

Persons Emigrating
THE
EMIGRANT'S HAND-BOOK ;
OR,
A DIRECTORY AND GUIDE
FOR PERSONS EMIGRATING TO THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ;
CONTAINING ADVICE AND DIRECTIONS TO EMIGRANTS, BUT ESPE-
CIALLY TO THOSE DESIGNING TO SETTLE IN
THE GREAT WESTERN VALLEY.

*And also, a Concise Description of the States of Ohio, In-
diana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri
and Iowa, and the Western Territories ; and
including a Statement of the Modes
and Expenses of Travelling*

FROM
NEW-YORK TO THE INTERIOR,
AND AN EXTENSIVE LIST OF ROUTES IN EACH STATE BY STEAM-
BOATS, RAILROADS, CANALS AND STAGES.
ACCOMPANIED WITH
A CORRECT TRAVELLING MAP OF THE UNITED STATES,

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A PERSON about to emigrate to, or visit a foreign country, naturally feels desirous of becoming acquainted with its geography and resources, and the condition and habits of the people among whom he is about to take up his residence. The want of this knowledge has long been lamented by thousands who have come to the shores of the United States, and it has been the regret of philanthropists, who have witnessed the evil consequences of a hasty and immature change of location, that no one has hitherto supplied the great desideratum so much needed by the emigrant—*information*. The “*Emigrant's Hand-Book*” is published with the view of giving, in as brief a manner as the nature of the subject will allow of, such

information as is required by those emigrating from Europe ; and no better method can be adapted to this end, than by pointing out the present condition of the United States, and the real prospects those visiting our shores may indulge in.

The United States occupy by far the most valuable and the most temperate portion of North America. Confined originally to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, this great confederacy of republics has extended its empire over the whole region spreading westward to the Pacific, and surpasses in internal resources, and in the means of developing its natural wealth, the capacities of any of the empires of the old world. To the miner, the artizan, the manufacturer., merchant or agriculturist, it offers the most unbounded inducements. In staples inexhaustible, in mechanical power efficient, in means of transportation unexceptionable, in matter and mind not surpassed, the prospects of the American Union are pre-eminently brilliant. The commerce, the internal trade, mechanical skill and agricultural industry of the United States are second, indeed, to those of no other nation, except in the aggregate amount of commercial transactions, in which it is surpassed by Great Britain alone.

The progressive increase of the dimensions of this country by conquest and cession has been rapid. At the termination of the revolution, in 1783, it was confined to the territories east of the Mississippi, and south of the Canadas. In 1803 it was augmented by the purchase from France of Louisiana, a country now occupied by the thriving states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, and several territories extending over many hundreds of thousands of square miles. Florida was purchased in 1819, and at the same time the Spanish claim to the “Oregon” was transferred to the republic. In 1845 Texas voluntarily annexed itself to the Union ; and by the treaty of 2d February, 1848, the whole territory of New Mexico and California were ceded by the republic of Mexico.

The present limits of the United States are bounded north by the Canadas and the 49th parallel of north latitude ; east by the Atlantic Ocean ; south by the Gulf of Mexico, the Rio Grande, and the Rio Gila, which separates it from the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Sonora, &c., and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. This vast country measures in extreme length from east to west, 2,800 miles, and from north to south, 1,360 miles, with an estimated superficial area of about 3,200,000 square miles, an extent of surface little inferior to that of the whole of Europe, and a population counting from 21,000,000 to 22,000,000 of souls.

The United States comprises three essentially different geographical regions :—the slope from the Alleghany Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, which comprises the oldest settlements ; the valley of the Mississippi, or great central plain, *now in the process of settlement* ; and the slope from the Cordilleras of New Mexico and the Rocky Mountains, to the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Such are the great natural divisions. Usually the country is divided into what are termed northern and southern, or free and slave states, in which the climate and habits of the people differ materially. It is chiefly, if not entirely, to the non-slave-holding states that the immigrants, those from Great Britain especially, direct their attention, because there they can enjoy a strictly healthy climate, and associate with neighbors of kindred opinions and habits of life. Greater scope is likewise afforded in these regions for their industry in agricultural and mechanical employments. The slave states, especially those in the extreme south, or below the line of 36° 30' north latitude, offer inducements only to the capitalist, who has sufficient to purchase both lands and slaves. There the climate is unsuited to the European constitution. Neither are the soil or staples of agriculture there grown, such as the European has been accustomed to. To raise cotton, tobacco, sugar and other tropical products, is the peculiar employment of the African, and could not be attempted by those indigenous to temperate regions.

