

In the next issue of the *Prairie Farmer* (June 5th) a further account is given of the locust ravages, as follows:—

"Though in many localities the locusts have begun to try their wings, they do not yet seem ready for a prolonged or general flight. They seem to fly short distances in all directions, though we hear little of encroachments on new ground to the eastward. A few days more will settle the question as to direction and probable damage. All we know now is that in Missouri there is already considerable suffering among the people. A meeting was held at Independence on the 31st. From all portions of the county there came sad accounts of suffering. A relief committee was appointed. From Lexington we hear that the locusts are still at work, with no immediate prospect of leaving. A committee for relief purposes has been appointed. At Fort Scott, Kansas, the pests are reported as on the wing for the north-west. At Olathe they are moving northward. We have few particulars from Nebraska, but from what we do hear, conclude that there is little cause for alarm. The same may be said of Minnesota. In Nebraska, however, there is developing disease among the people, resulting from the privations of the past few months. Scurvy prevails to a considerable extent."

The July "Monthly Report of the Department of Agriculture" at Washington gives a record of the plague of locusts, from which we gather the following:—

"They appeared in several counties of Minnesota. Blue earth offered a bounty for their destruction. About 20,000 bushels were collected and destroyed at a cost of \$32,000, without perceptibly diminishing their numbers." They were very destructive in three other counties, but were comparatively innocuous in the rest from which reports had come. In Iowa, Montgomery County had a very destructive visitation in the western part, the greatest injury being to the corn crop. They are also noted in eight other counties. In Missouri they did serious damage in several of the counties mentioned in the preceding month's report. "They swept away all the crops in Clay County; in Carroll they chewed tobacco." In Texas they were injurious to the cotton-plant. In Kansas they inflicted a very serious amount of damage; in three counties, three-fourths of the crops were destroyed; they were "very bad" in fourteen more counties; while lighter visitations were reported from six others. In Nebraska they are reported as more or less injurious in thirteen counties.

After this the various records show a brighter state of things, the numerous ravages already referred to proving, in many instances, much less serious than was at first apprehended. A correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer*, writing from Johnson County, Nebraska, on the 29th of July, states that "the grasshoppers hatched and commenced eating the wheat on April 28th, and stayed with us until June 13th. They commenced flying when the wind was north-west, and continued to fly up to the 27th of June—some days partly in clouds that could be seen when three miles off, but they did not light much in our county. As to wheat, there may be one-third of a crop of inferior quality, but potatoes and grass never looked better. If nothing happens to the corn, it will be the largest crop raised in the county." Another correspondent from the same State, writing a fortnight later, says: "We have splendid prospects for crops of all kinds planted since the grasshoppers left. Most of our small grain has been harvested, threshed and marketed by the grasshoppers, and so far we have not received any returns; but we have the best prairie grass I ever saw. If the frost holds off as late as usual, we shall have a large quantity of corn and buckwheat." The "Monthly Report" from Washington, for August and September, mentions locust ravages in a few counties of the States of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, but notices a great decrease in the reported devastations. "The pest," it states, "is evidently declining very fast, and the earnest hopes of a cessation of their ravages expressed by our correspondents appear to have a solid foundation in facts." The very perceptible reduction in the extent of the plague is attributed to the immense development of parasites upon the bodies of the locusts. The reports for the three remaining months of the year all show that "the plague was stayed" before it caused the utter ruin that was so widespread during the previous year. To give a few instances out of many:—A writer from Minnesota says, "I cannot report in comparison with last year, as we then produced nothing of any account, owing to destruction by grasshoppers. This year all kinds of crops raised here are generally good. The end of the season finds the farmers in better condition than for three or four years." Another from Clay County,