

KANSAS TERRITORY.

Its Natural History—The Indian Reservations—What Emigrants Need—Why they are Disappointed.

The position, climate and soil of Kansas are such as indicate a future of importance. Lines drawn on the map from the extremes of the United States to the centre, unite within its limits; and the great roads which link together the eastern and western shores of the Continent pass over its fertile plains. The Santa Fé, Mormon and Oregon trails are splendid natural roads, traversed by trains of emigrants and traders, such as at the East would be regarded with unlimited wonder. Of all the surprises which there await the visitor from the East, perhaps none exceeds the view of these roads, with their caravans of great wagons, each drawn by eight or ten oxen or mules, and sometimes carrying a freight whose richness might shame the treasure-laden argosies of old Venice. One recent train, as I was there told, conveyed for Uncle Sam \$1,700,000 in gold.

The same causes that have thus far made Kansas the great highway to the Pacific, will tend strongly to continue it in this office when these natural roads shall give place to railways. Col. FREMONT's favorite route for a Pacific Railroad, as is well known, passes directly through it; and few who are familiar with the subject can doubt that a Pacific road will here find its passage. Add to this fact one more—that the so-called Pacific Railroad, now nearly completed from St. Louis to Jefferson City, has its terminus at Kansas City, with a further projection westerly, and I think the chances of Kansas will be admitted to be very strong.

The climate is one of the best in the world. Removed from the vicinity of the ocean and great lakes, the air is free from the dampness to which that of many of the States is subject; while it is not sufficiently far North to suffer from extreme cold. Persons afflicted with bronchitis or pulmonary complaints, experience on going to Kansas an immediate and permanent relief. It may most properly be called temperate, enjoying, as it does, from its neighborhood, latitude and altitude, freedom from extremes of weather, and uniting the advantages of more Northern and more Southern regions. All the crops most desirable for cultivation in the United States may be raised here in perfection. It seems particularly adapted to Indian corn, hemp and fruits; and from the gigantic native grape-vines, yielding excellent fruit, which are common in its groves, I infer that it will yet be famous for the production of wines.

The streams of Kansas are not numerous. The Missouri River bounds a portion of its eastern frontier; and the Kansas and Arkansas rise in its western extremity, ranging the one east and the other southwest through nearly its whole length. The Osage rises in the southeastern part, and with its tributaries amply waters that portion. The branches of the Arkansas and Kansas flow through nearly every part; and though they will not admit of many advantages of navigation, still, for other purposes, I think they cannot fail sufficiently to water the country.

The soil is various. The river bottoms are uniformly extremely rich, as are all such lands in the West. The uplands north of the Kansas, in the Eastern part, are very fertile and well watered; but after going seventy-five to a hundred miles west, the country changes into a continuation of rugged hills, covered with limestone boulders, and unmistakably sterile. Still further west, the country is said to improve; and it is also said to be better as it recedes from the Kansas River. But from the discoveries made among these hills, it is now certain that they are rich in valuable mines.

South of the Kansas, for a hundred miles west of the Missouri frontier, the prairies are wonderful. High and rolling in general, the soil is of a richness that almost exceeds that of the bottoms. I have seen it extend to the depth of several feet, and covered with a growth of grass and weeds of astonishing height and thickness. This entire region is capable of being converted into one continuous garden spot. It reminded me of the country about Lexington, Kentucky, which has produced successive crops of corn for over half a century, unaided by the application of replenishing fertilizers. In respect of richness and beauty, I think the ridge between the Kansas and Arkansas Rivers must be unequalled in the world. The extreme southern part, watered by the tributaries of the Osage and Arkansas, is even superior in beauty, but is said to lack something of the wonderful richness, though two corn crops are sometimes raised there the same season.

Further west, the uplands are not as good; portions are fit only for growing, and some parts are probably little better than plains of sand, suffering for want of water. But Col. BENTON asserts that the entire Territory is capable of successful cultivation; and the extreme west is described as no less picturesque and beautiful, with its lovely valleys and spring-producing hills, than the finest parts of Switzerland and Savoy.

