senator John B. Henderson, of Missouri, presided, Gen. Cameron and a small party of friends having returned last evening. Brief but animated addresses were made by Hon. John B. Henderson, of Missouri; Major General Hancock, U. S. A.; Hon. G. S. Orth, M. C. of Indiana; Hon. A. F. Stevens, of New Hampshire; Hon. J. A. Nicholson, of Delaware; A. H. Laffin, of New York; Wm. E. Niblack, of Indiana; Hon. Wm. E. Chandler, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Washington; Hon. C. D. Hubbard, West Virginia; Hon. B. M. Kitchen, West Virginia; Hon. Frank Jordan, Sec. Com. Pennsylvania; Hon. Jas. S. Thomas, Mayor of St. Louis; Hon. C. H. Clark, of Kansas; Hon. R. F. Van Horn, of Missouri; Gen. Thos. L. Price, of Missouri; Hon. C. A. Newcomb, of Mis-