

in the rear came some stray horses and cows, driven by a barefooted lass, with evidently nothing on but a cotton gown, and even that seemed to be an unnatural and disagreeable encumbrance to her lower extremities. The probability is, however, that some stray senator may pick her up on some future day, when the "diggings" to which she is now bound become thickly populated and progressive. Meantime her father complains of being "crowded out," and says that he has no longer elbow-room, and that people are settling down under his nose, when the nearest farm to that which he has just left in disgust is at least twenty miles distance by the sectional lines. He is no emigrant from the old country, but moved into Western Illinois when that was the Far West. But he sees crowds of emigrants moving beyond him, and crowds more taking up their location where he once roved in solitary dignity; and that disturbs his peace of mind, and he leaves the cockney atmosphere for the silent prairie far beyond the most distant emigrant, never stopping, perhaps, till he reaches the western borders of Nebraska, where the Indian war-whoop is still heard to recall the experiences of his earlier days, and to keep ever bright the watchful eye, and the listening ear ever attentive, and thus to add to the peaceful occupations of agriculture the excitement incident to a border life.

As the tinkling of the cattle-bells died upon the ear, we emerged from a wooded glen, and found our-