

The same is true, I believe, of the Normal School, as I know it is of the Agricultural College at Manhattan. There I saw young men and young women reciting together in the same classes, and certainly there appeared to be quite as much vigor of apprehension and understanding on the part of the latter as of the former. Towards each other their deportment was that of well-trained brothers and sisters in the home circle. Kansas is sufficiently civilized to mingle the sexes in the higher schools without danger of folly or impropriety.

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LETTER XV.—*Return of the Pond Creek Party—The line to Denver—Pine, Timber, and Coal—The Mountain Snows must be avoided—The Route and Distance to New Mexico—Superiority of the more Southern Route—Surveying Party.*

ST. LOUIS, June 29, 1867.

THE gentlemen who went on to Pond Creek from Fort Harker have returned safe and well. John D. Perry, Esq., the President of the Company, accompanied them. They all speak in glowing terms of the interest of the trip and of the beauty of the country through which they passed. The savages did not molest them. Gen. Hancock, with a small military force, as I said before, accompanied them up. The return trip was made in stage-coaches.

Pond Creek is within eight or ten miles of the western boundary of the State of Kansas; yet for the entire distance from Fort Harker to that place the prairies are clothed with luxuriant grass, and the soil is rich and deep. Timber is scarce, but there seems to be no lack of water. The soil is better than that I have already described between Salina and Fort Harker, a deep brown sandy loam, well adapted to the culture of both corn and wheat. All these gentlemen concur in representing the country beyond Fort Harker as still better than that over which we passed on this side of that point. They speak of the prairies of the Buffalo grass region as exceedingly beautiful and picturesque, and that the country is sure to settle up as fast as the railroad progresses.

At Fort Wallace the excursionists organized a meeting for the purpose of giving expression to the effect which all that they had seen and experienced had upon their minds. The resolutions adopted strongly and earnestly commend this great enterprise to the favorable consideration of Congress and the country, and urged its immediate prosecution.

Pond Creek (Fort Wallace) is an important point on this line; for there or in that vicinity it is that the line to New Mexico leaves the