

# Morton's History of Nebraska

Authentic, Complete

(Copyrighted 1900. All rights reserved.) By courtesy of Editors and Publishers of Morton's History, the Publishers Newspaper Union of Lincoln, Nebraska, is permitted its reproduction in papers of their issue.

## CHAPTER V CONTINUED (18)

The party traveled by frequent alternations of private conveyance, "stage," railway, and steamboat. The extreme isolation of Nebraska and the progress of railroads toward the West at that time are illustrated in an interesting manner by the account of this journey given in a recent letter to the editor from Dr. Armistead Burt at his home in New Mexico.

From Chicago they might have gone by the Chicago and Rock Island railroad, which had been completed to the Mississippi river earlier in the year 1854, but since they could go part of the way to St. Louis by railroad and the rest of the journey by steamboat they preferred that route rather than to cross the unsettled plains of Iowa by wagon.

This very complicated and difficult gubernatorial journey was suggestive of the contemporary condition of politics and of the hard road over which Douglas, with his new whip of popular sovereignty, as embodied in the Nebraska bill, was attempting to drive the Democratic party. And yet, though the course of the governor and that of the intrepid leader of the democracy alike led to tragic disaster, it is doubtful that either could have chosen a better or wiser one. Comparison of the material and political condition of the country at that time, as illustrated by these aims and struggles of Burt and of Douglas, with present conditions reveals the miracle that has been wrought within the memory of living men.

Governor Burt was very ill when he reached St. Louis and was obliged to stop over there several days, confined to his bed. By the time he reached Bellevue, on the 7th of October, he had grown still worse, and he continued to sink until his death, which occurred October 13. He took his oath of office on the 16th, before Chief Justice Ferguson, and so was governor two days.

Correspondence between Mrs. Burt and her husband shows that she remained over his absence at his post in Washington, and when he submitted to her the question of his acceptance of the governorship of Nebraska she replied eagerly that she would go anywhere if they could only be together. These letters show that it was the governor's intention to live permanently in Nebraska, and his wife urged tenderly that he deserved a wider field for his abilities than was afforded by the little isolated town of Pendleton. It appears also that before the Nebraska appointment came they bitterly represent the failure of President Pierce to appoint Mr. Burt governor of Kansas according to a promise which they understood he had made. The story of the governor's funeral journey back to Pendleton and to the wife is in pathetic contrast to the eager hope and solicitude she had expressed for a permanent home, though in an unknown and immeasurably distant country.

On the 19th of October Acting Governor Cuming appointed Barton Green, Col. Ward B. Howard, James Doyle, and W. R. Jones as an escort for the body of Governor Burt to his South Carolina home. They were allowed from the contingent fund \$2 a day and traveling expenses, and the boy, Armistead Burt, was allowed traveling expenses to Pendleton.

It has already been pointed out that western border Iowans were the self-constituted but logical "next friends" of prospective Nebraska, and the following picture of conditions and prospects of the coming territory drawn by Mr. Henn, representative from western Iowa, in a speech in the House of Representatives, March 3, 1854, already quoted from, should be regarded as fairly true to nature:

"Ten years ago we looked for a further west, and for the time when Iowa was to be a frontier state no longer. Step by step that emigrating spirit, which first breathed American air on Plymouth Rock, was looking forward to the beautiful valleys of the Platte and the Kansas. Nebraska, a name familiar only to Indian ears, was in a few short months becoming a watchword for the frontier settlers. The year 1846 found not a few on the banks of the Missouri awaiting legal authority to cross and occupy those green meadows prepared by nature's hand. In the summer of 1853 not less than 3,000 souls had assembled on the frontiers of Iowa ready to make their future home on that soil."

He then goes on to say that he had voted against the measure for territorial organization a year ago to save the rights of the Indians, but in favor of appropriations or securing treaties since made. According to reliable estimates, he said, there were now in Nebraska 9,000,000 acres of land obtained from the Indians by purchase and treaty, and 12,133,120 acres heretofore owned by the United States—in all, 21,133,120 acres open for settlement.

Replying to the objection raised by opponents of the bill that "there are no people in the country proposed to be organized except Indians, half-breeds, traders, soldiers, and those in the employ of the Indian bureau," Mr. Henn said that a few months ago this

was no doubt the case, because the people of the frontier were law-abiding and unwilling to interfere with the regulations of the government which forbade their occupancy of the country. Yet an intelligent citizen had informed him that two months since there were between five hundred and six hundred whites within that territory by permission of officers of the government—three hundred at Ft. Kearney, and seventy-five scattered at other points. Within three days after the passage of the bill, he asserted there would be not less than three thousand people in Nebraska; and the same conditions existed in Kansas.

But in numbers, aspirations, and hopes the carpetbag politicians and other promoters of the infant territory were as great as its actual population was small, and the town-sites did not fall below them in any of the qualities named. The number of the Arrow makes a round-up of those worthy of notice.

These pioneers attached great importance to the esthetic quality of the sites of the future cities, and it was exploited to the utmost in the acrimonious controversies over the respective merits of Omaha and Bellevue. To the Palladium's observation that "Bellevue" is admitted by every important observer to be the most commanding and beautiful location" the Arrow replies that Omaha "is nevertheless a handsome place," and in detail, "it occupies a beautiful plateau, sloping well to the river. The view is extensive and picturesque, taking in a long reach of the river both up and down, the broad, rich bottom lands dotted over with fields, houses and cattle, and a strange, romantic, and bewildering background of indented and variously formed bluffs."

