

speak from my own observation. I was assured that no better graded free school was to be found in Boston than here, and certainly they have a very ample and well-finished school edifice. But a single place exists in the town where intoxicating drinks are vended, and even that is likely to be closed. Some time ago a man set up a billiard table, but it would not pay, and he went off with it. In fact, idleness, vice, and rowdyism are almost unknown.

There are many good stores in the place, and the principal street has something of a city aspect. Buildings are going up rapidly, nearly all of that beautiful stone of which I spoke in a former letter; and altogether the place appears to be busy and thriving.

There is a fine water-power at Manhattan. Some three miles above, by the road, but more than three times that distance by the course of the stream, there is a considerable fall in the Big Blue — which is a large, clear, and standing river — at the head of which a substantial stone dam has been erected. A race of three miles across the level neck of the peninsula, and down past the base of Blue Mont, will bring the water to the town, and give a fall, as I was informed, of about twenty-four feet — enough to propel a very large amount of machinery. The Kansas itself, I am told, can also be made available for a like purpose. I see no reason why this may not become an important manufacturing town.

LETTER XIII.— *Towns in Kansas — Junction City — Solomon City — Salina — The Neosho Valley — The Seasons in Kansas — A Word to such as may think of Emigrating.*

ST. LOUIS, July 8, 1867.

OF the remaining towns in Kansas which I have seen — Junction City, Solomon City, Salina, and Ellsworth — I have already spoken pretty freely, and need say but little more. They are all ambitious little places, and are all the creatures of this road. Each is the centre of a large and fertile district, with which it will grow.

JUNCTION CITY,

situated as it is at the lower end of the fine valley of the Republican river, and only eighteen or twenty miles from the head of Neosho valley — probably the finest wheat-growing portion of Kansas — with which the people of that town hope ere long to be connected by railroad — has aspirations far beyond those of a mere county seat or the centre of a good agricultural surrounding.

I was much pleased with the spirit of enterprise everywhere mani-