

resemble stone in color than ordinary brick. But as wood is scarce and stone plenty, and good, and easily quarried, the latter must ever be the cheaper material. Frame houses are costly, because much of the lumber must be brought from St. Louis or Chicago. But the Great Dispenser of blessings and benefits, if He has withheld some things deemed essential to human comfort and well-being, has supplied with a lavish hand other things even better. And when Kansas shall be fully occupied, no people in this Union will have more beautiful or more comfortable dwellings.

Of the other mineral resources of this State — which, in the language of Professor Mudge's Report, contains 78,418 square miles, is ten times the area of Massachusetts, one-sixth larger than Missouri, and about one-third larger than England — the extent and importance of which astonished me, I shall speak more fully in my next letter.

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LETTER X.— *Mineral Resources of Kansas, continued* — Coal — Salt — Gypsum — Alum — Iron.

ST. LOUIS, June 26, 1867.

COAL.

As no coal is yet mined in Kansas, except in a few places in the southern counties, I cannot pretend to speak on this topic from my own observation. I shall therefore draw largely from the report of Prof. B. F. Mudge, State Geologist, printed in 1866. I had a long and interesting conversation with that gentleman at the State Agricultural College, near Manhattan, twenty miles this side of Fort Riley. His views, as expressed in his report, have been but slightly modified by his subsequent observations. Under the head of "Coal Measures," he says:

"The lowest geological formation known in Kansas is represented by the upper portion of the Coal Measures. It is a continuation of the coal field which covers the northeastern part of Missouri and the southern part of Iowa, and also extends into the Indian territory south of this State. Like the deposits of those States, the dip of the strata here is to the northwest, passing at a low angle of inclination under the Permian, Triassic and other later stratifications. The Coal Measures cover a larger area of the State than any other formation, being nearly one-third of the whole. The fossils of this epoch are formed all over the eastern part of Kansas, and exist as far as Fort Riley.

"The line which separates the Coal Measures from the Permian runs rather irregularly in a northeasterly and southwesterly direction. Considering Fort Riley as on the line of average extent westerly, we