

The soil of the valley or basin of the Red River of the North and Saskatchewan is calcareous and rich, extending over an area several times as large as the State of Ohio, with a climate as favorable for crops as Minnesota; it is next in the line of settlement after that State, which is fast filling up with an industrious, moral and intelligent class of inhabitants; and judging from the history of the settlement of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota, must have a population of several hundred thousand within ten years, if such facilities are furnished as will enable emigrants to reach it.

The Hudson Bay Company's posts occupy nearly every commendable situation. Their police over Indians is admirable, no difficulty having occurred with them for forty years. There is protection to the traveler in all directions. The whole country west of long. 90 deg., and between lat. 45 deg. and 55 deg., may be properly termed civilized, for every purpose of settlement and internal improvement.

The repugnance of the Hudson Bay Company to organization into agricultural communities no longer exists; but, on the contrary they will soon become able and sagacious co-operators in the speedy settlement of the country, for it is their interest to do so.

But beyond all this; we are confident that, considering the immense interests of the British Government upon the Pacific, and in the settlement of the basin of the Red River, and in the country west of it, the immediate construction of a railroad from some point at or near Pembina to the Pacific is inevitable. The route will be on or near 55 degrees north, a parallel which more than any other traverses the great centres of population and power on the globe. It will become the great highway to the commerce of the North Pacific and China.

The first Governor of British Columbia, Colonel Moody, is commissioner of roads, and is aided by a corps of sappers and miners. For the last two years, commencing before the gold discoveries, a survey of the route from Lake Superior westward, over the Saskatchewan plains, has been in progress, and Col. Moody is now understood to be making similar observations from the Pacific side. Surveys of a practicable railroad route have been communicated to London.

If the Colonial office will take measures to locate this line, make a concession of lands extending twenty miles on each side, and in addition, loan or grant a credit for five millions of dollars whenever and as often as ten millions shall have been expended in the actual construction of the road by private enterprise, competent persons can immediately be found who will undertake to construct such a road.

The inauguration of such a work with such guarantees would transform Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and the larger coast, into populous territories.

The most obvious westward connection of the New York Central Railroad is with the Great Western of Canada, while the Grand Trunk Road looks to the lines of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota as affording its best prospects for business.

With this view the Canadian Parliament have authorized the latter Company to bridge the St. Clair River at Sarnia. The Detroit and Milwaukee road just opened to Grand Haven, is in the hands of English parties, and a line still more direct to St. Paul is projected by way of Pere Marquette in Michigan, and Manitowish in Wisconsin; the one through Michigan being based upon a Congressional land grant and in progress of construction, and in the hands also of English capitalists, while thirty miles of the road west of Manitowish are ready for the superstructure. The connection with St. Paul through Michigan and Wisconsin—already extended to La Crosse on the Mississippi—it is thus seen will soon be accomplished.

The Minnesota section of the proposed route—the Minnesota and Pacific railroad—is as before mentioned, already commenced, and has a material basis of \$1,500,000 of State credit, and 1,500,000 acres of excellent land wherewith to complete it from the intersection of the northern division of the La Crosse and Milwaukee Railroad, (also aided by a similar land grant) to Pembina, on the British line; which is at least two-thirds of the way from Portland on the Atlantic—taking the line of the Grand Trunk Railway—to the Pacific ocean.

By opening the La Crosse and Milwaukee and the Minnesota and Pacific roads, therefore, British capitalists may possess an entire chain of railways, and control the immense transportation of passengers and goods over them from the Pacific to the Atlantic. And yet, all the northern and western Railroads of the United States, so well as the Mississippi river, will be connected with and tributaries of the Minnesota and Pacific road.

It may be objected that the route in question passes, for a considerable distance, through the territory of the United States. The answer is this:—

1. The construction of a Railroad from Canada around the north shore of Lake Superior would be, if not impracticable, very expensive, and for several hundred miles, valueless, except as a through route; and setting that aside, a route through the territory in question, is indispensable to a connection between the Atlantic and Pacific for six months of the year, during which the lakes are closed by ice.

