

**Letter from Nebraska.**

To the Editor of the TRANSCRIPT:

Dear Sir,—Your highly apprised periodical arrives regularly every week, and is as eagerly looked for and as cordially received as an old friend. Having received many enquiries from that part of the country respecting soil, climate, situation, &c., of this part of the State of Nebraska, and thinking that perhaps a short description might be of some interest to many of the readers of your valuable paper, I embrace this opportunity of contributing an experience of over two years for the benefit of all whom it may concern, and more especially for the benefit of those who have written me on the subject.

Nebraska, as you are aware, lies about midway between the two great oceans of the world, and is larger than all the New England States combined. It offers great and varied advantages to all those who are looking westward for homes, where they can find peace and profit, plenty and comfort, and those opportunities of social enjoyment—schools and churches, and all those privileges enjoyed and so highly prized in the east, in homes left behind. One eighteenth part of all the public lands of Nebraska is set apart for school purposes and are not allowed to be sold until they are worth seven dollars per acre at least, and as much of this land is valuable, bringing from \$10 to \$20 per acre, the sale of these lands creates a very large fund for educational purposes, and consequently in every locality where there half a dozen inhabitants you will find a school established and the children of school age attending school. I believe there is no country in the world with better educational facilities, or that takes a greater interest in preparing the rising generation for the great responsibilities of statesmanship and public trust. The principles of honesty, patriotism, temperance and religion are thoroughly inculcated. The mean elevation of the state of Nebraska is about 2,500 feet above the level of the sea, and, as a writer once said, is "almost uniformly free from excesses." It may be regarded as the equable, delightful mean between the rigorous north and the extreme heat and humidity of the south, and its great elevation above the sea gives a rare, clear and even radiant atmosphere, with almost perfect immunity from the damp, heavy, murky atmospheric conditions that obtain in the lake and sea coast regions. By this you may readily see that people afflicted with asthmatic, bronchial or pulmonary affections are greatly benefitted, if not entirely cured by coming to this country and enjoying the bracing, exhilarating and brilliant atmosphere of this State. The westerly winds that come to us after having been wafted over the summits of the Rocky Mountain ranges, are thus freed from any taint of malaria, and consequently its healthful and invigorating influence. The clearness and brilliancy of the atmosphere enables a person to see objects at a great distance, where there is no intervening object to obstruct the sight. Houses are plainly seen in many instances at a distance of 20 miles. You may thus, by occupying an elevated position on a level part of the country with a clear sky overhead, behold objects in any direction from you at a distance of 20 miles or more. Thus you have in the range of vision an area of nearly 40 miles square, or 1,600 square miles.

The mirage is of frequent occurrence here. In travelling through the country you may see at a short distance ahead of you what you take to be a beautiful lake of water. You may see plainly the waves rolling over its sunny surface and breaking upon the shore. You may see the beach covered with beautiful foliage and trees; but as you approach this lovely scenery vanishes into thin air, and you are left to wonder at this singular freak of nature. To any one who has never witnessed a scene of this kind it is worth something to see.

The great overland route to California used to be through the centre of Nebraska, up the Platte Valley, and to this day the trail is plainly visible. In speaking of the Platte River it may not be out of place to here notice one or two peculiarities in connection with it. It is a shallow river and in Nebraska is about a mile wide, and when the wind blows strongly from the south the water is nearly all blown over to the north side, leaving the bed at the south side bare; and the same effect is also produced by north winds blowing the water to the south side. Another peculiarity is that the nearer to the mouth of the river you go the less water you find in it, notwithstanding a great many good sized streams flow into it; and there is a river about 15 miles north of our place called Wood River, which I suppose never had a drop of water in it. It only bears the resemblance of a river.