There are now in the Union thirty separate and independent states, and a number of territories which are as yet but thinly settled.

The Valley of The St. Lawrence.

We will now proceed to describe those portions of the Union into which the tide of emigration is pouring, first giving a general view of the great valleys, and then separate accounts of the States referred to.

The country delineated by this work is occupied by the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Wisconsin, Iowa and the Minnesota and other Territories, known as the north-western States and Territories, which are embraced in the upper sections of the two great Valleys of the St. Lawrence and Mississippi.

The St. Lawrence Valley or Basin, contains the five great western lakes, and bounds the greater part of the northern frontier of the United States. Beginning at the Gulf of St. Lawrence, it extends nearly to the sources of the Mississippi, a distance of about 1800 miles ; and is computed to contain 511,930 square miles of surface ; 72,930 of which are covered with water. It may be divided into three great, but unequal parts ; the upper, middle, and lower. The first, in form of a rhomb, has an area of about 90,000 square miles, one-third of which is occupied by Lake Superior, its length is about 500 miles, with a mean breadth of 80, mean depth 900 feet, elevated 624 feet above the Ocean level. Into this reservoir are poured upwards of 50 rivers, none of which are of much importance. Though individually small, the quantity of water supplied collectively by the numerous tributaries of Lake Superior, must be very great. The whole mass, composing a large river, is forced through the Straits of St. Mary, a distance of 60 miles, into Lake Huron. Sault St. Marie, a fall of 22 ft. 10 in. in half a mile, is the largest of three rapids which obstruct navigation.

The middle division forms a quadrangle of about 160,000 square miles, having the three great central lakes, Michigan, Huron and Erie in its lowest depressions. Lake Michigan is a great chasm of 800 feet in depth below its surface, about 300 miles long by 65 mean width, and elevated 579 feet above tide level. The streams which fall into it are generally small, but very numerous. Lake Michigan communicates with Lake Huron by the Straits of Mackinac. Lake Huron is an expanded triangular body of water, and is divided into two unequal parts by the Manitoulin islands, and a peninsular projecting from its south-east side. Between the north-eastern shore and the Manitoulin group, extends a strait of 200 miles in length, with a mean width of about 30 miles. The mean breadth of the lake is 95 miles, and occupies an area of 19,000 square miles, receiving the vast discharge of Lake Superior and Michigan in its north-western angle, Lake Nipissing on its north-eastern, and several minor streams. These accumulated waters are discharged from its southern extremity by the Strait of St. Clair, a distance of 35 miles, with a rapid current, into Lake St. Clair. Lake St. Clair is a small, shallow, circular expansion of about 20 miles in diameter. It empties into Lake Erie by the Detroit *Strait*. Lake Erie forms the most southern part of the middle basin of the St. Lawrence. It is elevated 560 feet above tide level, and lies 19 ft. 3 in below the level of Lake Huron. Its form is elliptical, but much elongated, 280 miles in length, and but little exceeding 50 miles in breadth at its widest parts, average depth 200 feet. This congregated mass of waters from the upper lakes, and the many tributaries of Erie, in their course through the Niagara Strait or River, are precipitated down the Great Falls of Niagara, into the lower basin of the St. Lawrence ; when, after a distance of 14 miles from the falls, they are again expanded and form Lake Ontario, whose mean length is 180 miles, width 30. The St. Lawrence River, after a course of 692 miles, connects it with the Atlantic, and is the second river

in magnitude in America ; it is 100 miles wide at its mouth, and navigable for shios of the largest class 400 miles from the ocean.

The Valley of The Mississippi.

We have already seen that no considerable rivers run into the lakes of the St. Lawrence ; and this may prepare us for the fact, which is obvious on inspecting the map, that many of the streams which empty into the Mississippi rise very near to the lakes. Take for example the Ohio, which rises within five miles of Lake Erie, and there are many similar cases. It is a remarkable fact, that no mountains or grounds of considerable elevation, divide the tributaries of the lakes from those of the Mississippi Valley. On the contrary, the waters of Lake Michigan are so nearly on a level with the Des Plaines, (a continuation of the Illinois,) which flows into the Mississippi, that in seasons of great flood their waters not only mingle, but boats have been known to pass from the one into the other. The valley of the Mississippi embraces all that part of the United States lying between the Alleghany or Appalachian Mountains, and the Chippewayan or Rocky Mountains ; the waters of which are discharged through the mouths of the Mississippi into the Gulf of Mexico.

This great central valley may be divided into four parts. First, the portion between the lakes and the Alleghany Mountains ; this is traversed by the Ohio, and its numerous confluents. Second, the portion between the lakes and the Missouri ; this is traversed by the Mississippi proper. Third, the portion occupied by the Missouri itself, including the course of the River Platte.

