

ST. CLOUD DEMOCRAT.

JANE G. SWISSELM.

"Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward."—EXODUS, CHAP. XIV, VERSE 15.

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

VOL. 1.

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NO. 9

ST. CLOUD DEMOCRAT OFFICE ON THE WESTERN BANK OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, 83 MILES ABOVE THE FALLS OF ST. ANTHONY, OPPOSITE THE STEAMBOAT LANDING.

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Minnesota Correspondence of the Boston Post. LETTER NO. 4. Trip to the Red River Continued.

Saturday, July 24.—We were up at four. A good deal of the pleasure of our morning travel must be offset against annoyance of mosquitoes which generally continue their attacks till the sun is well up. Reached Chippewa at seven, where we again halted and breakfasted. Distance eight miles. The land is still very rolling, and covered with a thick and luxuriant grass. The section of sloughs difficult enough to traverse, considerable care in crossing, keeps attention up. There is scarcely anything to notify us of Chippewa river till we are on the verge of its narrow basin, a tributary of the Minnesota, and at its crossing three feet deep and about twenty wide. It is clear, with a hard bottom, but muddy banks. After our meal over the horses needing more time to it, I determine for the sake of variety to ride the river and walk on ahead. The river bottom appears to be one hundred feet above the prairie level. In half a mile after ascending the sloping bank, the east end of the long lake is reached. As its name indicates, this is a long body of water south of the trail, and quite narrow. Like nearly all the lakes in this region, its shore for the greater part of the way is skirted with oak trees. Here I took a particular view of the horizon-bounded expanse. To the west the south half of the surface as far as the sight extends forms a line as even as the sea without an object on it, while the north half ends in a dark shade of timber. To the north the most distant object is a range of cone-like bluffs circling round to the east like a miniature range of mountains, and finally connecting with an even horizon at the southeast. A heavy shower came up at ten, accompanied by sharp lightning and thunder. This I noticed gave greater activity to the frogs and toads, which in great numbers kept jumping from the trail into the grass.
I had walked seven miles before the team overtook me. In fact we were on something of a race, giving the advantage of a prior start, and an opportunity to desert the wagon at different points as we alternately came upon high ground. A mile further we reached *Pomme de terre* river. This is a clear stream, about three feet deep at present; and its valley, covered with tall waving grass, sinks gradually from the table land, and presents a beautiful picture.
At this river we again rested. From thence to Elbow Lake the distance is ten miles. The land is without timber, but we pass several small lakes in which are large quantities of wild rice and numerous flocks of ducks. As we approach Elbow Lake the scenery looking toward the west is extremely agreeable. Three miles further on is Lightning Lake north of the trail where we arrive at quarter past five. By not turning to the right and passing on the bank of the lake we are nearly mired in a slough. Ascend the high ground on the southern shore of the lake and camp for the night. There are numerous bear and elk trails about the lake which is surrounded with a few trees and very rank vegetation. Amidst the profuse shrubbery I observed an abundance of green grapes and plums. Cretaceous formations are here found on the surface of the soil. The grass indicates great fertility.
I am reminded that here is the dividing ridge between the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the Hudson's Bay. A very few miles west is the valley of the Red River which soon takes a direct northerly

