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GEOGRAPHICAL.

FROM THE PORTICO.

A Bird's-eye view of the Missouri Territory.
(In a letter to the Editor.)
It is now incumbent on me, to redeem the pledge which I sometime since gave you; and present you with a Bird's-eye view, of this most interesting portion of the Union.

The boundaries of the Missouri Territory appear to have been defined by most geographers, who have treated on the subject, in a very vague and unsatisfactory manner.

From the best information I can obtain, it is bounded on the south, by an east and west line, drawn on the latitude of 33 North; separating it from the State of Louisiana; on the east by the Mississippi river; on the North by the British possessions, or according to some, by the 45° North latitude, and on the West by unexplored regions extending to the shores of the Pacific ocean.

Within this immense range, it is to be presumed, great varieties of climate and soil will present themselves. The climate is, I think more pleasant, than that of similar latitudes in the Atlantic States. It is to be observed, however, that in consequence of the very open and level character of the country; or from some other cause, the variations of temperature are extremely sudden. From this fact, it would naturally be concluded that Pulmonary Consumption would be a common disease; but in reality, it is extremely rare with the native inhabitants; nor is it as common among the emigrants, as I have observed it to be, in other parts of the United States. The general character of the territory is healthy in the extreme. During the autumnal months, those who reside on the water courses, or who are engaged in navigating boats are liable to be attacked by bilious and intermittent fevers; but the seasons of winter, spring and summer, are rarely marked by the occurrence of any disease of a serious character.

The large bodies of open, or prairie land (on the borders of which the farmer generally settles and encloses his fields) cut off one fruitful source of disease in all new countries.

For here, he is not, as in a thickly timbered country, surrounded for the first two or three years, with an atmosphere heavily charged with vegetable putrefaction; but is, as it were, in the situation of a person settling on an improved estate.

To the mind of a superficial observer, the prospect of the immense prairies, destitute of timber, (and loaded with the most luxuriant crop of grass) presents the idea, that this description of land can never be peopled; but as these immense meadows were in the first instance formed by the action of fire, so daily experience proves, that nothing is requisite to their being speedily covered with heavy timber again, but that this fire should be kept off.

The upland of the territory has generally its base on a stratum of lime stone, and is exceedingly fertile; the bottoms on the rivers which are commonly very extensive and well timbered are composed of the richest loam.

Springs of fine water are abundant in most parts of the country, and are generally strongly impregnated with what is called lime stone.

The mineral riches of this country, are highly deserving of notice; and although we have not followed the "ignis fatuus" which first led the Spanish and French to explore this region; still we have not been disappointed in finding that which is no doubt of much greater national importance, than silver or gold, viz: inexhaustible beds of lead & iron ore, and innumerable sources of the strongest salt water. The numerous caves, which exist in all line stone countries, present us also with immense quantities of Salt Petre; and thus nature seems to have rendered this country independent of the world both in a state of peace and war.

But although thus formed by nature, to live in a state of Chinese seclusion from the rest of the world—perhaps no inland portion of the globe enjoys greater commercial advantages.

Bounded as we are, on the east, by the Mississippi river, a constant and uninterrupted outlet for surplus produce is always offered. This enables the farmer here, to be in market at Orleans, long before those of the States bordering on the river Ohio, can leave home. On the other hand, the Illinois, and Osage rivers, which empty into the Mississippi above this, afford at many seasons of the year, a direct communication with the chain of northern lakes.

The Mississippi and its waters, thus afford a northern and southern outlet; the territory is also pierced by a number of the finest navigable rivers.

To commence at the Southern extremity of the territory, we first meet with the Arkansas, a large, deep and gentle stream, which affords a navigation of four or five hundred miles, and washes an extensive and fertile country; and one abounding in salt and other minerals. So

much so, that the river, though a large one, is at a point some hundreds of miles above its mouth, very strongly impregnated with saline and metallic substances.

The general course of the Arkansas, is nearly East.

The next stream of importance we meet with is White River. This is a fine large course, affording a navigation of some hundred miles; and after watering a most valuable and fertile district of country, runs a South East course, and enters the Mississippi, near the mouth of the Arkansas, and is in fact connected with that river by a Bayou, a short distance from their entry into the Mississippi.