About one half of all the land in Nebraska is valley land, and is either perfectly level or slightly undulating. The land for 5 or 6 miles on each side of rivers and streams is strongly impregnated with a kind of alkali that renders the

soil unfit for crops until it has been worked for a succession of seasons, but when it has been thoroughly pulverized and exposed to the atmosphere a sufficient length of time it becomes very productive. Farther back the soil is a rich black loam from 6 inches to 10 feet deep, and is very productive, even when first broken up. The soil is broken in a great many places by what is called buffalo wallows. These are from eight to fifteen feet in diameter, and are caused by the buffaloes standing close together and stamping off the flies and gnats. They are sometimes six to eight inches in depth, and in wet seasons fill up with water, when the buffaloes wallow in them and cover themselves with mud as a shield from insects. Along the rivers a coarse thick grass grows, called alkali grass, but off the alkali lands this gives place to rye grass, a tall, thick grass; also a short, thick curly mat of what is called buffalo grass. This last cures on the ground in the fall like hay, and makes a splendid range for cattle during the winter season. The other half not included as valley lands is called "bluffs," or broken lands, and sometimes they are known as table lands or divides, and are used principally for grazing purposes. Ranch men fence in large tracts of these lands and keep large herds of cattle—some 5,000, and some as high as 50,000 head.

The public lands of Nebraska are surveyed into sections, each a mile square, and the Government allows each actual settler the right to homestead a quarter-section, or 160 acres. After he has lived on it five years, and has complied with the requirements of the law, the Government grants him or her a free patent. He is also allowed another quarter section as a "timber culture claim," provided there is only one such claim taken in each section. The law requires the cultivation of ten acres of timber four feet each way for six years after being planted, at which time the Government grants him a free patent.

In conclusion, I would say to all young men, and old ones too, who have no settled or profitable business—like Horace Greely—"Go west, man, and grow up with the country."

Respectfully,  
LAUGHTER E. TWIN.

**Letter of Condolence.**

Appin, March 15th, 1886.  
To Bro. C. McRoberts and partner in life:

We, the officers and members of Loyal Orange Lodge, No. 981, do deeply regret your loss in the death of your two children, and do sympathise with you in your sad bereavement; but it was only the hand of a kind providence, who, in His wise dispensation, saw fit to remove your dear children to that home beyond this vale of tears, where sorrow will be no more. And, dear brother, we do hope and pray that your sad bereavement will only tend to draw yourself and family nearer to your Great Redeemer, hoping that we all one day will meet in that haven of eternal rest.

Signed in behalf of Loyal Orange Lodge No. 981,  
H. HUSTON, JAMES STINSON,  
JOHN SINCLAIR, WM. M. DORR.

**A VALUABLE FIND.**—James Alex. Sproul, of Orangeville, says he has found Burdock Blood Bitters to be the best medicine he ever took for kidney complaint, with which he was long suffering. He declares B. B. B. without a rival.

Obstructions of the stomach, liver and bowels are promptly removed by National Pills.

Mrs. L. Squire, Ontario Steam Dye Works, Toronto, says: For about 30 years I have doctored for liver complaint and dyspepsia without getting any cure. I then tried Nottrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery, and the benefits I have received from this medicine are such that I cannot withhold this expression of my gratitude. It acts immediately upon the liver. As a dyspepsia remedy I don't think it can be equalled.

**MUCH IN A LITTLE.**—Hamilton Dowd, writing from Burns, Ont., says he was afflicted with chilblains which were very sore and painful which nothing relieved him until he tried Hagyard's Yellow Oil; less than one bottle cured him.

Use the safe, pleasant and effectual worm killer, Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator; nothing equals it. Procure a bottle and take it home.

Wonderful is the effect of West's World Wonder or Family Liniment in rheumatism, sprains, cuts, bruises, burns, scalds and all diseases requiring external application. It stands without a rival. Price 25 and 50 cents per bottle. Sold at Barclay's and Platt's drug stores.

Geo. Dodge, sr., a well-known citizen of Emporium, writes that one of his men (Sam. Lewis) whilst working in the woods so severely sprained his ankle that he could scarcely get home, but after one or two applications of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil, he was able to go to work next day.

Have you tried Holloway's Corn Cure? It has no equal for removing these troublesome excrescences; as many have testified who have tried it.

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**GEO. WILSON.**

Glencoe, September 4th, 1885.

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**E. ALLAN SURBEY, Agent.**

Glencoe, June 11, 1885.

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