course: while on the east the water course is towards the Mississippi and the south. The average surface is here about twelve hundred feet above the level of the sea.
July 25.—At the first crossing of the Red River of the North. We left Lightning Lake at five this morning and came twelve miles to this place before breakfast. Were five hours coming. A heavy shower accompanied by sharp lightning awakened us between two and three o'clock, and besides drenching ourselves thoroughly, wet the most of our luggage. This morning we passed a few lakes in which were large flocks of pelicans. These waters are also frequented by swans. Within six miles of the Red River the surface of the prairie becomes entirely level. The view south and west is interrupted by a solitary object. To the north we see the timber which skirts the river, and beyond the river, as far as sight extends, a view is caught of "leaf mountains" which are highlands covered with timber. As we approach the valley I think the grass appears a little more luxuriant than what we had observed even along the principal part of the route.—There is a preponderance of prairie or buffalo grass mixed with weeds and flowers. The banks of the river are twenty feet high and quite abrupt except at the crossing. I judge that the river is forty feet below the average prairie level. The current is rapid and winding. We are now within fifteen miles in a direct line of the confluence of the Bois des Sioux. A considerable quantity of pine logs is floating down the river being bound for Breckinridge from the northern pineries. Some of these logs are lodged just at the crossing so as to obstruct our passage.—But they are quickly removed by Spencer, whose tact and energy are worthy of commendation.
A peculiar interest seems to attach to this river on account of its course and the greatly exalted country through which it flows. Here its color is by no means red. Whether it is more so a hundred or more miles below where the stream from Red Lake joins it I know not. Its color here is that of clay being of similar hue to the Missouri. Where I ford it the depth is three and a half feet. After crossing the river its winding course is observed by the thin timber along its banks. We enter upon a plain perfectly level. At the end of three miles we leave the old trail and take the track direct for Breckinridge.—Twenty or thirty miles to the northeast "leaf mountains" are still discernible. We are going about west, and twelve miles ahead we can see the timber which surrounds the settlement of Breckinridge.—There is something very striking and grand in an expanse so vast and level and fertile. Here and there we cross meadows without noticing any depression from the general level. On these the grass is between three and four feet in height. A bush may now and then be seen; but the one constant view in every direction, as for thousands of summers it has been, is the limitless carpet of grass rolling in waves under the strong breeze and glittering with an exuberance of flowers. No one can help recalling the forlorn strain of the poet—
"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen
And waste its freshness on the desert air."
The incidents of barbaric life are yet of fresh occurrence here. War parties of the Dacotahs (or Sioux) and Chippewas from season to season cross these lands, pursuing those hereditary hostilities which so long have been the cause of wretchedness and woe, and which can only be stopped, as they should be stopped, by an act of congress duly enforced. To chastise the Dacotahs for their massacre of eleven Chippewas at Crow Wing in April last, an expedition was lately undertaken by the Chippewas. It was long talked about, and great preparations in their way were made. A few weeks ago, about three hundred started for the Sisseton village, near Lake Traverse. Hole-in-the-day, the chief, did not start till a day or two after the rest; and then came on in a buggy with two horses. But about the third day the buggy broke down. They reached the Sisseton village, captured a few hundred dollars worth of buffalo skins, cut down all the corn they found and returned. Hunger compelled a speedy return as they were lacking a commissary department; a deficiency which generally occurs in Indian warfare.
Arrive at Breckinridge at 5 P. M., having come to-day twenty two miles.
July 26.—The settlement of BRECKINRIDGE, named in honor of the vice president, is at the mouth of the Bois des Sioux. It is in the midst of a belt of oak timber which generally skirts the river banks.—At this point the Red River makes an abrupt bend, going a mile to make four rods in its main course. The Bois des Sioux having its source in Lake Traverse, flows directly north, forming an important angle of land between the two rivers. Six log buildings are in use on the site of the town. One of these is large enough to accommodate most of the men employed by the principal proprietors. There is a brick yard which was in operation last season,