Fourth, the valley of the Lower Mississippi, with the Arkansas and Red Rivers.

The Valley of The Ohio.

The Ohio Valley is subdivided by the river into two unequal sections, leaving on the right or north-west side 80,000, and on the left or south-east side, 116,000 square miles. The Ohio river flows in a deep ravine, which forms a common recipient for the waters drained from both slopes. The length of the ravine, in a direct line from Pittsburg to the Mississippi, is 540 miles, but by following the serpentine course of the. Ohio, is a distance of 948 miles. [1] “ The hills are generally found near the rivers or larger creeks, arid parallel to them on each side, having between them the alluvial valley through which the stream meanders, usually near the middle, but sometimes washing the foot of either hill. Perhaps the best idea of the topography of this region may be obtained, by conceiving it to be one vast elevated plain, near the centre of which the streams rise, and in their course wearing down a bed or valley, whose depth is in proportion to their size or the solidity of the earth over which they flow. So that our hills, with some few exceptions, are nothing more or less than cliffs or banks made by the action of the streams, and although these cliffs or banks on the rivers or large creeks approach the size of mountains, yet their tops are generally level like the remains of an ancient plain.” The tributaries of the Ohio which flow from the Alleghany Mountains are from their sources nearly to their mouths, mountain torrents, and have their courses generally in deep channels, and often through deep chasms with perpendicular banks of limestone ; those flowing from the north-west, rise in the table-land forming the dividing ridge between the waters of the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi, with a slight current, but increase in their velocity until they unite with the Ohio. In its natural state, the valley of the Ohio was for the most part covered with a dense forest, but the central plain presents an exception. As far east as the sources of the Muskingum, commenced open savannahs, covered with grass and devoid of timber. Like the plain itself, those savannahs expand to the westward and open into

immense natural meadows, known under the denomination of prairies. The Ohio, from Pittsburgh to the Mississippi, a course of nine hundred and forty-eight miles, falls only about 400 feet, or about 5 inches in a mile. This river, and its principal branch the Alleghany, are in a striking manner gentle as respects currents ; and from Olean, in the state of New-York, to the Mississippi, over a distance of 1160 miles, following the streams, at a moderately high flood, it meets (excepting the rapids at Louisville) with not a single serious natural impediment. The Monongahela, more impetuous, is yet navigable far into Virginia. On the north-west side of the valley, the rivers are extremely rapid. Poising on a table-land from 300 to 100 feet above their mouths, and in no instance having a direct course of 300 miles, the streams, though falling gradually, are almost torrents. The Big Beaver, Muskingum and Hockhocking, have direct falls ; but the Sciota, Miami and Wabash, though rapid, have no falls that seriously impede navigation.

The Upper Mississippi Valley.

The Mississippi rises in Lat. 47° 10', N., Lon. 95° 54', W., surrounded by an immense marshy plain, indented with small lakes abounding with fish and wild rice, and elevated 1500 feet above the Gulf of Mexico. It is a circumstance peculiar to this river, that the physiognomy of nature around its head bears so strong resemblance to that of its estuary. A difference of 19 degrees of latitude precludes much similarity in vegetable or stationary animal production. But, says Mr. Schoolcraft, who visited the sources in the month of July, “ the migratory water fowl found there at that time of the year, are very nearly the same which flock in countless millions over the Delta in December, January, February and March. It is also deserving of remark, that its sources lie in a region of almost continual winter, while it enters the Ocean under the latitude of perpetual verdure.” On a view of the particular valley of the Mississippi, its general sameness first strikes the eye. No chains or groups of mountains rise to vary the scene. Over so wide a space as 180,000 square miles, some solitary elevations exist, which, for want of contrast, are dignified by the name of mountains ; but few continuous tracts of equal extent, affords so little diversity of surface.

The upper part of the Mississippi is traversed by numerous falls and rapids of inconsiderable descent, until, after a meandering course of 420 miles, it precipitates its waters down the Falls of St. Anthony, 16½ feet perpendicular ; and 9 miles below, receives its largest confluent, the St. Peters, which rises among the sacred red-pipestone quarries of the Indians. The Mississippi from the St. Peters to some distance below Galena, flows in small streams, (with the exception of Lake Pepin, an expansion of 20 miles in length and 5 in width,) curling among a multitude of islands, which in the summer season are clothed with grass, flowers and forest trees ; and so thickly covered, that it is said, there are but three places between Prairie du Chien and St. Peters river, a distance of 220 miles, where you can see across the river. The bluffs which bound the river are delightful to the eye, running frequently in high and continuous ridges, then divided by valleys and streams entering the river ; and are covered to the summit with the same splendid verdure as the islands.