Timber in Kansas is not plenty; it is very scarce. The annual fires have successfully prevented all growth of forests, except on the streams, where the water serves as a protection. Every Summer a vigorous growth of young trees starts up on the prairies, which is regularly and inevitably killed by the Autumn fires. Even those trees that survive, on the streams, are often stunted by the same cause, and fail to reach a great height, though they often attain an enormous circumference. The principal varieties are oaks of various kinds and black walnut, with cottonwood on the larger rivers. With these are interspersed coffee-tree, hickory, ash, elm and some maple. In the western part the pine is found.

This scarcity of timber is one of the first discouragements of the emigrant-tourist, and the greatest. He is in raptures with the magnificent, rich, rolling prairies, but imagines that the want of material for houses, fences and fuel will long bar its settlement. If his trip is short, he may end it with these impressions, and turn his steps toward the better-wooded, but less fertile and genial regions of Iowa and Minnesota. But if he penetrates further, other features will soon attract his attention. In the beds of the streams he crosses, and the bottoms of the gentle valleys, he will see unmistakable evidences of the finest limestone quarries, which, in connection with brick, will furnish him the most important materials for building; and if he travels where the streams are low, and explores their banks, he will be no less surprised than delighted to find strata of bituminous coal making out, of from one to four feet in thickness. Here is his fuel, and in abundance. And further observation and reflection will show him that an economical husbanding of the timber resources will give the first settlers all they need, and that an early planting of trees will furnish an ample after-supply by the time it is wanted.

The reservations of the Delaware, Shawnee, Osage, Ottawa, Pottowattamie and Kansas Indians embrace a considerable portion of the best land in the Territory. But these are being diminished by treaties, and there is enough for all present needs, and that as good as any. All these Indians are well advanced in civilization, and are not as much to be feared by the emigrant as many of the white savages in older countries. They are entirely friendly, and would deprecate hostilities as greatly as the emigrants themselves. Many of their chiefs are men of intelligence and education, and intermarriage with the whites has been so long practiced that it is not uncommon to find persons with only a small per centage of Indian blood in their veins.

As regards Slavery, it is true that it exists in Kansas, and has for years. I saw Slaves at the mission of Rev. Mr. JOHNSON, of the Methodist Church South, near the Missouri frontier, and a

his branch mission at Council Grove. I also saw them at *One Hundred and Ten*—recently imported. But the feeling of the emigrants is in favor of freedom; and if the scheme of ARCHISON and DOUGLAS is not too fatally successful, the "peculiar institution" will be voted out by a large majority. The real emigrants who come from the South, come to get rid of Slavery.

The Aid Companies have done something toward introducing Northern emigrants, but not nearly so much as their feeble efforts have stimulated the Slave interest to do. With lavish promises, the Massachusetts Company induced some hundreds to go to Kansas, a large proportion of whom, disgusted before they had even seen Kansas, or finding that their circumstances were inadequate to meet the realities of the case, have returned; some to stay, and some to take a new start in the Spring. The agents of this Company have complained that your correspondents should expose this bad management; but every day adds to the evidences, and will continue to do so. There is no doubt that, at this very moment, a large proportion of needless suffering is being endured by those who went out under its auspices. With a whole Summer in which to provide saw-mills, lumber and boarding-houses, according to promise, the first of November found them without a mill in successful operation, and a mere tent, the sole shelter for new-comers to Lawrence, against the storms and frosts of Autumn. Far better would it have been for the agents to have discouraged emigration this Fall, and made arrangements for a vigorous resumption of it in February, at which time the Missouri River will be open, and the Winter in Kansas nearly over.

And I would counsel such an early emigration to all who propose going next season. This will enable them to get houses sufficient for Summer accommodation before the time arrives for Spring work. The Lawrence people will probably be able then to furnish lumber to those who locate there; as will also those of Council City, a point being settled under the auspices of the American Settlement Company. This settlement is located at a most favorable point on the Santa Fé road—the very centre of the garden part of Kansas; and must command the advantages of the great travel passing through it. A city and farms are being laid out, and improvements effected which will make it a most desirable residence for those who, while they seek the business advantages of the new country, still prize the good society, comforts, books and churches of older communities. Though the plan originated in New-York, it is one which secures to the settlers all the advantages accruing from it, not admitting outside speculators to reap the profits of the rapid rise of lands which must result. And as this Company has not been very extensively advertised as yet, I would say that those proposing to emigrate will lose nothing by applying for further information to Mr. GEORGE WALTER, the general agent, No. 110 Broadway, New-York City. One steam saw-mill is already on the way to Council City, and another will start in a few days.