and considerable machinery for steam mills, brought here at great expense and trouble. There are two pieces of land fenced and cultivated. The corn was damaged by grasshoppers early in the season, but what was spared looks well. There is a garden of two acres which has been well tended and contains a large supply of common vegetables in a thrifty and forward state. Considering the success of farming three hundred miles north, at the Red River settlement, agriculture need hardly be pursued experimentally here. The latitude of this place is 46° 15'.
The banks of the Red River are here from twenty to thirty feet in height, though in some places they slope gradually from the table land to the waters edge. The soil is a black loam tinged with blue, with less sand than is found in the Mississippi valley. The subsoil is of clay. The soil, vegetation on the river banks, forming the rich bottom lands along the Missouri. There is no lack of good soil anywhere about here. The land is claimed for a few miles along the river in either direction. But the principal improvements on the claims at present are log shanties. One settler is now engaged in breaking up 160 acres. Two men and five yoke of oxen are thus occupied every day. Those who now live here permanently are young men principally from New England. A large amount of pine lumber is now floating in from the pineries, having been cut in the region near Otter Tail Lake. This demonstrates an important fact, considering that the only want of settlers unsupplied by nature in this wide valley is timber. And yet I should say there is much hard timber along the river and its tributaries.
This settlement was begun, I believe, in February, 1857. The main trunk of the Minnesota and Pacific (land grant) railroad is already located to this point. The Red River is thought to be navigable from here to Lake Winesap; and there are abundant reasons for believing that somewhere about here must be the centre of a populous region. There are some places remote and difficult to reach where men may dig gold. But in the valley of the Red River, the settler may find golden opportunities. I may here remark that this valley is more extensive than the famous valley of the Nile.
July 27.—We arrived at Graham's Point at sundown yesterday. It is 12 miles below Breckinridge. On the Minnesota side is a settlement with one comfortable log house where we were well entertained. The river is here forty below the table land and the banks are rather precipitous. The bends in river are frequent. A belt of heavy timber extends along here half a mile wide. It consists of oak, ash, elm, and basswood. One oak tree which I noticed is a hundred feet high and four in diameter. Vegetation is luxuriant. I find this to be much more necessary place for a military post than I had supposed. The Indians frequent it, being attracted by the game and accommodated by the water communication to and from it.—The Sioux come down the sluggish Bois des Sioux from their villages on Lake Traverse and generally hunt along the western tributaries of Red River. A frequent route for the chippewas is from Otter Tail Lake down the Red River, then through Red Lake River to Red Lake.—Col. Ambercrombie is daily expected to locate the new post which is to be established here.
I forded at its most shallow place the depth being from three to four feet. I should think it was eighty feet wide. The distance from St. Cloud here by the most direct route is 145 miles.
Proceed on foot to Wild Rice River, in Dakota. It is five miles to that river.—It is a narrow stream sunk in a deep channel, and the timber upon its banks in Elk. For many miles it runs parallel with Red River. Return to Breckinridge walking twelve miles through the high grass of Dakota. The Indian title to the land in this part of Dakota is not yet extinguished, but here are some log shanties on the river bank belonging to licensed traders. There are two old settlements in Dakota two hundred miles north, which contain in the aggregate 1200 inhabitants. I refer to Pembina and St. Joseph. I believe it is the wish of those people that a government should be established for the territory as soon as possible. And I think it would be a wise policy to have the seat of government located as far north as here. For if there is any patronage flowing indirectly from a capital it would be just and statesmanlike to give it to this latitude.

The Economical Democracy.
"The expense of the government, as you have probably often heard, have increased enormously within the past few years.—The amount of money at the disposal of government for this year is more than one hundred millions of dollars. This, I know, has sometimes been disputed, but I have here the official statement made by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, showing that more than eighty-one millions were specifically appropriated at the last session of Congress, and there are indefinite appropriations to pay claims, the precise amount of which is not yet known, which amount, at the lowest estimate, to three millions and a half, making over eighty-four millions, and there is an unexpected balance of appropriations made last year, amounting to sixteen millions.—These sums altogether make more than one hundred millions of dollars at the disposal of the administration for the present fiscal year. I know it is said that it is unfair to charge all this to the present year; that a surplus will remain at the end of the year to be carried to the next list; but I think it is much more likely, that the administration will come in with a deficiency bill, and ask for some ten millions more, as they did at the last Congress, than that any surplus will remain. The expenses of the government during the administration of General Pierce were \$232,820,632. This is more than all the expenses of the government from 1790 when it was organized, for thirty years together, including the war with Great Britain in 1812. General Pierce expended more money during four years of peace than our government expended for the first thirty years after its organization. In 1823, the expenditures of the government for all purposes, exclusive of the public debt, were 9,784,596. In 1857 the expenses of the government, exclusive of the public debt, were 65,032,559.76. The pro rata according to the population in 1823 was 94 cents on each individual. The pro rata in 1857 was \$2.28 cents per man—94 cents to \$2.28 according to population.—Now these facts ought to attract the attention of the country; but perhaps if I were to state in detail some of the wastefulness of this government—some of the means by which these expenses have been increased, it would strike some minds more forcibly. I will call your attention to the city of Chicago. You have a custom house located here. In 1852, for the fiscal year, ending June, 1853, the last year of Fillmore's administration, there was collected at Chicago, \$111,868 86. Six men were employed to collect it, and they were paid \$2,882 32. That was a little over two per cent. For the year ending June, 30 1856, there was collected at Chicago, \$145,032 40. Sixteen men were employed in its collection and they were paid \$14,349 29 for doing it. Now I ask you, living right here as you do, is there any reason for this increased expenditure? Can you tell me why it cost ten per cent. the last fiscal year to collect the revenue at this port, and only a little over two per cent. four years ago? Is there any reason for it except that the government wanted to shower the money upon favorites? [Yes, there is a reason.] I don't know what it is. [The Democratic party must be sustained.] [Laughter and applause.] I think that is the best reason. [Renewed laughter.] They must sustain the office holders. But (Chicago is only a single case. I have the official report here and I will state a few other cases to show you how the government expends money. There are some other points where the expenditures for collecting the revenue are much worse than at this point. At Wilmington, Delaware there was collected in 1857, \$2,004 95. How many men do you suppose it took to collect that amount, and how much do you suppose they got for it? It took eight men, and the expense of collecting was 15,848 38! [Laughter.] Gentlemen, you begin entirely too soon. There are the better sort of cases. At Annapolis, Maryland, there was collected the same year \$374 25. [Renewed laughter.] How many men do you suppose it took to collect it? It took four men, and they were paid for their services \$882 42. At Oronoke, in North Carolina, \$82,65 were collected in 1857.—[Laughter.] It took seven men to do it.—[Laughter.] And an economical government, under a Democratic administration, priding itself on its economy, paid seven men to collect this, \$82 65, the sum of \$2,301.2. [Laughter.] At Port Oxford, Oregon Territory—now you would expect something extravagant over there—there was collected \$5 85, and it took two men to collect it, and they were paid for collecting \$2,702 08. [Great laughter.]—Can any of you make the calculation of the per centage that was paid to collect the \$5 85. I believe it was about 500 to 1. Don't you think the government ought to get rich?
From Senator Trumbull's Speech in Chicago.
We have mentioned the passage of a bill through the Senate near the close of the late session to raise the postage on letters from three to five and ten cents. We have seen the eyes and noses. Every senator who voted for that postage was a democrat.
Louisville Journal.

