

a new hotel, on strictly temperance principles, will be opened near the railroad station at this place, by Mrs. ANNE BICKERDYKE and Mrs. GREENE. I made the acquaintance of both these ladies at the house of Col. Phillips. Mrs. Bickerdyke's name occupies a high place as an active and laborious Christian, and also among the "Women of the War." Her labors among the soldiers, in camp and hospital, were long-continued and very efficient. I have read her biography, and found it extremely interesting. Mrs. Greene is also an excellent lady. Their house will be an acquisition to this town.

The "Smoky" continued to rise until Thursday morning, when it began slowly to recede. Between this and Junction City some two or three culverts and a little tressel-work were damaged, and as the river has been up so long, it was impossible to make any repairs, and hence the long delay. But for the water, a few hours would have sufficed to have put the road in running order. I think the Company will now raise the road-bed in a few places between Junction City and this town. Above this it is all right, and below Junction City the trains have run regularly. The flood in the Solomon and Saline was, I am told, unprecedented. The Smoky Hill has not been so high since 1858.

To show how fast they do things here, I may mention that the Methodist Society have reared a neat little meeting-house from the foundation since I have been here, that is, this week, and expect to hold a quarterly meeting in it on Sunday next.

The weather is quite warm. Day before yesterday the thermometer rose to 80 degrees. Yesterday it could not have been less than 90 degrees, and to-day it is equally high; but the fine, fresh, invigorating breeze prevents it from being oppressive.

Yesterday two of our friends of the excursion, Hon. J. L. Thomas, M. C. of Maryland, and E. D. Kennedy, Esq., of Pittsburgh, came down here—having left the party going to Pond Creek—and are now water-bound like myself. They went as far as Big Creek, fifty miles beyond Ellsworth. They represent it as a still better country than that around Fort Harker and Ellsworth. The first day or two the party were drenched with rain, but had very fine weather afterwards. They had killed four buffaloes, one of which, a big bull, stood quite a siege from the whole line before he succumbed. They left the rest of the party, led and commanded by General Hancock, well and in good spirits. We shall return down the Kansas together.

This morning I had an interesting conversation with a man of considerable intelligence and an accurate observer, who has spent some time in the neighborhood of Big Creek, where the railroad line crosses that stream and follows its valley for about twenty-five miles. This