2. The route from Pembina through St. Paul to eastern markets, by way of the Canada roads, will be shorter and cheaper than any routes in the United States running farther south. The business of the Red River valley and country lying west of it, therefore, will not only, naturally, and almost necessarily, pass through Canada, but it will carry with it the business, to a great extent, of Minnesota and

Wisconsin. The advantages, in this regard, therefore, will be entirely in favor of British interests.

Again, a railroad may be constructed from Lake Superior to Crow Wing, on the line of the Minnesota and Pacific road, a distance of only eighty miles, and over a beautiful country, thus affording, during the season of navigation, a good and cheap route for emigrants and freight; while a connection between the Red River, near Pembina, and Lake Superior, within the British Possessions, would require a road about 350 miles in length, passing over a rough and comparatively sterile country.

If a railroad shall be built from the Pacific to Pembina, thus meeting the Minnesota and Pacific road, and establishing a perfect railroad connection between the two oceans, it is very probable that no Pacific road, except that across the isthmus, will be constructed for a long period. At present, Congress is at a deadlock in the struggle of sections, and likely to remain so.

An international telegraph has excited the enthusiasm of England and America. An international railroad across the continent of North America would seem to be its appropriate successor.

THE ST. CLOUD DEMOCRAT
JANE G. SWISSELM, EDITOR
Thursday, Nov. 25 1858.

WOOD!!

Will some of our subscribers who intend paying in wood, send us some dry fuel? We are very much in want of it; and cannot keep the office going unless we get some more soon.

List of the amount of grain received in payment of one year's subscription to the St. Cloud Democrat:—

Wheat	Two bushels
Rye	Three bushels
Corn	Five bushels
Barley	Five bushels
Oats	Seven bushels
Buckwheat	Four bushels
Butter	Ten pounds
Beef	Thirty pounds
Fresh Pork	Twenty pounds

The same proportion for six months.

The produce to be delivered at the store of H. Z. MITCHELL, Lower town, opposite the Planing Mill.

A New Profession.

From the beginning of our public career, some of our nearest relatives, as well as many friends, have fancied we had some talent for public speaking; and as we have ever held that gifts are the measure of responsibilities—that each individual will be called to account for the improvement of every faculty, we have lived in a cowardly dread, lest, at some time, we should find out that we could face to face "plead the cause of the poor and needy." The destruction of our press here, brought the revelation we dreaded; for we found that we had no more hesitancy in talking to as many people as could get within hearing distance than in talking to one, and that there was something very comforting in looking on a sea of human faces, and noting the tides of human sympathy while asking compassion for the poor and needy.

So, when a Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society of St. Anthony wrote, asking us to deliver one of a course of lectures there, we were glad to consent; and chose as our subject "Woman and Politics," as best giving a reason for the hope that is in us; and as affording the best plea for urging upon woman their duty toward those outraged children of a common God, who are bought, sold and bartered, as the brute which perisheth, by the government which they are obliged to support and compelled to obey.

We read our lecture in St. Anthony on the evening of the 15th and were very kindly received. The seats in the house were all filled and a great portion of the aisles with people standing.

A committee from Minneapolis waited upon us and we repeated it there on Tuesday evening in Woodman's Hall. Again the house was filled; and the people manifested their approbation of the very, very unpleasant truths we felt called upon to tell them in very plain language. We cannot but hope that some will think more seriously of their responsibilities in view of the political iniquities which are sweeping over our country like a flood of desolation.

If the people could be brought to feel that amongst those who are bought, sold and robbed of all things in our Southern chattel market, are many of whom Christ shall say, "In as much as ye did it not unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me," there would very soon be a stay to the flood tide of oppression.

It has ever appeared to us that Anti-Slavery lectures do not generally use the higher law with the force and directness it ought to be used, while very many permit the enemy to use both it and the

Constitution as though they were engines of oppression. In that field which claims the Bible and the Constitution as panoplies of human rights, the laborers are so few that the humblest may do something; and even we may fill a niche which would otherwise be vacant.

It is therefore probable that, in future, we may use the voice of speech as well as the voice of the pen, in advocating the cause whose success appears to us necessary to the salvation of our country and the world, as by that means we may hope to reach many that would otherwise be inaccessible.

Our trip below has furnished materials for many items, which shall come up in their season.