We next come to the river St. Francois. This, although not so large a stream, as either of the first mentioned, affords a very considerable navigation. We meet with no other stream of consequence after this, for nearly two hundred miles.

The Merrimac, then presents itself. This is a beautiful river about two hundred yards wide, and affords a good navigation for large boats for some hundred miles. The Merrimac and its waters, run through an extensive rich mineral country. The finest banks of Iron ore are to be seen on it, and on one of its branches the lead mines in the county of Washington, (now in operation) are situated.

The Merrimac empties into the Mississippi about fifteen miles below St. Louis.

We now approach a river, which, as well on account of its length, depth, and the rapidity of its current, as of the fertile tract of country which it waters, is without a parallel, I believe in the world. The Missouri, to which I allude, empties into the Mississippi about thirty miles above the Merrimac. Its breadth at the mouth, and for many hundred miles above, is between three fourths and half a mile. Its waters are well known to be of a singular, muggy nature, and it is this stream, which impresses on the Mississippi its characteristic, turbid and turbulent features; for previous to the junction of that River with the Missouri, it is a very remarkably clear and gentle, though deep stream; resembling very much in its appearance the river Ohio.

The Missouri taking its rise in the Rocky Mountains, and running nearly an east course, is joined in its progress, by an immense number of fine navigable streams; but as the settlements have not yet proceeded higher up than Grand River, it will be sufficient to mention that river and the Osage and Gasconade.

They are all three, large navigable streams, the first coming in from the North, and the two last from the South.

Between the Osage and Grand Rivers is probably the finest body of land in the known world. It is now populating rapidly.

This district of country is commonly known under the vulgar appellation of *Boon's Lick*. It abounds in almost every part with strong Salt-water, and considerable manufactories of Salt are now in operation there. The Salt made of them is the finest I have ever seen manufactured in the United States.

To return to the Mississippi, which has now assumed a mild and pleasing aspect; we proceed nearly sixty miles before coming to any stream of importance, emptying in from the Western shore. We then meet with Salt River, a small stream, but affording good navigation, during some part of the year, for some distance.

This river, however, is most remarkable for having near it the finest body of land, and the greatest abundance of Salt-water.

Numerous other navigable streams empty into the Mississippi above this; and on its banks are probably the richest lead mines in the world, but as these are within the Indian country, I shall pass them over. I have thus, my dear friend, given you a hasty sketch of this rising territory. Should I remain in this country, I may, probably, try to amuse you by giving a description of the primeval state of manners, which once existed, and still is observable here.

L. A.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

OWNERS OF STAGES.

A LAW CASE.

Supreme Court, Fairfield county, Connecticut. John Whitney, vs. Lovejoy. December term, 1846.

This was a special action on the case instituted by Mr. Whitney, a merchant of Boston, vs. Lovejoy, as owner of the stage, in which Mr. Whitney was passenger, which turned over by the carelessness of the driver. Verdict for the plaintiff 250 dollars damages and costs of suit.—At the same term was tried a cause vs. same defendant, in favor of a young lady that was run over by the defendant's stage, driven by another of his heedless drivers. Verdict, 500 dollars and costs. The damages and costs in both amounted to about 1000 dollars.

It is with pleasure we publish the result of the above causes, being the first of their nature (to our knowledge) that have been decided in this country, and hope that a decision of the highest tribunal of justice in so respectable a state, will have a salutary effect upon the owners of stages and their drivers. The numerous injuries that have been sustained by passengers for a few years past, have called loudly for a check to the brutal manner in which lives have been exposed.

LINCOLN.

Law case.—At these assizes, in an action Wright vs. Jessop, the plaintiff, an apothecary, of Bottlesford, sought to recover from defendant, a bachelor of opulence, residing near Lincoln, 787/18s for medicine and attendance,

during 25 years. By statement of plaintiff's counsel, it appeared that the defendant was of a hypochondriacal turn, and had taken pills for a great number of years; he used to have from 600 to 800 pills sent him at a time—and in one year he took 5,000! being at the rate of 150 a day. There were also thousands of bottles of mixtures. From the ravenous propensity of the patient for physic, it was necessary to call in two physicians, who inquiring of the defendant what was the course of medicine and nourishment he pursued through the day, answered as follows:—"At half past two o'clock in the morning, I take two spoonfulls and a half of jalop; and then a quantity of electary—then I sleep till seven, and repeat the dose of both jalop and electary—at 9 o'clock, I take 12 pills of No. 9, and 12 pills of No. 10, to whet my appetite for breakfast—at breakfast I eat a basin of milk—at eleven I have an acid and alkali mixture—afterwards I have a bolus—and at nine at night I have an anodyne mixture, and go to sleep." After some progress had been made in the evidence, a compromise took place, the plaintiff accepting a verdict for 450l.

