

THE BIG BLUE UNION.

BY EDWIN C. MANNING. }

"Westward the Course of Empire takes its Way!"

{ VOLUME III, NUMBER 42.

MARYSVILLE, KANSAS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER, 2, 1865.

THE BIG BLUE UNION,
PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, AT
Marysville, Marshall County, Kansas.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One copy, one year, cash in advance,\$1.50
Ten Copies, one year,\$13.00
An extra copy to the getter up of a club of
Ten.

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Marysville, Kansas,

Will practice in all the Courts of the Second
Judicial District and Supreme Court of Kansas,
and the Courts of the Second Judicial District
of Nebraska. They will pay particular atten-
tion to paying taxes for non-residents of North-
ern Kansas and Southern Nebraska. Claims
collected on reasonable terms and remittances
promptly made. vol3-no33-1f

JAMES S. HAGILL,

ATTORNEY AT LAW

And General Collecting Agent,
Marysville, Kansas;

Will practice in the Courts of Marshall, Ne-
basha and Brown Counties in the Second Judi-
cial District; and Pottawatomie, Riley and
Davis in the Third Judicial District.
Collections carefully attended to and proceeds
promptly remitted. vol3-no33-1f

J. O. ALLEN,

PHYSICIAN and SURGEON,

Is permanently located in Marysville, and
will promptly attend to all calls in his profes-
sion. Office in A. Cottrell's Drug Store.
3-33-1f

Dr. J. H. McDOUGALL,

Having returned to Marysville, has resumed
the Practice of Medicine in all its depart-
ments, tenders his professional services to all
who may need them.
Office at his residence in F. J. Marshall's
store house. 3-33-1f

TAILOR SHOP.

I have opened a Tailor Shop on the north side
of Broadway, Marysville, one door west of
A. E. Lovell's Store, where I will always be
ready to cut and make gentlemen's gar-
ments of all kinds, in the latest and best styles.
Particular attention given to cutting. Old gar-
ments cleaned and repaired in the neatest man-
ner. I will warrant entire satisfaction to all
who will favor me with their patronage
3-33-1f JOHN McCOY.

IOWA HOUSE,

John Frazier,Proprietor.

CAROLINE ST. BT. SECOND & THIRD,

Marysville, Kansas.

This Hotel has been open for five years, and
the proprietor is thankful for past favors, and
desires a continuance of the same, with the
promise of the usual attention. vl-n27-1y

AMERICAN HOTEL

AT

Marysville, Kansas.

I have lately purchased the property known
as Barrett's Hotel, in this place, and shall
endeavor to keep a First Class Hotel.—Fare
Reasonable.

Two Large Stables

connected with the Hotel.

HAY, CORN, AND OATS, PLENTY.

J. H. COITRELL.

Sept. 30th, 1865—1y

NEW WAGON SHOP,

WM. L. KIEFOVER, Proprietor.

Mr. KIEFOVER has started a complete Wagon Shop
in operation in Marysville, in connection with the
Blacksmith Shop of Garden & Strang, where he can be
found at all times, ready to receive orders for new wagons
or repair old ones. He is prepared to stock plows, make
harrows, or anything pertaining to that line of business.
He keeps the best material there is to be found in Mar-
shall county, and with thirteen years experience in the
business feels entirely confident of satisfying all that may
give him a call. 3-33-1y

THE "AGER."

BY A POET.

Once upon an evening bleary,
While I sat me dreary, dreary,
In the sunshine, thinking over
Things that passed in days of yore;
While I nodded, nearly sleeping,
Gently came a something creeping
Up my back, like water seeping,
Seeping upward from the floor.
"Tis a cooling breeze," I muttered,
"From the regions 'neath the floor—
Only this, and nothing more."
Ah! distinctly I remember,
It was in that wet September
When the earth, and every member
Of creation that it bore,
Had for weeks and weeks been soaking
In the meanest, most provoking
Foggy rains, that, without joking,
We had ever seen before,
So I knew it must be very
Cold and damp beneath the floor—
Very cold beneath the floor.

So I sat me, nearly napping,
In the sunshine, stretching, gapping,
And a feeling quite delighted
With the breeze from 'neath the floor;
Till I found me growing colder,
And the stretching, waxing colder—
And myself a feeling older—
Older than I'd felt before;
Feeling that my joints were stiffer
Than they were in days of yore—
Stiffer than they'd been before.

All along my back a creeping
Soon gave place to rushing, leaping,
As if countless frozen demons
Had concluded to explore,
All the cavities—the varmints—
"Twixt me and my nether garments,
Up into my hair, and downward
Through my boots into the floor;
Then I felt myself a shaking,
Gently shaking more and more—
Every moment more and more.

