

above Junction City—how many miles I cannot say—an enormous and solid stratum of this rock extends, in some places over six feet thick, and so soft that they cut it with axes in the quarry, and saw it into any forms they please with toothed saws, just as timber is sawed. Yet when exposed to the atmosphere for a while, it becomes almost as hard as marble and quite as indestructible. As to this last and most important fact I might have hesitated to take the words of the people there, who are very enthusiastic on the subject, and who think that they have an inexhaustible mine of wealth in that rock, had I not seen the angles of the stratum, as its face protruded from the face of the bluff, as sharp as ever, although they had withstood the beatings of the elements for centuries.

A company, with a capital of \$40,000, has just been organized at Junction City to saw up this stone, and otherwise work it into any and every form which the market may call for. The President of the Company told me that they proposed to saw it into slabs for flooring, one and a half inches thick, and into tiles for roofing, three quarters thick, and that they would turn it into any form which a lathe could give to wood or metal. I believe this enterprise will be a success. I saw some very large blocks of this stone at Topeka, on the ground where they are just beginning to erect the State Capitol. It will probably be one of the most beautiful structures in the country, but by no means the most expensive. This stone is practically inexhaustible, and will furnish a large item of transportation to the U. P. Railway.

While at Junction City two tall, slender chimney-tops were pointed out to me. They were built of thin blocks or slabs, set on edge—four making a round—cut out, as I was told, with a common hand-saw. They fitted so nicely that the joints were scarcely perceptible at the distance I stood, and the whole had the appearance of slender marble shafts. Mr. Martin, editor of "*The Junction City Daily Union*," (an energetic and enterprising Pennsylvanian, a good man, and one whose life is likely to be a success,) had a block of this stone in his office on which he showed me, by practical test, how a hand-saw operated. It cut into it rapidly and smoothly, although the block had become somewhat hardened by exposure to the atmosphere. Most of the buildings in Junction City are of this stone, which gives to that new place a very substantial and handsome appearance. For size and finish some of the stores would appear well in any city.

Some miles above Junction City—how far exactly I cannot say—the stone of the valley changes from lime to sand, and there is also a perceptible change in the soil, although it continues to be equally rich. At Salina, fifty miles above Junction City, they have abundance of