A Sensation.

The *Pioneer & Democrat*, noticing our lecture at St. Anthony, says we are bound to create a sensation, if we can. If the editor had not been a crass old bachelor he would have known better than to add an "if" in such a case. Any but an old bachelor knows that "when a woman will she will, you may depend on it," and we can tell him now, that if we were bound to create a sensation, that sensation is bound to be created. It is sure as fate, for we know no such word as fail; and can bring the very best Democratic testimony to prove that we always have our own way first or last. So, if the *Pioneer* understands our present purposes, he may as well get ready for the sensation.

Temperance.

A meeting was held on Tuesday evening the 23rd, at the Everett School House to complete the organization of "The Ladies Temperance Social Circle of St. Cloud." The House was crowded and Mrs. Page, the President, presided with unusual grace and dignity. The choir of the Baptist church, led by Mr. Scofield, sang two spirited temperance songs. Mrs. N. Mason presided at the melodian which she managed with taste and skill. Rev. Calhoun opened with prayer and Rev. Phillips closed. Mrs. Brainard was elected Treasurer. About twenty persons signed the constitution. A number of gentlemen made humorous apologies for not making speeches, everybody talked to overblow and all went home in the best of humors, expecting to meet again, in two weeks, at the same place, when a paper is to be read, edited by Mrs. Lilly, Miss Donnet and James McKeely Esq. A rich treat is expected; and all are invited to attend.

The River.

On the morning of the 13th the river was running so full of ice that the large ferry boat, at the lower landing could not be got over; and passengers were obliged to cross in skiffs. Since that time no teams have crossed. For a week the ice ran thick. The boat was taken out for the winter and drawn up on shore; but since the 20th the river has been quite clear again; and more than ever our people feel the want of a bridge. Our communication with St. Anthony and all the lower country, when boats are not running up here, is by the old government road on the east side of the river. This road lies principally over open prairies and is the most comfortable wagon road we have ever travelled upon, while the deep loamy soil, heavy timber, and numerous streams on the west side make it unsuitable for roads, hence the great importance of being able to get easily over the river. As it is early encumbered with ice from the colder regions above and the rapid current prevents its closing soon, our citizens are put to considerable inconvenience; and will be ready to appreciate the blessings of a good bridge, which we hope to have in about two years.

The Bridge over the Ravine, intended to connect the Upper and Lower towns, is not yet planked; and there stands the frame like a great skeleton, reminding people of how easy it would be to walk across if the floor was laid.

We do hope the men will not leave people to scramble down and climb up the great gulf all winter, when so little is required to furnish a good crossing.

A THANKSGIVING Sermon is to be preached at the EVERETT School House, by the REV. MR. LOWRY.

NOTICE.

APPLICATION HAVING BEEN MADE TO ME by Maria Ann Rausch for letters of administration on the estate of Joseph Rausch late deceased of said County who died intestate; it is therefore ordered that Saturday the 11th day of December A. D. 1858 at ten o'clock in the forenoon of said day at my office at St. Cloud be the time and place appointed by me for hearing and determining said application. And all persons interested in said estate are notified to appear and show cause at that time why said application should not be granted.

DAVID SINCLAIR,
Judge of Probate, Stearns Co., Minn.
Nov 25.

For the St. Cloud Democrat. CROPS, CLIMATE &c., OF MINNESOTA.

CHRISTIAN EHRMAN, Esq.,
HARRISBURG, PA.

DEAR SIR:—Your favor of a few days since, making sundry inquiries in regard to the climate, crops, productions, &c., of Minnesota, came duly to hand. Letters from our old eastern friends containing similar interrogatories, come so thickly upon us, that, both for their and our convenience, we have concluded to reply at length in this public manner.

Crops.