'Twas the Ager, and it shook me
Into heavy clothes, and took me
Shaking to the kitchen—every
Place where there was warmth in store;
Shaking till the "china" rattled,
Shaking till my molars rattled,
Shaking, and with all my warming,
Feeling colder than before;
Shaking till it had exhausted
All its power to shake me more—
Till it could not shake me more.

Then it rested till the morrow,
When it came with all its horror
That it had the face to borrow,
Shaking, shanking as before;
And from that day in September—
Day which I shall long remember—
It has made diurnal visits,
Shaking, shaking, oh, so sore!
Me to bed if nothing more—
Fully this, if nothing more.

And to-day the swallows flitting
Round my cottage see me sitting
Moodyly within the sunshine,
Just inside my silent door,
Waiting for the Ager, seeming
Like a man forever dreaming,
And the sunlight on me streaming
Sheds no shadow on the floor;
For I am too thin and shallow
To make shadows on the floor—
Nary shadow any more!

A Mountain of Salt.

Among the many curiosities and won-
ders that have lately been discovered in the
far off Western wilds none is more strik-
ing or marvelous than the mountain of Rock
Salt, situated about twenty miles from
Meadow Valley, Nevada, and only eighteen
miles from the head of navigation on the
Colorado river. It rises abruptly from the
plain, about four hundred feet in height,
a mountain of pure, sparkling, crystallized
salt. Not a particle of dirt upon it,
seemingly a mountain of glass, being per-
fectly transparent, and when the reflection
of the sun falls upon it, the glare is blind-
ing. We have seen specimens taken from
it, now in possession of Mr. C. B. Norris,
and it resembles pure crystal, more than
it does salt. From what we can learn of
its extent and magnitude, there is salt en-
ough in this one mountain to supply this
continent for a century.—*St. Joseph Union*
26th.

An idiot sleeping on a New York rail-
road was knocked forty-five feet by the
cow-catcher of a train and unharmed, only
a little surprised.

Coal in Kansas.

The following interesting article is from
B. F. Mudge, formerly State Geologist of
this State:

EDITOR KANSAS FARMER.—In ac-
cordance with your request, I will make a few
brief statements in regard to the supply of
coal which our State possesses. With
such a vast extent of prairie as Kansas pre-
sents, the question of fuel becomes one of
first importance. In almost every county
of the State thin seams of coal are found
near the surface. But except in the south
eastern portion they are of little practical
value. North of the Kansas river, the
Kansas river, the surface coal is always of
an inferior character. It is light in tex-
ture, produces a large percentage of ashes,
and has too much sulphur to be fit for
blacksmith purposes. Near Topeka and
Barlingame, a better article is found, but
the thickness of the seams, never over
thirty inches, and most usually as low as
fifteen, will not allow a cheap article of
fuel to be furnished.

The great supply of good coal for the
future population and manufactures of the
state, lies lower down in the geological
strata. The strata in Kansas are very
remarkable uniformity of thickness and
character for hundreds of miles in extent.
They dip slightly to the northwest, and,
as we proceed in that direction, the older
ones disappear under those more recently
deposited. The best seams of coal with
us, lie the deepest. In the southeastern
part of the state they crop out and show
themselves at the surface in various places
in a northeasterly and southwesterly
direction. One seam three feet in thick-
ness, crosses the country in this manner,
about fifteen miles northwest of Fort Scott.
But the best and most economical supply
of coal is a vein of bituminous coal about
six feet in thickness, appearing at the sur-
face near the forks of Dry Wood creek,
forty miles south of Fort Scott, and like
all other strata disappearing under the
country to the northwest. This is an ex-
cellent article of uniform character, and
for blacksmith use, as well as all other
purposes, is the best coal in the state.*
This seam has been traced from the Indian
territory in a northwesterly direction across
Missouri as far as the Hannibal & St.
Joseph Railroad, and according to my ob-
servations, underlies at least 20,000 miles
of our state. Though, as we proceed to-
wards the center of the state, it sinks deep-
er and deeper below the surface, still in
no place is it more than half as deep as
seams are now mined in England. At
Wyandotte, Leavenworth and Atchison,
it lies about two hundred and eighty feet
below the high water line of the river. At
Lawrence it is but little deeper. The
overlying strata consist of various beds of
lime and shales, in the aggregate being
about one fourth of the latter. In sink-
ing a shaft to reach this main coal seam,
the shales will be found usually so soft as
to yield to the pick, but sometimes so hard
as to require a small charge of powder.
They are composed by clay mixed with
sand and sometimes passing into sandstone.
There is such a mixture of clay in these
strata that the liability of trouble from
water in the shaft is very small.

