

GEO. W. BROWN, Editor. LAWRENCE, KANSAS. SATURDAY MORNING, OCT. 9, 1858.

Here shall the Press the People's rights maintain. No Party, and no Party's aid shall give. Fledged to Truth, to Liberty and Law, No Favorer, and no Fear shall give.

Our Through Johnson County. Having occasion, a few days since, to visit Johnson county, we left home about 4 o'clock P. M., with the view of reaching McCamish, some twenty miles distant, that evening.

The road to Franklin, which place is four miles East of Lawrence, was found in excellent condition, and the distance was soon made. We had not visited that town for several months, during which period the spirit of improvement had been there, and several very desirable changes had been made in its favor.

The road beyond Franklin to the Wakarusa, some two miles or more, was found in a very bad condition, as it passes through the Wakarusa bottom. The protracted rains of the summer and autumn had completely saturated the earth with water.

The large amount of travel passing over this road has converted the light porous soil into mortar to a considerable depth, and rendered it almost impassable. As we passed over it we involuntarily called to mind the night of the 18th of May, 1856, when, as a prisoner, with the murdered JENKINS, we were carried over this bottom, (then ten to eighteen inches deep with water), by our "Border Ruffian" captors, on our way to Leocompton, to answer the charge of treason.

The full moon shed its mellow rays upon the scene, giving an indistinct outline of the forest, which was in our rear and near at hand; the elevated prairie, and Franklin in the distance; whilst in front and rear were a long line of horsemen with their military accoutrements; and on either side, in single file, with muskets and bayonets glittering in the moonbeams, were a body of footmen, half knee deep, trudging along through the water, keeping guard of us, apprehensive of an escape or rescue.

Their forms, mirrored by the pale moon in the calm quiet waters, which were only disturbed by their footsteps, doubled their numbers in appearance, and made a pageant never before witnessed in Kansas, and which we hope will never be realized again, in all its features.

Near BLUE JACK'S former residence, a double log house, situated on the East bank of the Wakarusa, is the point of divergence from the Westport road to those who are going from Lawrence to McCamish or Gardner. The road beyond this point was wholly new to us. It passes over a beautiful prairie country, occasionally divided by creeks and rivulets, and is not yet much settled. It seemed, as we passed over the road, that there must be a large country along this route yet open to pre-emption, though of this we may be mistaken. Night came on with some eight miles before us, and our destination, but we traveled on with a brilliant star twinkling in front, and the comet with its long bushy tail in the rear. Of the country we can say but little, as the outlines were only furnished us by star-light.

After numerous little adventures, common, probably, to the benighted traveler, ignorant of the road, we reached McCamish about 8 o'clock in the evening. After seeing our spirited horse provided for, we found ourself, soon after, stowed away for the night.

McCamish is an old trading post, formerly known to Santa Fe travelers as Bull Creek, and more recently as Hubbard, a post office of that name having been established there some eight years ago. It has many advantages as a business point, is furnished with an abundance of water, and it is probable it will make an active little inland town. They have a very good hotel there, with several stores and mechanic shops. West of the town site, and adjoining it, we believe, a new town has been projected by the name of Lawrenceville—Jim Lane being one of the promoters. Though the site is a very pretty one, yet the name will damn it permanently.

Renewing our journey the next morning, four miles east of McCamish, on the Santa Fe road, we found the town of Gardner. This is situated on an elevated prairie, away from timber and water, but in the midst of a lovely farming country. A large stone hotel, and numerous stores and mechanic shops, all erected in little more than a year, give us an idea of the energy of the proprietors of the town. Water, we understand, was found at a moderate depth below the surface; and, though lacking the advantages of timber, yet the lovely landscape, seen for several miles in every direction, makes up to the lovers of the beautiful, to some extent, this want, which, for a few years, until forests can be grown, must be supplied from more remote points.

Continuing the journey seven miles, a little north of east, along the Santa Fe road, and as near as possible a country as the sun ever shows upon, we came upon Olathe. This, too, is a beautiful point for a town, and is the present seat of justice for Johnson county. It was settled under Pro-slavery auspices, and is in Pro-slavery hands, yet Free State men reside there, and exercise their rights as freely—may we not say more so?—than many do in Lawrence. Digressing a moment, we give it as our opinion that there is no more intolerant or proscriptive place under heaven, than that where the population all entertain the same views on political questions. In Lawrence, where a variety of religious opinions are entertained, the people are truly tolerant on that question; but the moment politics are introduced, presto, change, and the Spanish inquisition, figuratively with its rack, and torture, and fire-brand is introduced to punish the luckless wight who does not believe that "the voice of the people is the voice of God." We have seen it, not only in our own person, but in that of all others who reside in the place, who do not act with the majority. Men whose heads "are silvered o'er with age," have been insulted and silenced among us because they advocated a different line of political policy from the masses; while a professed Pantheist, who even denies the existence of a God, in the popular acceptance of that term, is tolerated and listened to night after night, and is frequently applauded for his remarks. We are conscious that these ideas will be unpalatable to some of our readers who borrow the Herald of Freedom, so we return to our subject.