The crops in this section of the State were nearly destroyed by the grasshoppers in 1856 and '57, so that the summer of 1858, is the only basis upon which we can properly form an estimate of the productiveness of our soil. Winter wheat, owing to the absence of seed, has not been tested yet, but by another harvest we shall be able to report as to its success. Winter rye, spring barley, corn, of every variety, buckwheat, oats, &c. have yielded just as much as could stand upon the ground and with the exception of late sown buckwheat, all matured to perfection.—The smooth varieties of spring-wheat, owing to the wet season and the joint-worm, were a partial failure; but the bearded varieties fulfilled the largest hopes of our farmers, both as to quality and quantity. Vegetables, melons and root crops exceeded anything we ever dreamed of in the East. Tobacco and Chinese Sugar cane, have been a decided success.—The cane maturing well, but the seed, as a general rule, will have to be imported for another year.

We give you the following as samples of the produce of our immediate neighborhood, nearly all of which we have weighed or measured ourselves, and most of which are reported as considerably below samples produced by farmers in different parts of our country:—

Bearded wheat 49 bushels per acre. Oats 66 bushels per acre. Molasses 156 gal. per acre. Potatoes 400 bushels per acre. We do not know of the yield per acre of any of our other productions, as none of them, so far as we are advised, were carefully tested. The following we weighed or measured:—

One head cabbage 261 pounds; one potato 21bs 6oz; one white turnip 17lbs; one ruta-baga turnip 17lbs; one leaf tobacco 35 by 19 inches; one onion, seed sown last spring and harvested in like wheat, 17 ounces. Mr. MITCHELL, our next door neighbor, has a sample pink-eye potatoes, twenty-five of which make a heaped half-bushel and we have in our store twenty-one scotch-grays, excluding the large one above named, which fill the measure equally full. Hay, fully equal to your best timothy, can be had by the thousands of tons for the cutting. Cattle feeding upon it during the summer are fit for slaughter in autumn without any further fattening. The following are our present prices for produce:—

Flour \$5.50 per bl. Wheat \$1. Pyc 70c. Corn \$1.40. Barley 10c. Oats 25@30c. Buckwheat 50c. Potatoes 15@20c. Turnips 10@15c per bushel. Molasses 60@75c per gal. Hay 4@5.50 per ton. Butter 20c per lb. Lard 10c. Pork 8c. Beef, by the quarter, 60c. Venison same price. Lumber 15@20 per M. Dry oak wood \$2.50 per cord. Sawn shingles \$3.50. Lath 3c.

Fruit, grapes, berries &c., have not yet been cultivated in this section of the State, and strong doubts are entertained as to whether many of the varieties will ever mature. We can only say that the wild plum and cherry, cranberries, strawberries, gooseberries, blackberries, sour-grapes &c., grow spontaneously in great abundance.

Surface and Soil.

This country, Stearns, is generally made up of small prairies and oak openings, just suited to the pioneer farmer, who one week after his arrival, can have his crop in the ground. It is bounded on the east by the Mississippi, and watered by two or three small rivers. The surface is sufficiently rolling for all practical purposes, and the entire country is dotted with small fresh-water lakes, which abound with fish of a superior quality. Here and there you find a tract of heavy oak timber or a tamarac marsh, provided by nature for fencing purposes. The soil, is a rich, dark, sandy loam, and to the unpracticed eye of the writer, resembles a carefully cultivated garden, of some twenty years standing, in Pennsylvania. For the original breaking up, you require a plough of huge proportions, and two to four yoke of oxen. After the first year, one horse will plough more than two in the old states.—Our rains are not so frequent or abundant as in the East, but the soil drinks it up as it falls, and returns it gradually as required by the growing crops. For this reason, our roads, as a general rule, are very good; and our streams, including the Mississippi, rarely rise or fall beyond a few feet. Owing to the above feature of the soil and the peculiarities of the climate, our crops, including wheat and corn, ripen within sixty to one hundred days from the time of planting.

Climate.

The writer arrived here in the beginning of last April, and our Junior more than two years since, so that we are prepared to speak somewhat from observation. The greatest quantity of level snow upon the ground at any one time during the past winter, was about twelve inches, and in the winter of 1857, it reached twenty-four inches, which was the deepest ever known in the country. Owing to the dryness of the atmosphere, we have probably about half the snow that falls in the East, but all that reaches us usually remains until spring. The ice broke up on the Mississippi last spring about the middle of March, from which time to the

middle of May, we had much milder weather, with occasional warm and pleasant days. Seeding was completed about the 30th of June. June, July and August averaged some two degrees warmer than at Harrisburg, during the day; but our nights are always cool and comfortable.—September and October were remarkably pleasant, and November thus far, has been cool, comfortable and bracing. Our first frost occurred on the 28th of August, several days after Pennsylvania and most of the Eastern States had received a similar visitation. So far as we are advised, it injured nothing here, except the late buck-wheat and the seed of the sugar cane.—The thermometer indicates that our winters are several degrees colder than yours, but owing to the absence of rain and moisture, we do not suffer so much as our eastern friends.

