

festated in this new and bustling place; yet there was much about it that did not strike me favorably. To have a superabundance of saloons, restaurants and billiard-tables, and not a single finished church edifice or a commodious school-room, is not the way to begin a city. There is a spirited daily paper published here by a Mr. Martin, a Pennsylvanian; a gentleman who is probably doing more for Junction City than any other man in it. Of the peculiar building-stone found here in exhaustless abundance, I have already spoken at length.

SOLOMON CITY.

This new *city* is situated at the confluence of the Solomon river and the Smoky Hill, nearly forty miles west of Junction City. I did not stop at it, and of its prospects I am unable to speak. If it can draw to it the trade of the fine valley of the Solomon, it will be a prosperous place.

SALINA.

This is the place where I was flood-bound for a week, and of which I have already spoken pretty fully. Being the centre and county seat of a large and very fertile county, and near to the salt springs, the gypsum beds, and other deposits of valuable minerals, its steady prosperity is sure.

There are some minor places, and some newly laid-out towns, which it is not necessary in this place to mention. These (spoken of in this and the two preceding letters) are all the towns of any importance in which I have been.

THE NEOSHO VALLEY.

This is the name of what is claimed to be the most fertile valley in Kansas, and, next to that of the Kansas, the most extensive. The Neosho river is a tributary of the Arkansas. It rises on the southern slope of a ridge or swell of no great elevation, a few miles south of the Smoky Hill, about the meridian of Fort Riley, and pursues a southeastern course until it reaches the neighborhood of the flourishing town of Humboldt, one hundred miles south of Lawrence. Thence its course is due south into the Indian territory and to the Arkansas. Its length in the State of Kansas is not much less than two hundred miles. The valley is wide.

This valley is supposed to be the best wheat land in the United States. Forty bushels to the acre is not unusual. A farmer at Carlisle, in Allen county, raised forty bushels per acre on a field of forty acres. Allen county lies south of Lawrence. Mr. Ice, of Chase county, which lies south of Fort Riley, raised in 1866 eight hundred and twenty bushels of wheat on sixteen acres, being fifty-four and