That this six foot seam is to be the great
supply of cheap fuel will be apparent from
a little calculation. On a seam of coal
twenty inches thick, in drifting, a man
does well to obtain twenty bushels a day.
On one thirty six inches he can obtain
about sixty or seventy bushels, but on a
six foot seam he can obtain about two hun-
dred bushels per day. So that to supply
a population of 5,000 or more with fuel,
it will be cheaper to expend \$10,000 in
shafting and machinery to work a six foot
seam of coal, rather than to mine in a thin
seam near the surface.

Few are aware of the immense quanti-
ties of coal in a bed of this thickness. A
six foot seam of coal, a square mile in ex-
tent, contains 6,000,000 tons of twenty-
eight bushels to the ton. In other words,
every farm of a quarter section in the
eastern part of the state has under it in
this coal seam, 1,500,000 tons.

The consumption of fuel (aside from
steam engines) is equal to one ton to an
inhabitant. A company at Leavenworth
is now sinking a shaft to supply that city
with coal. If it should use no wood after
the mine is opened, it would require less
than 20,000 tons for its consumption per
year. Allow the city to cover four square
miles of territory and this seam of coal at
that point to be but five feet in thickness,

*This must not be confounded with the "Fort
Scott coal" which is from a minor seam in this
vicinity, and although a good article, is not as
uniformly so as the thick, six foot seam.

(for it decreases somewhat as we go north)
we shall have 20,000,000 tons underlying
its streets and lots. So that the supply
may, for all practical purposes, be con-
sidered as inexhaustible. We must recol-
lect, too, that rivers do not effect the
strata below, and that the coal may be
mined under the Missouri river as easily
and safely as anywhere else.

If we compare the relative value of
coal and wood, the result is quite inter-
esting. One ton of coal is equal to one
and a half cords of good hard wood for
heating purposes. Consequently 6,000-
000 tons of coal is equal to 9,000,000
cords of wood; or an acre of this coal seam
is equal to 14,062 cords of wood. We
thus find that if all Kansas (78,000 square
miles) were covered by a forest affording
one hundred cords to the acre, that 557
square miles or less than sixteen town-
ships, of the six foot coal seam, would
equal the whole forests of the state. Who
then, can say that our state is deficient in
fuel?

I have said that not less than 20,000
square miles of the State is underlaid with
the coal beds. This conclusion is based
on the fact that the coal measures, or that
geological formation which contains coal,
extends as far west as Manhattan, and the
indications justify the conclusion that the
coal seams that crop out in the southeast-
ern portion of the State, continue under
the whole country to that extent. I have
also good reason to believe that it may un-
derlie the more recent formations of the
remainder of the State. If so it is too far
below the surface in the middle of the
State for present purposes. But when we
have a demand equal to England, we can
by using the same exertions that are used
there, easily reach it.

There is in the western part of the State,
about 125 miles from Fort Riley, extend-
ing across the Republican, Solomon and
Saline rivers, a deposit of the kind of coal
called lignite, which is said to be thicker
than the great seam described. It is of
the kind which, during the rebellion, was
mined in the vicinity of Richmond, Va., to
the depth of over one thousand feet. So
that part of the State is abundantly sup-
plied with fuel.

When our Pacific railway is completed
up the Smoky Hill Valley, a shaft at To-
peka can supply the country as far as the
mouth of the Solomon, and the lignite de-
posit by the same transportation, can sup-
ply the other western portion of the State.
The other projected railroads when com-
pleted, will carry coal into all parts of the
State not supplied by their own deposits.
In conclusion, we would most strongly
urge all capitalists not to waste their time
and money in endeavoring to procure coal
from the thin surface seams. None of them
can supply a good, cheap fuel. Let com-
panies be formed in all our chief cities to
open a coal shaft at each important point.
It will not only supply the cities, but the
farmers who have no "timber" will find a
cheaper and more agreeable fuel at the
mouth of the coal pit, than to buy wood.—
Steam engines could be supplied at so low
a rate that manufacturers would soon
spring up among us. Coal ought not, and
in a few years we believe will not, sell in
our towns for more than a dime a bushel.

Wanted—An Honest, Industrious Boy.

We lately saw an advertisement headed
as above. It conveys to every boy an im-
pressive moral lesson.

"An honest, industrious boy," is always
wanted. He will be sought for; his ser-
vices will be in demand; he will be spo-
ken of in terms of high commen-
dation; he will always have a home;
he will grow up to be a man of known
worth and established character.

