

A JOURNEY.

BY A TORONTO MERCHANT.

ON the 21st of November last a small party left Toronto by an excursion car on the Grand Trunk Railway bound for California; some for the northern part of the State, and some for the south; some were seeking health, others pleasure, or change of home. The writer had taken his ticket to Santa Barbara, a sea-coast town in the southern part of the State. Thinking that a short description of the journey, and of the country and people of Southern California might be interesting to the readers of the CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY, these lines are written. Our train left Toronto about mid-day, and on the following morning the great city of Chicago was reached, and the excursionists had about three hours to walk about its streets and notice the activity and energy of its people, who, within an ordinary lifetime, have built up a city of such vast commercial importance.

On the morning of the second day we arrived at Council Bluffs, having passed through the rich agricultural States of Illinois and Iowa. This city is in the western part of Iowa, and within two or three miles of the Missouri River, which forms here the boundary between the States of Iowa and Nebraska. Near to the city, and about half a mile west of the Missouri River bridge, the Union Pacific Railway commences, and the terminus is known as the Transfer Grounds. Here all passengers, baggage, mails, etc., from the east are transferred to this railway. On account of a delay of several hours we were enabled to cross the river and make a visit to the city of Omaha, which is almost directly opposite and is in the State of Nebraska. It has the appearance

of a prosperous city, and is nicely situated on a slope about forty feet above the level of the river, and at an elevation of about 1,000 feet above the level of the sea. The first house was built here only a little over forty years ago, and the city is now the centre of at least half a dozen lines of railway, and has many fine buildings, and, from its position, not only as a railway centre, but being in the midst of an extensive and superior agricultural country, must become a city of considerable importance.

It was towards evening when our train started westward through the State of Nebraska, noted for its extensive grazing lands, great cattle ranches, and wild cow-boys. On the following evening we reached Cheyenne, the capital of Wyoming, and the largest town between Omaha and Ogden, just half way between these two cities—the distance between them being 1,032 miles. At this point we have reached an altitude of about 6,000 feet above the ocean level. The surrounding country is used principally for grazing purposes. A short distance from Cheyenne we passed through Prairie Dog City, where these miniature dogs have their homes in great number, and from the cars we saw a great many of them. Their homes consist of little mounds with holes in the top and raised about a foot above the level ground. The mounds are no doubt formed from the earth taken from their burrows. They are seen from the train for quite a little distance, and in some places are very numerous; sitting or squatting on the ground near their holes, and as the train approaches they sometimes bark and get frightened and scamper away to their under-