

Below Junction City—at which place the Republican, uniting with the Smoky Hill, together form the Kansas, or the Kaw, as it is more frequently called here, and below which the channel is much wider—the flood did no harm to the road. In the fifty miles between Junction City and Salina, about eight miles of the road-bed will have to be more or less elevated. Some say the flood of 1858 was equal to this; others say it was not.

The Senatorial party reached Junction City on Thursday; but the same cause which kept me from getting down prevented them from getting up; so, of course, I did not succeed in joining them. They returned on Friday, greatly pleased with the country, the railway and the people. Messrs. Wade, Covode and others spoke at Lawrence, Manhattan and Junction City. The free air of Kansas would be wholesome to such lungs as theirs. But as I have not thought it necessary to be careful to gather up the incidents of their trip, such things not being the subject of my letters, I shall not attempt to tell what they did or said. The only disappointment I have felt since I left was my inability to join them at Leavenworth as intended.

This flood will be advantageous to this railroad, as it will afford known high-water marks to guide the engineers in their future operations, which they have not heretofore had. The alterations needed in the portion of the road already laid, can be made at a comparatively trifling cost. Although it was not so pleasant to myself to be water-bound at Salina, as it would have been to have joined the Senatorial party, I cannot say that I regret it, for it gave me an opportunity of seeing for myself how the road stood this trying ordeal. Moreover, it held me for a week at that stirring town, at what is yet the extreme border of settlement—a far better point of observation of the great onward march than any of the lower towns would have been.

While at Salina I was joined by three of my friends of the excursion, who had started from Fort Harker with the party to Pond Creek, two hundred miles further up the Smoky Hill. Hon. J. M. Thomas, of Baltimore, E. D. Kennedy, Esq., of Pittsburgh, and Mr. Renwick, of Detroit. They went as far as Big Creek, about sixty miles; but as the progress of the party was impeded by the swollen streams, they felt constrained to return by stage. They bore a part in the chase and slaughter of four buffaloes, their narration of which exploits were rich indeed. Big Creek had been enormously swollen, and so sudden was the rise that five soldiers and two citizens were surrounded by the waters and drowned at Fort Hays. Gen. Hancock, on his arrival, ordered the location to be changed to higher ground.