At the same Assizes, Wm. Nubert and Ann, his wife, were tried for Burglary. The evidence was clear, but Nubert declared he did it through the persuasion of his wife, which she acknowledged, declaring "I am the wretch that have been the cause of committing the robbery—I have been the principal actor—and if I only could be hanged, I should be satisfied."—The Judge observed, that in point of law, Ann Nubert could not be convicted of this crime, for as she acted with her husband, the law regarded her as acting under his coercion. "You and I, who are married men, gentlemen, (said his Lordship to the jury) know that this presumption of the law is often wrong, and that the husband is too often coerced by the wife; (a laugh)—so however it is, that if the two commit a robbery together, the husband only is answerable, although the wife may have instigated him to the deed, as whilst she is with him, he is always considered to coerce her. I believe I have made myself intelligible, though perhaps my information may not be very palatable—it is not our business to enquire why the law is so, but it is our duty to act as it requires, and therefore, gentlemen, you must acquit the female prisoner." The Jury accordingly acquitted the wife, and found William Nubert guilty.—*London paper.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

Rencontre with a Wolf.—The following narrative has been given, by Worthy Addison, a free coloured man of unimpeached veracity, belonging to the town of Canaan, Connecticut.

On the 11th of March last, whilst the said Worthy was travelling alone and on foot over the Catskill mountains, in the Turn, like road leading from Windham to Meredith, a deer in full speed met him in the path which was thro' a wood. The deer took little other notice of him than to turn out into the snow, and then coming directly again into the path behind him, continued his flight. Passing about a quarter of a mile further, he observed at a distance in the road before him an animal, which at first he took to be a large dog, apparently on the track of the deer, and rapidly approaching. On a nearer approach the animal stopped and growled at him. He now perceived it to be a wolf and swung his hat and hallooed, with intent to frighten him. But finding the wolf advancing, and howling, probably as a signal to other wolves, and seeing no possible way of retreat, he concluded to meet his adversary with a small cane in each hand. The wolf leaping towards him, seized with his teeth the cane that was aimed at his head, but presently dropped it and retreated. The wolf advanced a number of times, but about a dozen strokes of the cane on his head and legs, induced him to quit the contest; when taking a little into the woods he commenced howling. Worthy, supposing him calling for the assistance of his comrades, took to his heels for about half a mile, when he came across two men in a wagon, who had just come into the road, and had been listening some time to the howling of wolves. He was permitted to ride with them, but had not proceeded more than half a mile before three wolves made their appearance in the road behind the wagon, which they sharply looked at, and then fell to quarrelling among themselves. Worthy, and his companions taking that opportunity to get rid of their ferocious pursuers.

QUEBEC, JUNE 12.

Battle with a Bear.—On Monday afternoon a Bear was killed in St. John's Suburbs of the City. It is supposed that he had left the woods in search of food, and having reached the open country, got bewildered and frightened by the people who watched his motions. He was first seen in a field in Lower Bijou, whence he ascended to the high ground towards the St. Foy's road. There he was noticed by a laboring man named Joseph Montreuil, who was armed with an axe, and was returning to the Suburbs with a load of wood he had been gathering for his family. As soon as Montreuil perceived the game, he threw down his wood, and went in pursuit. The bear made several turns, keeping those who attended his motions, and who were not prepared for the reception of so unexpected a visitor, at a distance. He gradually approached the skirts of the Suburb, and after elambling over several fences, he at length found himself surrounded by the high paliogs of a garden. So strange a