The Mississippi, after a distance of 990 miles from its source, and receiving in its course from the east, the Chippewa, Wisconsin, Rock and Illinois rivers, and many smaller streams ; and from the west, the St. Peters, Up. Iowa, Turkey, Makoqueta, Wapsipinecon, Iowa, Des Moines and Salt rivers, and many others of less note, unite and mingle its bright waters with the dark Missouri.

The Valley of The Missouri.

The Missouri rises in the Chippewayan or Rocky Mountains. As viewed from the course of this river, the mountains rise abruptly out of the plains, which lie extended at their base, and tower in peaks of great height, which render them visible at an immense distance. They consist of ridges, knobs and peaks, variously disposed, among which are interspersed many broad and fertile valleys. The more elevated parts are covered with perpetual snow, which give them at a distance a most brilliant appearance. They are covered with a scattering growth of scrubby pine, oak, cedar and furze. The Missouri rises far within the bosom of the mountains, and is divided by a single ridge from the waters of the Columbia, which flow into the Pacific Ocean. In its early course, it flows through small but beautiful and fertile valleys, deeply embosomed amidst the surrounding heights, and forms a variety of islands in its progress, till at length it issues from these verdant recesses by a rocky pass, which has not unaptly been called the Gates of the Rocky Mountains.

[2] For five and three quarter miles, these rocks rise on both sides of the river, perpendicularly from the water's edge, to the height of nearly 1,200 feet. The river (three hundred and fifty yards in width) seems to have forced its channel through this solid mass ; but so reluctantly has it given way, that, during the whole distance, the water is very deep, even at the edges, and for the first three miles there is not a spot, except one of a few yards, in which a man could stand between the waters and the towering perpendicular of the mountains. The convulsion of the passage must have been terrible, since at its outlet there are vast columns of rock torn from the mountains, which are strewed on both sides of the river, the trophies, as it were, of the victory. This extraordinary range of rocks is called the "Gates of the Rocky Mountains." At the junction of the Yellow-Stone and the Missouri, the river by either branch has flowed more than a thousand miles. A few miles below the influx of the Yellow-Stone, the Missouri has reached its utmost northern bend, in N. Lat. 48° 20' ; and curves, by a regular sweep of 200 miles, to the Mandan villages. The Platte and Kansas are two great confluent of the Missouri, rising in the same mountains, and flowing eastwardly, the former 700, and the latter 600 miles. The Platte derives its name from the circumstance of its being broad and shoal ; its average width being about 1,200 yards, exclusive of the islands it embosoms, with a rapid current, and is fordable almost everywhere. The character of the Kansas is nearly similar, being navigable only in high freshets, and then not exceeding 200 miles from its mouth. Grand and Chariton on the north, and Osage and Gasconade on the south, (navigable streams,) are tributaries of the Missouri. After a direct course of 1,870 miles, and a meandering one of 3,000, the Missouri unites with the Mississippi. The valley of the Missouri occupies an area of 523,000 square miles. Three remarkable features exist in it—first, the turbid character of its waters ; second, the very unequal volumes of the right and left confluent ; and third, the immense excess of the open prairies over the river lines of the forest. In the direction of the western rivers, the inclined plane of the Missouri extends 800 miles from the Chippewayan mountains, and rather more than that distance from south to north, from the southern branches of the Kansas, to the extreme heads of the northern confluent of the valley. [3] "Ascending from the lower verge of this widely extended plain, wood becomes more and more scarce, until one naked surface spreads on all sides. Even the ridges and chains of the mountains partake of these traits of desolation. The traveller in those parts, who has read the descriptions of central Asia by Tooke or Pallas, will feel, on the higher branches of the Missouri, a resemblance at once striking and appalling. He will regret how much of the earth's surface is doomed to irremediable silence, and if near the Chippewayan heights in winter, he will acknowledge, that the utmost intensity of frost in Siberia and Mongolia has its full counterpart in North America, on similar, if not on lower latitudes." "But of all the characteristics which distinguish the Missouri and its confluent,

the few direct falls, or even rapids, is certainly the most remarkable. Between Dearborne's and Maria's rivers, the stream leaves the Chippewyan range by rolling over ledges of rocks for a distance of 18 miles, after which this over-whelming mass of water, though everywhere flowing with great rapidity, nowhere swells into a lake, or rolls over a single cataract, in a distance of at least 3,500 miles, to the Gulf of Mexico. If, therefore, the Amazon is excepted, the Missouri and its continuation, the Mississippi, afford the most extended, uninterrupted line of river navigation which has ever been discovered."