Minnesota Disfranchised by the Moccasin Democracy!
The terms of the two Democratic Representatives from Minnesota—Messrs Phelps and Cavanaugh—expire on the 3d of March next. In view of this fact, the Republicans in the Legislature attempted to procure the passage of a law providing for the election of their successors at the coming State Election. Knowing and feeling that after an exhibition of so much corruption and fraud in the party miscalled Democratic, the Republicans would surely carry the State, the Democratic members in the Legislature voted and worked persistently and methodically against the passage of such a law. So the Democratic caucus determined to oppose and prevent the passage of any law authorizing the election of Congressmen, preferring that the State should not be represented at all than that it should be represented by Republicans, in accordance with the will of the people. In this way, by united opposition, they defeated the bill which gave the people the right to speak! This is the first triumph of "Popular Sovereignty."
But the Republicans quietly watched their opportunity, and in the bill regulating general elections, they inserted a clause which provided that elections to fill all offices, should be held at the State election in October, next preceding the expiration of the term of the incumbents.
The Moccasin Democracy were asleep or drunk (being one or the other nearly all the time), and this bill passed both houses *en con.*, and was presented with the batch to the Acting Governor (Sibley), for his signature.
The quondam Indian Trader was wide awake. He "smelt a mouse." He examined the bill and found the trap which had been set for him and all the Democratic party to fall into. It would do it. It would be political suicide to let the State have an election for representatives at the proper and constitutional time, for the State was surely Black Republican, and such a bill would surely strengthen the enemy of *Sham Democracy* in Congress. *So the Centre voted the bill!* This is the second triumph of "Popular Sovereignty."
Sibley and his pliant minions in the Legislature then went to work and provided that this Fall's Legislature shall never meet, unless it shall happen to be of the Moccasin tribe (as it won't be, thank the Lord!) test—according to the desire of the people—they may reflect the people's will, and fill Gen. Shields' seat by electing a Republican Senator to Congress! This is the third triumph of "Popular Sovereignty."
And if the Legislature about to be chosen is not permitted to convene, (as it may be done by the caprice of Sibley,) no law can be passed for the election of the successors to Phelps and Cavanaugh, and thus, by Democratic opposition and the veto of a corrupt executive, *Minnesota will be disfranchised at Washington in '59 and '60, being represented in the Senate and the assembly by H. M. Rice alone!* This is the glorious result—the grand culmination—of these successive triumphs of "Popular Sovereignty" in the Minnesota Legislature.
The secret of this matter is, the Democrats are afraid of the people. They dare not permit them to choose their own rulers in their own way. They dare not give them another chance at the ballot-box, for they know that such an opportunity would furnish the untutored officials, with a gratuitous supply of hemp. The only way that was left them to rob the State of a few thousand dollars more was to forbid the people from holding an election, until the snarl of Democratic villainies should have time to clear away, and then trust to treacherous memories and mock penitence for a re-election.
And this disfranchisement of a Sovereign State through an entire session of an American Congress, this cheating an honest constituency and insolently forbidding an expression of the popular will—this is Minnesota Democracy!
St. Anthony Republican.