circumstance, had by this time brought ther a considerable number of people. They surrounded the garden, and by their appearance, and the noise they made, they arrested the further progress of the animal, who seemed to put himself in a posture of defence, to await the event. As soon as Montreuil arrived, he hesitated whether he should attack him. The prospect of the spoil however, soon spurred him on, and he rushed upon the Bear with his axe. In this first onset was rather unfortunate. The Bear seated upon his legs, received him with coolness, parried the blow and succeeded in disarming his antagonist, who retired a little and cried for help. None, however, came to his assistance, as the people without the paliogs of the garden were mere spectators, and were unarmed; and in this respect, Bruin had all the fair play allowed him of a regular prize fight. He did not advance upon his antagonist, but continued seated as above mentioned, holding the axe with his fore paws, and endeavoring to destroy it with his teeth. Montreuil having recovered himself, and seeing that the honor of the contest depended upon his individual prowess, again rushed upon the enemy, for the recovery of his weapon. A struggle now took place in which Montreuil was slightly wounded in the hand. He succeeded, however, in wrenching the axe from the gripe of the Bear, & then seizing the animal with his left hand by the ear, he put in a blow upon his cranium, which fractured the skull, and which he followed up by others, that brought the savage to the ground to the admiration of those present. And to the great joy of the victor, whose courage and perseverance richly deserve the prize, worth perhaps two or three pounds.

The Bear was about four feet in length, and two in height. This is the third Bear which has been seen in the neighborhood of Quebec since the Spring. The appearance of these animals in the vicinity of the city, is quite unprecedented for many years past.

Douglass, April 24.—From a late nearly tragical transaction which took place in the premises of this town on Saturday evening last, it is ascertained that a desperate conspiracy was entered into for the purpose, of taking away the life of Mr. Grierson, Surgeon and Druggist in this town, who on that evening was dangerously wounded by his brother-in-law, Anthony Simonds, who, on the high road, fired a case of pistols at him, which shattered his left hand, wounded him in his breast, and deeply lodged one ball in his back, from whence the surgeons attending have not been able to extract it.

The cause of this fratricidal outrage is thus unfortunately accounted for: about two months since, Simonds came to the residence of his brother-in-law, Grierson, who, in his professional line, has been in attendance on the family of a person residing here about three years, under the name and addition of Francis Buller, Esq. but who in fact is a British Baronet, from Devonshire, the only son of the late Judge Buller, and who has been for years separated (for causes best known to himself) from a most amiable wife and family. Soon after the arrival of Simonds, this Mr. Buller invited Grierson and him to dinner, of which they partook; afterwards he invited Simonds (a handsome young man of two and twenty) to dine alone and kept him out to an unusual hour. Mrs. Grierson not approving of the lad's stopping late from home remonstrated on the subject; the lad mentioned it to Buller, who took him to his house, supplied him with money, clothes, &c. seduced him to stay, and in short had adopted this stranger as his own.

Mr. Grierson discovered the close intimacy which took place, and public suspicion reflecting upon the association, he endeavored to get his brother-in-law away, and remove him from the Island; this was resisted by Buller.—Mr. Grierson became urgent, and even perhaps incautiously violent on the occasion.—wrote to Buller stating the impropriety of seducing the unfortunate young man from his friends, and making use of some threats against his brother in law, should he not immediately withdraw from Buller's association. Matters rested partly in this way for some days. Mr. Grierson, however continuing his endeavours to get Simonds away; when at length Henry Roberts, alias Hargreaves, of the Liverpool coffee-house in this town, and formerly waiter at the George Inn, Huddersfield, dining at Buller's table, and the matter being talked over, declared that were he Simonds, he would shoot Grierson, should he attempt to use him so; Buller stated "he had no pistols for Simonds;" Roberts replied, "I have, and will lend them." Buller sent Simonds for the pistols on the same evening—procured powder and ball—occasionally practised Simonds in shooting—at all times made him carry them—told him that if he would shoot Grierson, he (Buller) had letters would save him; and on Saturday last, Roberts hearing that Grierson had again threatened Simonds should he remain in Buller's house, advised Simonds to shoot Grierson the first place he met him—to this latter advice Simonds unfortunately yielded—and meeting Mr. Grierson again in the evening of Saturday, so far accomplished the object of the conspiracy as to wound him in the manner we have above stated.

Immediately on these facts being known, J. M. Hutton, Esq. the High Bailiff of this town, attended by two peace officers, personally proceeded to the house of Buller, took Buller and Simonds into custody, instituted a strict scrutiny into the nature and origin of this compar-