Valley of The Lower Mississippi.

After being joined by the Missouri, the Mississippi makes a direct course of 820, or following its meanderings, 1,265 miles, to the Gulf of Mexico. In no circumstance is the physical geography of the United States more remarkable than in the extreme inequality of the two opposing planes, down which are poured the confluent of the Mississippi, below the influx of the Ohio. The western inclined plane, falling from the Rocky Mountains, sweeps over upwards of 800 miles ; while the eastern, sloping from the Appalachian, has not a mean width of 100 miles. The rivers which drain the two slopes are, in respective length, proportionate to the extent of their planes of descent. Although Red river exceeds a comparative course of 800 miles, the Arkansas of 1,000, and White river of 400, the longest stream from the opposite slope falls short of 200 miles. The alluvium brought down by such volumes of water as those of White, Arkansas and Red rivers, explains satisfactorily the reason why the Mississippi infringes so often on the eastern, and no where below the Ohio touches the western bluffs. The lower valley of the Mississippi is the most variegated section of the United States. [4] " Every form of landscape, every trait of natural physiognomy, and an exhaustless quantity, with an illimitable specific diversity of vegetable and metallic productions, are found upon this extensive region. It is flanked on the east by a dense forest, and on the west by the naked ridges and spires of the Chippewyan mountains ; while the deep entangled woods of the Mississippi stand in striking relief against the expansive prairies of the Arkansas and Red rivers."

Inundations of The Mississippi.

The spring floods to which the Mississippi is subject, are remarkable for their long and steady continuance ; a circumstance highly favorable to inland navigation. It is obvious, on a glance at the different regions from whence the waters are drawn, that the rivers must be high at different periods of the year. It is evident, also, that in the breaking up of winter, the water in the same valley is drawn from its sources gradually ; when, as in the case of the Mississippi, the river flows from the poles towards the equator. Similar remarks apply to the Ohio and the Arkansas ; so that the duration of the flood season is thus lengthened, while the quantity of water in a given time is moderated. Generally, the Red River flows out in February, or early in March. The great flood from the Arkansas, the Ohio, and the Upper Mississippi, commences early in March, and attains its full height in the middle of June. Abating from the latter period, it has nearly subsided by the first of August, when the retarded flow of the Missouri arrives to complete the annual inundation.

Face of The Country.

The surface of the Mississippi Valley may be arranged under three natural divisions—the forest, or thickly timbered, the barrens, and prairie country. The timber most abundant in this territory are the oak, of various species, black and white walnut, ash of the several varieties, elm, sugar-maple, honey-locust, birch, buck-eye, hack-berry, linden, hickory, cotton-wood,

white and yellow pine, peccan, mulberry, sycamore, box, sassafras, persimmon, with several others. The undergrowth consists principally of red bud, paw-paw, sumach, plum, crab-apple, dog-wood, hazel, spice-bush, grape vines, green brier, &c. The trees are very luxuriant in their growth, and are frequently found of a stupendous size.

Barrens are a species of country of a mixed character, uniting forest and prairie. They are covered with scattered oaks, rough and stunted in their appearance, interspersed with patches of hazel, brush-wood, and tough grass. The appearance of this description of country led the early settlers to suppose, that the scantiness of the timber was owing to the sterility of the soil, and hence, the title thus ignorantly given, became of universal application to this extensive tract of country. It is ascertained, however, that those "barrens" have as productive a soil as can be found in the western states—healthy, more rolling than the prairies, and abounding with that important requisite, good springs. The fire passes over these "barrens" in the fall, but owing to the insufficiency of the fuel, is not able to destroy entirely the timber. The farmer may settle without hesitation on any part of this land, where he can find timber enough for his present wants, for the soil is better adapted to all the purposes of farming and changes of the seasons, than the deeper and richer mould of the prairies.

The next, and far most extensive surface, is the "openings," the rich level, or rolling prairies, interspersed with belts and points of timber, and the vast sterile prairies of the Far West.