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Monticello is the first point worthy of observation this side of Shawnee, being seven miles from that place. It is very well located on the high prairie, insuring health to its inhabitants. The town was projected by gentlemen from Leavenworth, who, as an earnest of their ability to make a town at that point, removed thither themselves, and thus far success has crowned their endeavors. Two good hotels grace the town site, besides stores, dwellings, &c. Monticello must be looked upon as a fixed fact.

De Soto is some distance to the right of the principally traveled road, on the banks of the Kansas river. It gives promise of being a place by and by, though we apprehend that the location is not the most desirable one in the county. Lexington, three miles this side of De Soto, is making some progress, though rather slow at present. The country is fine around and, when densely populated, the need of a town there will be apparent, and its prosperity will follow as a natural consequence.

Eudora is some seven or eight miles west of Lexington, in Douglas county, and near Blue Jack's, where we diverged from the Westport road. It is settled and surrounded with a large German population, who may be complimented, justly, for their intelligence and energy of character. Those who visited Kansas from the East, in the fall of 1854, and the spring of '55, were in the habit of remarking that "the best portion of the lands of Kansas are in the hands of the Shawnee Indians, and years will intervene before their titles are wholly extinguished." While we cannot admit the truth of the remark, so far as being the best portion of Kansas, yet we cheerfully concede that to those travelers it was the loveliest country they had ever seen; and we do not wonder that they were solicitous of getting possession of it. It is everywhere rolling, with numerous streams skirted with timber, and an endless variety of scenery, almost enchanting to the traveler accustomed to the monotonous prairie of an Illinois prairie.

While traveling on the Santa Fe road we were astonished to see the large trains of covered wagons, loaded with "claim hunters," having with them their families, stock, household and farming utensils, and ready to go to work as soon as a suitable location could be found. During the whole period we were traveling on that road, but a short time elapsed when more or less teams of this description were not in sight. Most of them were making their way to the Neosho Valley, generally in the region of Emporia.

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In Lawrence, where a variety of religious opinions are entertained, the people are truly tolerant on that question; but the moment politics are introduced, presto, change, and the Spanish inquisition, figuratively with its rack, and torture, and fire-brand is introduced to punish the luckless wight who does not believe that "the voice of the people is the voice of God."

We have seen it, not only in our own person, but in that of all others who reside in the place, who do not act with the majority. Men whose heads "are silvered o'er with age," have been insulted and silenced among us because they advocated a different line of political policy from the masses;

while a professed Pantheist, who even denies the existence of a God, in the popular acceptance of that term, is tolerated and listened to night after night, and is frequently applauded for his remarks. We are conscious that these ideas will be unpalatable to some of our readers who borrow the Herald of Freedom, so we return to our subject.

A warm contest was going on while we were in Johnson county, relative to the location of the county seat—Gardner Olathe and Shawnee, each being a candidate for that position, and each seemed certain of success.

Though we would not have ventured an opinion prior to the vote on this question, now we may be permitted to remark that, probably Olathe has a larger vote in its favor than any other point, though we are of the opinion that it has not a majority over the other two places.

The highest number of votes, however, will settle the question. Olathe, from its central and healthy location, will necessarily occupy one of the first positions in this county.

Eleven miles in a north-east direction, over a very good road, which has been greatly improved by the construction of a sort of "corduroy" bridge, using stone something after the manner of McAdams' roads, we found Shawnee, which, we believe, is the most populous town in the county.

It is situated thirty-two miles east of Lawrence, on the Kansas City road, and is ten miles from that point, nine miles from Wyandott, and we suppose, six miles from Westport.

It is located on a point known to Californians and those who traveled over it in the country '54, '55 and '56, as Gum Springs, since which the town has been projected, and now numbers several hundred inhabitants.

The houses are generally neatly built, and painted white, giving to the place, situated as it is on a beautiful prairie, near timber and water, a very fine appearance as it is approached from the west or south.

They have a large and commodious hotel, kept by Mr