He will be wanted. The merchant will
want him for a salesman or a clerk; the
master mechanic will want him for an ap-
prentice or a journeyman; those with a
job to let will want him for a contractor;
clients will want him for a lawyer; patients
will want him for a physician; religious
congregations, for a pastor; parents for a
teacher of their children; and the people
for an officer.

He will be wanted. Townsman want
him as a citizen; acquaintances, as a
neighbor; neighbor, as a friend; families,
as a visitor; the world, as an acquaintance;
nay, girls will want him for a beau, and
finally for a husband.

An honest industrious boy! Just think
of it, boys, will you answer this descrip-
tion? Can you apply for this situation?
Are you sure that you will be wanted?
You may be smart, active, but that does
not fill the requisition—are you honest?
You may be capable—are you industrious?

You may be well dressed and create a fa-
vorable impression at first sight—are you
both honest and industrious? You may
apply for a good situation—are you sure
that your friends, teachers or acquaintan-
ces can recommend you for these qualities?
Oh, how would you feel, your character
not being thus established, on hearing the
words "I can't employ you!" Nothing
else will make up the lack of these quali-
ties. No readiness or aptness for business
will do it. You must be honest and indus-
trious—you must work and labor; then
will your calling and election for places of
profit and trust be made sure.—*Rural*
New Yorker.

Estimating Weight of Cattle by Measurement.

The Canada Farmer, in reply to a cor-
respondent, says:

"Many experiments have been made by
graziers and salesmen to ascertain the net
weight of cattle by measurement, and a
number of rules and tables have been
formed of the results obtained. None,
however, can be regarded as absolutely
correct. With the most accurate measur-
ing is required a practical acquaintance
with the points and forms of animals, and
allowance must be made according to age,
size, breed, mode and length of time in
fattening, etc., conditions which require a
practiced eye and long experience to cor-
rectly appreciate. We have found the fol-
lowing method to lead generally to trust-
worthy results:

Measure carefully with a tape line from
the top of the shoulder to where the tail is
attached to the back—this will give the
length. For the girth, measure immedi-
ately behind the shoulders and fore legs.
Multiply half the girth by itself in feet,
and the sum by the length in feet, and the
product will give the net weight in stones
of eight pounds each. For example, with
an ox or cow five feet in length and seven
feet in girth, the calculation will be as fol-
lows:

Multiply half the girth by itself in feet.	3-5
	3-5
Multiply by length in feet.	12-25
	5
Weight in stones.	61-25

Death from Drinking Whisky.

On Sunday evening last, Theo. Reeder,
son of Elam Reeder, of this city, died at
the "Star Saloon," in this city, from the
effects of drinking a large quantity of
whisky. About three o'clock in the after-
noon of that day, he went to the "Star Sa-
loon," and soon after entering drank a
small glass of whisky. There were a num-
ber of persons in the saloon, and a bet was
made that Reeder could not drink two
glasses of whisky in fifteen minutes with-
out falling or vomiting. He said he could,
and did drink the two glasses in about ten
minutes. Another banter was then made
that he could not stand two more glasses,
whereupon he drank two more, making in
all twenty-eight ounces or one pint and three
fourths of whisky. The four glasses upon
which the bets depended, were drunk in
about half an hour. In five minutes after
drinking the last glass, Reeder attempted
to go out of the saloon, when he staggered
and fell. He became unconscious in a very
short time, and died about eight o'clock.
Drs. Thompson and Kinsman were sum-
moned to his assistance, but all their ef-
forts to save his life were unavailing. On
Monday, Coroner W. M. Sturgeon sum-
moned a jury and held an inquest upon the
body of the deceased. Dr. Griswold
Thompson, Kinsman and Wilder made a
post mortem examination of the body. The
brain, lungs, heart, &c., afforded strong
evidences of the effects of the liquor, show-
ing conclusively that death resulted from
over-stimulation. Several witnesses were
examined, and after hearing all the facts,
the jury returned as their verdict, that the
deceased came to his death by drinking
twenty eight ounces of whisky in less time
than one hour; and that he drank the whis-
ky upon a banter made by certain parties.
The deceased was in the 21st year of his
age. On Wednesday T. W. Hodges, Jacob
Gephart and Henry Cook, who made the
bets which induced the deceased to drink
the liquor, were arrested on a warrant
sworn out by Reeder's father, charging
them with man-slaughter. They were ar-
raigned before Justice Case, waived an ex-
amination and gave bail for their ap-
pearance at the next term of court.—[Cir-
cleville Democrat, Nov. 3d.]

It is a curious and significant fact that
the Emperor of Mexico is continually in-
vesting large sums in Europe.