From a Democrat.
"Honest Democrats have thus been deprived of the opportunity to vote in October next, against the election of Moccasin candidates for Congress, and of the opportunity which such an election would give to expose with crushing effect, the dishonest and disgraceful principles and practices of the whole Moccasin Tribe which now rules the State under the assumed name of 'The Democracy of Minnesota.'
They have so dishonored this name, that they now by their acts, concede the triumph of the Republicans at the election in October next; their only consolation being, that the Legislature then to be elected, will never be convened, and that therefore they have one whole year in which to cover up their tracks. In view of this state of facts, I have determined to defer the proposed work till the Congressional and general election of 1859, when I hope honest Democrats will be sufficiently numerous to give the corruptists their quietus."
D. A. ROBERTSON
St. Paul, August 19, 1858.

We send this number of our paper to some friends who are not subscribers. Will they endorse the principle of woman's right to discuss the laws which govern her and the importance of maintaining the principles of the freedom of the press, of human freedom and human progress in the vanguard of civilization, by aiding us in getting subscribers to the last paper published on the way to the buffalo pastures by Gov. Stephens' route to the Pacific.
We have personally assumed the responsibility of maintaining these principles here, and earnestly ask the aid and sympathy of the friends of freedom and reform.

Important Letter from Senator Rice.
WASHINGTON, Aug 5, 1858.
Editors of the Pioneer and Democrat:
There will be no sale of Government lands in Minnesota this year, I am confident, but the settlers should prepare themselves as soon as possible with the means to enter their claims, for it cannot be expected that the lands will be kept out of market longer than next summer.
The even sections upon the lines of the railroads are subject to pre-emption at \$2.50 per acre, and each pre-emptor can locate one warrant upon the land, the balance, \$1.25 per acre, he must pay in cash. The above is in answer to numerous letters received by me on these subjects.
Truly Yours,
H. M. Rice.

VARLETIES.—"Read the biographies of our great good men and women," says an exchange "not one of them had a fashionable mother. They nearly all sprung from plain, strong-minded women, who had as little to do with fashions as with changing clouds."

Will our friends at Sauk Rapids, Little Falls, Crow Wing, Monticello and other towns of Northern Minnesota furnish us an occasional correspondence about matters and things in their several localities?
We want the Democrat to represent the interest and resources of Northern Minnesota. So we want facts from all the different places. Also, those who do think we misrepresent the opinions of this section; and wish to advocate other views can use our columns at such prices as will barely pay for paper ink and printing.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.
Vice-President Breckinridge in a speech recently delivered in Kentucky says:
"The Republican party is the strongest organization in the Union, unless the Democratic party is stronger. It is the only great living vital organization that has or can withstand the Democratic party.—It is a powerful, a compact, a hopeful organization. * * * Republicans don't want to change their name or their issues; they are too strong, too powerful, too confident for that, and yet you are invited by some Kentuckians to go in with them and form a people's party to break down this great dominant party. * * * Don't depreciate the strength of the Republican party.—Its principles are deeper and broader, and its purposes more resolute than anything on the surface would indicate. Don't underestimate their power."

MR. MILLS. St. Cloud wants another large flouring mill. N. N. Smith sends away hundreds of bushels of grain weekly, that he cannot grind. There is a fine water power at Rockville, Stearns County, in a rich wheat growing region where a mill is much wanted; and the proprietors would give liberal inducement to any person erecting one.

MR. NAVIGATION OF THE RED RIVER OF THE NORTH.
Early explorers have pronounced the junction of the Bois de Sioux and Red River's, as the head of navigation on the Red River of the North; and until a few weeks ago, nothing heavier than a canoe had ever been propelled, either above or below that point. By our last advices from Breckinridge, we learn that a drive of several thousand pine logs, have arrived at that place from Otter Tail Lake, lying one hundred miles above on the Red River, and the drivers report that the Indians ascend and descend, in their canoes, two hundred miles above Breckinridge.