

SKETCHES OF THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI.

The annexed sketch of the scenery in the Upper Mississippi gives a lively picture of a section of that interesting country, now termed the "Far West." The article is taken from a spirited weekly paper commenced in CARTHAGE, Illinois, under the title of "The Carthaginian."

To the student of Nature the country known as the Upper Mississippi presents a most interesting field. Here she has displayed her most magnificent handiwork. Here roll on to their ocean reservoir the proud waves of the mightiest of rivers. Here crag, and bluff, and rock, and verdant hill-top rear their tall foreheads to meet the skies—and here—an object of wonder and astonishment to every beholder—spread in almost interminable grandeur, the magnificent and blooming prairies—now level as the bosom of the ocean in its moments of calm—now undulating as its surface when the gale has passed over it—a seeming sea of grass—a perfect wilderness of verdure. The emigrants from the boasted Savannahs of the South find not here their diminutive meadow-vallies—the sturdy and reckless wanderer from the Granite Hills, or the picturesque banks of the Hudson, or the rock-girt coast of the land of the Pilgrims, or the buck-eye vallies of the 'beautiful river'—find not here any thing like to the scenery of their native land. They all see something which they had never before seen, and of which they had not before conceived. A something of newness—of novelty—of originality seems to pervade the whole—and while we yet cling to the recollection of the scenes of our childhood, with an unchangeable affection, an imperceptible and unaccountable influence is binding us firmer and firmer to our new made homes. We know not how it is—but we have never known one, who was capable of appreciating its beauty, and its grandeur, and its sublimity—and who could see it as it actually is, with its swelling tide of emigration, pouring along like a flood—and who could calmly look forward to its future prospects, and calculate its future progress and greatness,—but after all this, felt a desire to adopt it as a home for himself and his children, and to identify himself with its prosperity.

It may safely be asserted that no section of country in North America is more aptly calculated for the support of a dense population and to furnish the necessities of life, and the luxuries of refined society. With a soil for richness and fertility unsurpassed—with mineral productions of value and inexhaustible—with all the natural advantages of locality—it is not remarkable then, that it should be increasing in population with a rapidity not often surpassed in the annals of the western emigration.

The grand distinguishing characteristic of this section of the west, and which makes it, in a manner, different from all others,

is its prairies. We had seen plains, and level portions of country, under different names in other parts of the United States—but had seen nothing bearing a similitude to the Prairies of the West.

Proud monuments of wisdom and of power!
The counterpart of ocean—and as grand!
With islands, peninsulas, and continents,
In wild disorder spread! While zephyrs mild,
And swifter-pinioned gales, and storms, and blasts,
Succced each other, as on ocean's breast,
And fan the wan brow of the voyager,
Or toss the waves of verdure to and fro.

Intemperate Zeal.—A large and respectable meeting of mechanics was held in Pate a few days since, to take into consideration an assertion in a report made by the Rev. Mr. Mr. Kee, a Temperance (*intemperance* is a better word,) Agent, before the Temperance Convention, held in New Jersey, January, 1836. The Report stated that in Paterson, during 15 years, of sixty-six young men engaged as apprentices to the different branches of a large manufacturing establishment, *forty one* are habitual drunkards, *twenty* occasional, and only *five* temperate men." It is well known by every individual in Paterson, that there was never a greater falsehood than this uttered. It is true there may be a few who do occasionally yield to the allurements of the bowl, but the greater part of the mechanics in Paterson have characters that will not loose in comparison with any one of those who attended the Temperance Convention. The Temperance cause is a good one, and it is the imprudence and ignorance of such men as McKee, that destroy it.—*N. Y. Transcript.*

A Floating Farm Yard.—The following sketch of a family floating down the Ohio on a raft, is at once highly graphic, and characteristic of our inland emigration.

"To day we have passed two large rafts lashed together, by which simple conveyance several families from New England were transporting themselves and their property to the land of promise in the western woods. Each raft was eighty or ninety feet long, with a small house erected on it, and on each was a stock of hay, round which several horses and cows were feeding, while the paraphernalia of a farm yard, the ploughs, wagons, pigs, children, and poultry, carelessly distributed, gave to the whole more the appearance of a permanent residence, than a caravan of adventurers seeking a home. A respectable old lady, with spectacles on her nose, was seated on a chair at the door of one of the cabins, employed in knitting; another female was at the wash-tub, the men were chewing their tobacco with as much complacency as if they had been in the land of steady habits; and the various avocations seemed to go on with the steadiness of clock work." In this manner our western emigrants travel at

slight expense.—They carry with them their own provisions; their raft floats with the current, and honest Jonathan, surrounded with his scolding, squalling, grunting, howling, and neighing dependants, floats to the point proposed, without leaving his own fireside; and on his arrival there, may step on shore with his household; and commence business, with as little ceremony as a grave personage, who, on his marriage with a rich widow said he had "nothing to do but to walk in and hang up his hat."—*American paper.*

ADVANTAGES OF KNOWLEDGE.

A sewing-needle, says the Mechanic's Magazine, or the blade of a pen-knife, being held in an upright posture, struck by a hammer, and afterwards floated by means of cork on water, or suspended by a thread, not drawn too tightly, would become a magnetic needle and point north and south. The end of a poker, held vertically, and passed over its surface from one extreme to the other would impart magnetism, which if the needle be steel, would be of a permanent character.

Many a vessel which has had its compass washed overboard in a storm, might have been saved from days and weeks of distress and peril, and perhaps even from destruction by a little knowledge of magnetism!

HORSE-FITILITY.—A country girl after a short sojourn in the city, where she had become acquainted with some jolly tars, returned to her home, and invited some of them to come and see her. At length they were in sight, and the girl ran to her mother, who had never seen nor heard of a sailor, and said to her, "Marm, there's some of the sailors coming!" "Well, darter, put 'em in the barn, and give 'em some hay!"

SILVER PLATE, JEWELRY, &c.

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