And first, the "oak openings," so termed from their distinctive feature of the varieties of oak which are scattered over them, interspersed at times with pine, black walnut, and other forest trees, which spring from a rich vegetable soil. The surface is ordinarily dry and rolling, with trees of a moderate growth. Among the "oak openings," are found some of the most lively landscapes of the west; and for miles and miles, a varied scenery of natural growth, with all the diversity of gently swelling hill and dale—here, trees grouped or standing single; and there, arranged in long avenues, as though planted with human hands, with slips of open meadow between. Sometimes the "openings" are dotted with numerous clear lakes, and form scenes of enchanting loveliness. They are fed by subterraneous springs, or the rains; and few having any apparent outlet, lose their surplus waters by evaporation. Michigan and Illinois abound with these oak openings. The rich "rolling prairie" forms the second division, which presents other features, and in a great degree another vegetation. These prairies abound with the thickest and most luxuriant belts of forest; or, as they are termed, "timbers," scattered over the open face of the country, in bands or patches of every possible form and size, generally following the meanders of the water courses, sometimes at short distances, at other times, miles and miles apart. They present wide and slightly undulating tracts of the rankest herbage and flowers, many ridges and hollows filled with purple thistles, and ponds filled with aquatic plants. In Missouri, they occupy the higher portions of the country; the descent to the wooded "bottoms" being invariably over steep and stony declivities. The depth and richness of the soil on these lands are almost incredible, and the edges of the timbered strips are the favorite haunt of the emigrant settler and backwoodsman, in quest of game.

The third division is the vast boundless prairies of the "Far West," unbroken, save by the forest, rising on the alluvian of some water course below their level, or by the skirts of knotted and harsh oak-wood, of thick and stunted growth. The prairies occupy the highest part of the table-land, toward the sources of the great rivers and their tributaries. They abound with abrupt and peculiarly shaped flinty hills, swelling up from the general level; great salt plains, and occasionally with isolated rocks rising from the surface, with perpendicular sides, as though cut by the hand of man, standing alone in the midst of these prairies, a wonder to the

Indian and the trapper. They are seldom perfectly level. As you advance, one immense sea of grass swells to the horizon after another, unbroken, for miles, by rock or tree. They are the home of the bison, and the hunting ground of the roving bands of the red men of the West.

Climate of The Mississippi Valley.

[5] “ We may conceive four distant climates between the sources and the outlet of the Mississippi. The first commencing at its source and terminating at Prairie du Chien, corresponds pretty accurately to the climate between Montreal and Boston, with this difference, that the amount of snow falling in the former is much less than in the latter region. The growing of gourd seed corn, which demands a higher temperature to bring it to maturity, is not pursued in this region. The Irish potatoe is raised in this climate in the utmost perfection. Wheat, and cultivated grasses succeed well. The apple and pear tree require fostering and southern exposure to bring fruit to perfection. The peach tree has still more the habits and the delicacy of a southern stranger, and requires a sheltered declivity with a southern exposure, to succeed at all. Five months in the year may be said to be under the dominion of winter. For that length of time, the cattle require shelter in the severe weather, and the still waters remain frozen. The second climate extends over the opposite States of Missouri and Illinois in their whole extent, or the country between 43° and 37° . Cattle, though much benefitted by sheltering, and often needing it, here seldom receive it. It is not so favorable for cultivated grasses as the preceding region. Gourd seed corn is the only kind extensively planted. The winter commences with January and ends with the second week in February ; the ice in the still waters after that time thaws. Wheat, the inhabitant of a variety of climates, is at home as a native in this. The persimmon and the paw-paw are found in its whole extent. It is the favored region of the apple, the pear and the peach. Snow neither falls deep nor lies long. The Irish potato succeeds to a certain extent, but not as well as in the former climate ; but this disadvantage is supplied by the sweet potato, which, though not at home in this climate, with a little care in the cultivation, flourishes. The grandeur of the vegetation, and the temperature of March and April, indicates an approach towards the southern regions.

“ The third climate extends from 37° to 31° . Below 35° , in the rich alluvial soils, the apple tree begins to fail in bringing its fruit to perfection ; apples worth eating are seldom raised much below New Madrid. Below 33° , commences the proper climate for cotton, and here it is the staple article of cultivation. Festoons of long moss hang from the trees and darken the forest, and the palmetto gives to the low alluvial grounds a grand and striking verdure. The muscadine grape, strongly designating the climate, is first found here. Laurel trees become common in the forest, retaining their foliage and their verdure through the winter. Wheat is no longer seen as an article of cultivation, but the fig-tree brings its fruit to full maturity.

“ Below this limit to the gulf, is the fourth climate, the region of the sugar-cane and the orange-tree. It would be, if cultivated, the region of the olive. Snow is no longer seen to fall, except a few flakes in the coldest storms ; the streams are never frozen ; winter is only marked by nights of white frosts and days of north-west winds, which seldom last longer than three days in succession, and are followed by south winds and warm days.