The advantages offered to emigrants by the rich soil, healthy climate and ready market of Kansas—the last being not the least important—are still further increased by the fact that they are offered by Congress the benefits of the preemption law. The settler can locate his quarter-section, (one hundred and sixty acres,) and cultivate it till it comes into market, which may be one or two years; he can then preempt and hold it another year without charge, and at the expiration of that time he can obtain a title at the minimum Government price—a dollar and a quarter per acre. Long before this time he can have made from the land the money required to pay for it, besides the necessary improvements.

Emigrants going out should take with them a good stock of clothing and garden seeds. Implements for the farm, stoves and all iron ware, can be best bought at St. Louis. Cattle, horses, mules, wagons, &c., and corn, wheat, and potatoes, can be found at fair prices on the Missouri border, near Kansas City, the point where emigrants mostly land. A good supply of *Osage Orange Seed* will be a capital investment, if the emigrant plants it himself—as it will become a favorite mode of fencing the prairie, producing, in three or four years from the planting, a hedge which will protect any field. Choice fruit stocks will pay a large profit in money and satisfaction.

The time between New-York and St. Louis by railroad, if the connections are all made, is about two days. From St. Louis to Kansas City will consume from two to six, according to the state of the river and speed of the boat. Mr. GEO. WALTER has been furnishing through tickets from New-York to St. Louis for \$20; whether the price will be increased under the increase of rates on some of the roads, I am not aware. From St. Louis to Kansas City the regular fare is \$12, including board; but the Aid Companies have negotiated for \$10. The incidentals, (meals, &c.,) on the way, if no extra delays are met with, need not exceed \$3 to St. Louis—and those who can manage to carry with them some ready-cooked provisions will be very apt to recommend the same precaution to others.

Time was when emigration was a serious thing. The very word, with the survivors of the past generation, is inseparably connected with ox-teams and tedious journeys of weeks together, through dreary and trackless woods. It is suggestive of unbridged rivers and log cabins, in the midst of fields which have only been partially rescued from the forest by years of severe toil, and which require still other years to dispossess them of the blackened stumps which dot their surface. Such persons, with the memory teeming with pictures like these, shrink at the word *emigration*, and cannot be brought to realize the change which time and science have wrought even here. They cannot conceive of a journey of fifteen hundred miles accomplished in a week; of a settlement three months old already supplying lumber, and brick and stone, and the workmen to fabricate it at once into tasteful and comfortable dwellings; of fertile fields lying all ready for the plow, and able to yield a more than generous return for all the labor bestowed, and which, with a few cow yards and stables, and a little concert and management among the neighbors, may very well dispense with fences for a year, or more, if they choose; of a society which will soon supply the place of that which they have left; of the easy transformation, in short, without a serious abridgement of material comforts, of the toiling day laborer of New-England or New-York, into the comfortable and well-to-do possessor of as fine a farm as ever blessed its owner with a generous subsistence. And yet the change is real.

LITERAL.

Medical.

The New-York *Medical Times* for January has a good portrait of Dr. JOHN W. FRANCIS, and original articles on surgical subjects from Dr. WILLARD PARKER, Dr. R. V. WILLIAMS, Dr. W. K. BROWN and Dr. S. HOOD, and they report a number of surgical cases treated by Dr. CHARLES D. SMITH, of Bellevue Hospital. This number is the fourth of volume fourth. The *Times* is published monthly at \$2 a year, forming a volume of some 450 pages yearly. Its chief excellence is in its Hospital Reports, proceedings of Local Societies and paragraphs of City Medical Intelligence. Edited by Drs. BULKLEY and ADAMS.

Dr. DUBOIS reported to the New-York Medical and Surgical Society, a case of triplets. The mother had never borne children before.

Dr. BUCK stated that Dr. LINSLEY had recently attended a case of triplets, and all the children were living. Their aggregate weight was 17½ pounds.

Dr. VAN BUREN reported a case of *harelip*, in which the operation was performed at the 50th hour after birth. It was a very bad case, there being wide separation of the edges, with absence of the roof of the mouth; separation of the alveola