

excellent building-stone—a fine-grained, compact sandstone. Limestone also exists in abundance on the higher grounds. About twenty miles beyond Salina, where we stopped for an hour or two on our way down, I saw on the opposite side of a small creek, about half a mile south of the road, a bold rocky bluff. I walked across the intervening prairie, which was like a flower-garden, as near to the bluff as I could get for the stream. I found it to be a solid mass of rock—I think it was sand—of straight and beautiful cleavage, thirty or forty feet thick. It was building-stone of excellent quality. Beyond that is the brown sandstone of which I spoke in a former letter, and which abounds about Fort Harker and Ellsworth. Professor Mudge, of the Kansas State Agricultural College, and State Geologist for 1864, speaking of this beautiful stone, told me that it belonged to the same geological era as the red sandstone of Connecticut, so largely used for architectural purposes in New York, and is, like that stone, often found marked with the tracks of large birds of a former period.

Limestone is found in many places far beyond Fort Harker, and is probably abundant in all parts of the State. The lime made of that of which I have spoken more particularly is white and of excellent quality.

Marble, white, black and variegated, exists in many places and in boundless quantity in the southern parts of the State. The white is said to be pure, of an excellent quality and susceptible of fine polish. I saw no specimens; but at Lawrence a polished specimen, of black marble, taken from a quarry near Fort Scott, near the southeastern corner of the State, was shown me, which for lustre and fineness of grain I have never seen excelled. It is somewhat harder than any other American marble I have seen except the Potomac variety, which is rather a conglomerate than a marble. For mantles, time-pieces, &c., this Fort Scott marble would be admirable. There will soon be a connection by rail between Fort Scott and its circumjacent region and the Union Pacific.

But why, it may be asked, have I dwelt so long upon the single subject of the stone of this country that there is no room in this letter for the coal, the salt, the gypsum and the metals? I have done so, because stone is now and must ever be the principal building-material in Kansas. The cities of Leavenworth and Lawrence are mainly built of brick; but beyond these, where stone becomes more excellent in quality, and the clay less suitable for brick-making, but few brick buildings are seen. Even at Topeka the few brick houses to be seen attest that the business of brick-making is a failure. At Salina a few brick have been made; but when thoroughly burned they more