“ In such a variety of climate and exposure, in a country alternately covered in one point with the thickest forests, and in another spreading out into grassy plains, and with almost every shade of temperature, there must necessarily be generated all the forms and varieties of disease that spring simply from climate. Emigrants will always find it unsafe to select their residence near stagnate waters, and the rich and heavy timbered alluvians ; yet these from

their fertility, and the ease in which they are brought into cultivation, are the points most frequently selected. The rich plains of the Sciota were the graves of the first settlers, but they have long since been brought into cultivation, and have lost their character for insalubrity. Hundreds of places in the west, which were selected as residences by the first emigrants on account of their fertility, and which were at first regarded as haunts of disease and mortality, have since become healthy. Wherever the 'bottoms' are wide, the forest deep, the surface level and sloping back from the river, and the vegetation rank—wherever the rivers overflow, and leave stagnate waters that are only carried off by evaporation—wherever there are in the 'bottoms,' ponds and lagoons to catch and retain the rains, and the overflow, it may be assumed as a general maxim that such places are unhealthy. Emigrants have scarcely ever paused long enough, or taken sufficient care in selecting their residences as a place of salubrity. A deep 'bottom,' a fertile soil, the margin of some navigable stream, are apt to be the determining elements of their choice. The forest is levelled, hundreds of trees moulder and putrify about the cabin; the stagnate waters which, while shielded from the action of the sun by the forest, had remained comparatively innoxious, exposed now to the burning rays of the sun, arid rendered more deleterious by being filled with trunks and branches of decaying trees, and all kinds of putrid vegetation, become laboratories of miasma, and generate on every side the seeds of disease. When it is known that such have been precisely the circumstance in which a great portion of the emigrants to the western country have fixed themselves, in open cabins that drink in the humid atmosphere of the night, through a hundred crevices, in a new and untried climate, under a higher temperature, a new diet and regimen, and perhaps, under the depressing influence of severe labor and exposure, need we wonder, that the country has acquired a character of unhealthiness. Yet, where the forest is cleared away, and the land has been for a sufficient time under cultivation, and is sufficiently remote from stagnate waters, generally may be considered as healthy as any other country. It is a very trite, but a true and important remark, that in proportion as the country becomes opened, cultivated, and peopled—in proportion as the redundance and rankness of natural vegetation is replaced by that of cultivation, the country becomes more healthy."

Dr. Drake remarks—"The diseases of this portion of the great valley are few, and prevail chiefly in summer and autumn. They are the offspring of the combined action of intense heat and marsh exhalation. Those who migrate from a colder climate to the southern Mississippi states, should observe the following directions. 1st. To arrive there in autumn, instead of spring or summer. 2d. If practicable, to spend the hottest part of the first two or three years in a higher latitude. 3d. To select the healthiest situation. 4th. To live *temperately*. 5th. To preserve a regular habit. Lastly. To avoid the heat of the sun, from ten in the morning till four in the afternoon; and above all, the night air. By a strict attention to these rules, many would escape the diseases of the climate, who annually sink under its baneful influence."

Mr. Peck observes—"The same causes for disease exist in Ohio as in Missouri: in Michigan as in Illinois; in Kentucky and Tennessee as in Indiana. All those states are more infested with maladies which depend on variations of temperature, than the states farther south. All have localities where intermittents and agues are found, and all possess extensive districts of country where health is enjoyed, by a large proportion of emigrants. There is some difference between a heavily timbered and a prairie country, in favor of the latter, other circumstances being equal. Changes, favorable to continued health, are produced by the settlements and cultivation of the country. In fine, I am prepared to give my opinion, *decidedly*, in favor of this country and climate. I would not certainly be answerable for all the bad locations, the imprudence and whims of all classes of emigrants, which may operate unfavorable to health."

Public Lands.

All the lands owned by the United States are surveyed under one system. The General Land Office is established at Washington city. Several offices, each under the direction of a surveyor general, have been established from time to time. The office for the surveys of all public lands in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, is located at Cincinnati. The one for the states of Illinois and Missouri, is at St. Louis. Another for Wisconsin and Iowa, is located at Du Buque. These tracts are subdivided into Land Districts, having an office attached to each.