Health.

Owing to the pure bracing atmosphere, and superior quality of our drinking water, this is one of the healthiest districts in the Union. Consumption, chills and fever, have never been known to originate in the country. The only sickness that we have heard of, as originating here, during the past summer among a population of one thousand, was some two or three cases of typhoid fever, and four or five of dysentery.

Investments.

Nearly the entire population purchased real estate beyond their means, previous to the late crisis; and are consequently compelled either to sacrifice a portion of their property, or to borrow money at a high rate of interest. You can therefore purchase lands from two to ten dollars per acre that must, in our opinion, double in value in from twelve to twenty months; and town lots upon equally favorable terms or money can be loaned upon un-doubted mortgage security at two per cent. per month. Three to four per cent. per month, is the customary rate for short loans upon endorsed negotiable paper.

Game, Wood, Lumber.

Game and fish abound in our neighborhood. Prairie chickens, pheasants, pigeons, raccoons, foxes, deer and bear, are found in their season in quantities that satisfy the hunter, and supply our tables. Elk and buffalo are still killed about one hundred miles west of this place. There is a sufficiency of wood and mill timber in our country for many years to come, and our old western settlers inform us that so soon as the country generally becomes settled, and the prairie fires cease the prairies will be covered with spontaneous growth of timber. We have an inexhaustible supply of superior pine, commencing some fifty miles above us; from whence logs are floated to and past us, by the mill-race.

St. Cloud and Vicinity.

St. Cloud is located seventy-five miles above St. Paul, upon the west bank of the Mississippi. It lays upon a beautiful level prairie about sixty feet above high water mark, and has a fine steamboat landing at either end of the town. The Northern Pacific Railroad is graded from St. Paul to within some twenty miles of us. It is to cross the river at this point by a bridge, and is being pushed with great vigor by the contractor, Mr. Chamberlain; and we have every assurance that within twelve months we shall be able to travel from here to Harrisburg by cars. Beyond us lay Maine Prairie and Sauk Valley, both of which are rapidly filling up with citizens of New England and Germany. We speak advisedly when we say that for one hundred miles (and probably for hundreds farther) the fertility and productiveness of the soil, is unequalled this side of California.

Modes of Communication.

We have now a line of small steamboats from St. Anthony to this point, and a daily line of mail coaches from St. Paul via a superior government road.

Railroads.

As nearly as we can ascertain, there is now some four or five hundred miles of railroad under contract, which is being built by a donation of government lands, and the State loan. As much more will be put under contract next spring, and within a very few years we hope to be as well provided with railroads as most of the older States. By a lengthy and interesting article in another portion of this paper from the pen of Edmund Rice, Esq., you will observe that the road passing through this place, is to extend to the mouth of Pembina River, some 350 miles North of us, and will no doubt within a very few years form a part of the great Railroad highway to Frazer River and California.

Our Wants.

We want men of enterprise and capital, to aid in the development of our immense resources. This is in part about to be supplied by eastern capitalists, who are starting some eight or ten institutions under our new stock-security Banking Law: We want a few good coal mines, reports of the discovery of which reach us weekly; but all of which reports need confirmation: we want in this immediate neighborhood ten thousand head of cattle, hogs and sheep, all of which can be kept and reared at a trifling expense: we want by next spring in St. Cloud another good flouring mill, an earthen ware manufacturer, a plough an agricultural implement manufacturer, a chair maker, saddler cooper, tanner &c. If you can find any or all of these who are willing to emigrate, send them along, they are necessary to our success, and we hope to be useful to them.

Miscellaneous.

We omitted to say in the proper place, that some six hundred teams passed through St. Cloud during the past season on their way to St. Paul to trade for the

needed supplies. They came from Pembina, Sault Ste. Marie and the various contiguous British settlements. A portion of them had travelled twelve hundred miles to reach this point. Many of them were laden with valuable furs, and the others were amply provided with gold. Their trade is very valuable to St. Paul, and a proper assortment of goods would secure the larger portion to St. Cloud.

SEVERAL hundred gold diggers with their outfit have also passed through this place for Frazer River, said to be about 1600 miles beyond us.

WE observe by the St. Paul papers, that steamboat navigation at that point closed on the 16th inst., after an open season of eight months.

It is now the 24th of November, and the river opposite this place continues open and perfectly free of floating ice; tho' rumor says that it is closed some distance North of this. The weather is mild and pleasant, and the remnant of snow which fell some time since, does not exceed half an inch in depth.

Truly Yours,
MILLER & SWISSELM.
St. Cloud, Nov. 24, 1858.

For the St. Cloud Democrat. Senators Cameron and Bigler.

Both the above gentlemen sprung from the lumber walks of life in Pennsylvania, and were educated in the old Jeffersonian school of Democracy.—both commenced their public careers as printers, and to-day are members of the most distinguished deliberative body in existence. But here the parallel ceases. The former, when his party abandoned the Jeffersonian doctrine of Freedom in the Territories and protection to American industry, denounced the treason, adhered to his principles and stood up almost single handed against power, oppression and persecution. The latter repudiated the old watchwords of Democracy, yielded to Southern dictation, betrayed every cherished interest of his immediate constituents, and "basely cringed the knee that thrift might follow favoring." But the thrift don't come. Senator CAMERON is by long odds the most popular man in Pennsylvania. Wherever he made his appearance during the late campaign, he was hailed with enthusiasm, and the election returns admonished his adversaries that the great heart of the people was with him. Senator BIGLER, on the contrary, excited enthusiasm nowhere, and the track of his political pilgrimage through the State is marked by the excesses of the slain. Senator CAMERON speaks rarely and briefly, but always with a force and power that carries conviction to the hearer. Perhaps no man in our public councils so correctly foretold the disasters to the country and erring party, which have followed the abandonment of freedom and protection. In these respects his speeches have become history. Senator BIGLER speaks frequently and lengthily, but Senator DOUGLASS has fitting witness that his efforts injure no one, unless it be those he tries to assist.—Senator CAMERON, as the result of all this, is generally named as over the land, as the people's candidate for the Presidency in 1860; and Senator CAMERON is just as favorably named as a suitable candidate for his old residence in the romantic county of Clearfield, and—for nothing else.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Forney's "Press" stopped.

President BUCHANAN has stopped FORNEY'S paper. Some of our cotemporaries attribute this last dashing more of the illustrious statesman, to his chargin at FORNEY'S Anti-Lecomptonism; and others to motives of economy. The truth we apprehend is, that His Excellency has made up his mind to subscribe for the St. Cloud DEMOCRAT.

By the way if he does, we beg leave to remind him, that our terms with great men residing at a distance, require the cash in advance. We mention this because we observe that Mr. FORNEY bent his terms in favor of His Excellency, and now has a balance of \$7,50 to collect.

Pyramid of Freedom's Victory!

OHIO.
IOWA.
MAINE.
KANSAS.
VERMONT.
NEW-YORK.
MICHIGAN.
WISCONSIN.
MINNESOTA.
NEW-JERSEY.
RHODE-ISLAND.
NEW-HAMPSHIRE.
MASSACHUSETTS.
PENNSYLVANIA.

DEER HUNTING.—Mr. John S. Updegrave, of Lykenstown, killed a fine deer recently. It weighed about one hundred and forty pounds.

Penna. Telegraph.

We would inform our old neighbor, that according to the Minnesota standard it only lacked about 200lb of being a "fine deer." Several have been killed this season within a few miles of St. Cloud, weighing over 300lbs each, and yielding about 200 each net.

INDIANS.—A band of Hunters estimated at from seventy-five to one hundred, with their families have been camped about eight miles west. In hunting one accidentally shot and killed another.—They took a large number of deer beside small game, and left this week going further west.