The following are the localities of the offices attached to each of the land districts in the Western States : In *Ohio*, Chillicothe and Upper Sandusky ; in *Indiana*, Jeffersonville, Vincennes, Indianapolis, Crawfordsville, FortWayne, and Winamac ; in *Illinois*, Shawneetown, Kaskaskia, Edwardsville, Vandalia, Palestine, Springfield, Danville, Quincy, Dixon and Chicago ; in *Wisconsin*, Mineral Point, Green Bay and Milwaukee ; in *Michigan*, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Genesee and Ionia ; in *Iowa*, Du Buque, Fairfield and Iowa city ; and in *Missouri*, St. Louis, Fayette, Palmyra, Jackson, Clinton, Springfield and Plattsburg. The principles of surveying for the purposes of settlement in the United States, are uniform and very easy of comprehension. *Meridian lines* are established and surveyed in a line due north from some important point, generally from the junction of some important water courses. These are intersected at right angles with a *base line*. On the meridians, the “ townships ” are numbered north or south from the *base lines*, and on the base line “ ranges ” east or west of the *meridian*. There are six *principal meridians* used in the western states and territories.

The first *principal meridian* is a line due north from the mouth of the Great Miami river, to the old northern boundary of Ohio, with a base line extending due east on the 41st degree of latitude.

The second *principal meridian* is a line due north from a point on the Ohio river to the northern boundary of Indiana.

The third principal meridian is a line due north from the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, to the north boundary of Illinois. The base line for the second and third principal meridians, commences on the Ohio river, at 38° 30' north latitude, and extends due west to the Mississippi.

The fourth *principal meridian* commences on the Illinois river, at a point 72 miles due north from its mouth, (here also commences its base line, and runs due west to the Mississippi river.) The meridian continues north (crossing and re-crossing the Mississippi river,) to the Wisconsin river, with an additional base line on the north boundary of Illinois, for the surveys in Wisconsin.

The fifth principal meridian is a line beginning at the mouth of the Arkansas river ; thence through the states of Arkansas and Missouri, to town 54° north, where it crosses the Mississippi, re-crosses into Iowa territory, and continues to the Mississippi river, near Cassville. Its base line extends due west from the mouth of White river to the western boundary of Arkansas.

A sixth principal meridian is used for the state of Michigan, beginning on the south boundary of the State, in a due north direction from the junction of the Maumee and Au Glaize rivers, to the straits of Mackinac, having a base line crossing the peninsula in a due west line from about the centre of Lake St. Clair to Lake Michigan.

When a meridian and base line have been laid out, township lines are run (at a distance of 6 miles) parallel to the meridian and base lines. These form townships of 6 miles square, containing an area of 36 square miles. Each square mile is termed a section, and contains 640 acres. The sections are numbered from 1 to 36, beginning at the north-east corner of the township.

Sections are divided in quarter sections of 160 acres each, and into half quarter sections of 80 acres each.

When surveyed, the lands are offered for sale at public auction, but cannot be disposed of at a less price than one dollar and a quarter per acre. That portion not sold at public auction is subject to private entry at any time, for the above price, payable in cash at the time of entry.

Pre-emption rights only give the improver or possessor the privilege of purchasing at the minimum price.

[1] Bourne.

[2] Lewis and Clark.

[3] Darby.

[4] Darby.

[5] Flint.

Away To The West.

By W. K. Cole.

AWAY in the West, where the primeval wood
Yet throws its dark fringe on the Michigan flood ;
Where, pale in their beauty, the forest flowers bloom,
And the earth is yet mantled in forest-land gloom ;
With the bounds of an empire, the dark virgin soil.
Full of treasures, awaiteth the husbandman's toil.

Away in the West, by the Huron's green shore,
Where Nature still reigneth supreme as of yore ;
Where, murmuring soft in the flickering gleam
Of its leaf-curtained hall, goes the canopied stream,
There spreads a broad realm, where the toil of the poor
May keep the grim demon of Want from the door.

Away in the West, 'neath the brightest of skies,
And horizon-bounded, the prairie land lies—
The prairie land, over whose surface is rolled
A garment much fairer than diamonds and gold.
There the hard hand of Labor but waving its wand,
And a harvest all golden springs up from the land.

Away to the West ! ye who grovel and pine
In the haunts of the many, in tunnel and mine ;
Banish pick-axe and shovel ; then, ho ! for the plow :
For a tithe of the labor that dampens your brow

Will place you in plenty—a tithe of your toil
Make you chief of the manor, and lord of the soil.

Ye famishing legions from Europe just fled,
Ye exiles of Hunger, ye seekers of bread—
Away with the moment, and linger no more
By the waves that have borne you across to our shore ;
For millions and millions as yet there is room,
Where the prairie lands smile and the forest trees bloom.

The emigrant's hand-book, or, A directory and guide for persons emigrating to the United States of America ... : also, a concise description of the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri and Iowa, and the western territories, and including a statement of the modes and expenses of travelling from New York to the interior .. (1848)

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