Nor was the industrious promulgation of this early "Iowa idea" confined to the local field. In the same issue of the Arrow is copied correspondence of the Ohio State Journal which tells the old, old story:

"But the site which seems to me to contain the most advantages is that of the city of Omaha. . . . The plat is most beautiful and attractive. . . . Several gentlemen of capital and great influence are interested in this new city and a regular survey and platting of premises is now going on. Being so near Council Bluffs, the only town of any size in western Iowa, it has many advantages as the seat of government, and a vigorous effort is being made by those having influence in the right quarter to secure the object. A public square and a state house will be donated by the company for this purpose. If it succeeds Omaha will at once take rank as the first city in Nebraska, and if the roads come to Council Bluffs it will, whether it becomes the capital or not, assume an important position."

We may well believe that these esthetic conceits would be much less obtruded in a contest for the choice of a site of a capital in the face of the more dominant commercial spirit of the present. But our beauty-struck pioneers did not, after all, miss the main chance; for in the same article the Arrow significantly observes that, "in full view, and due east, is Council Bluffs City, the great and well known local point of the Iowa railroads."

While this mouth-piece of Council Bluffs spoke wide of the fact—for that place had not been fixed upon then as the objective of any railroad—yet he did not speak without his reckoning. He could with some safety discount the influences around him which, about two years later, diverted the Rock Island down the Mosquito to Council Bluffs from its intended route down Pigeon creek to a terminus at the rock-bottom crossing opposite Florence. And while this reason was not free from the hit-or-miss element and the influence of the wish over the thought, yet it foreshadowed a great economic fact. Here the railway was to precede occupancy and growth and so, during an exceptionally long period of commercial and political dominance was to receive, if not to exact, from its creatures recognition and obedience as the creator of the commonwealth.

At the beginning Nebraska was a state without people, and it remained so, virtually, until their forerunners, the railroads, opened the way for and brought them. This phenomenon distinguishes the settlement of the trans-Missouri plains from that of the country eastward of them. There the railways followed the people. Here they preceded the people, and hither, as self-created immigration bureaus, they both persuaded and carried them. It was when the railways, having crossed Illinois and having been projected across Iowa, pointed the way to the occupancy of the plains that the people collected on the eastern bank of the Missouri river barrier and cast a wistful eye to the Nebraska Canaan.

On these plains, in their isolated state, the industrial arts were impracticable; there was only the soil capable of producing staple goods. Until the railways came to carry the staple products of the soil to the far eastern market, and to bring back in exchange all the other necessities of

life, including, besides the indispensable fuel, the very tools and material for cultivating the soil, the erection of shelter for man and beast and for all other improvements, life could be enduring only along the Missouri river, and comfortable nowhere. So great was the extremity in this beginning of civilized utilization of these plains that even statesmen, usually the most ubiquitous of all our animals, were wanting necessitating the importation of members of Congress and even of the local legislature.

The pleasantness and sarcasms of the mouth-pieces of the two principal river towns lay bare like search-lights the extreme tenderness of the foundations on which the political beginning was to rest. The Arrow of October 13, 1854, referring to a reception at Bellevue prepared for Governor Burt on his arrival, says it was reported that there were fifteen persons present—"all the citizens and some neighbors." The Palladium of the week before had a sarcastic account of the editor's visit to Omaha. He tells us that after landing from the steam ferry boat:

"We expected the beauty of the location would manifest itself at first glance, and then the commanding features we had often read of in the Arrow, would at once claim our attention. But, instead of this we looked around wondering which way to go to find the city. We were at a loss at first to satisfy ourselves that it was actually spread out before us, and much more to identify the locality of its commanding point—the focus of business."

And then he outraged Arrow lets fly in this spirited fashion, and though we are thankful for the information about Omaha which is disclosed by the report, we can not but feel that it is relatively blunt:

"Focus of business indeed! Four months ago there was not a family upon this spot nor a house reared. Now there are two stores and some twenty houses, with a score more in progress. Query: Where is the 'focus of business' at Bellevue? When there has been one house reared upon the commanding site we shall not farther intrude so impertinent an inquiry. The city of Bellevue is easily found, not a building nor a pile of material obstructs the vision."

The same number of the Arrow announced that arrangements had been made at Omaha for a reception to Governor Burt "in a style which would have done credit to many an older place." The committee of reception were Charles B. Smith, Alfred D. Jones, William R. Rogers, Robert B. Whitted, Michael Murphy, William Clancy, Samuel A. Lewis, Charles H. Downs, William N. Byres, and William Wright. The committee of arrangements were T. Allen, Charles B. Smith, David Lindley, Alexander Davis, and Charles H. Downs. "Both committees will continue in their respective stations until such time as the governor's health will justify their action." But the committees continued in their respective stations till, one by one, so far as is known, with the exception of Chas. H. Downs, they have been summoned to follow the ruler they were to honor to the other shore where mayhap the long prepared reception has at last been held.

Though Secretary Cuming, who, by the death of Governor Burt and the provision of the organic act, became acting governor, was to be architect of the organic beginning of Nebraska, yet in a deeper and broader sense the beginning had taken place in the summer and fall of 1854, on the advent of the settlers who came filled with the anticipations and hopes, accustomed to be asperities, inured to the hardships, and conscious of the constructive responsibilities and duties of pioneer life. For fifty-one years after its acquisition the land these pioneers had come to possess had been an unorganized prairie wilderness. During all that time the geographers had described it as a part of the Great American Desert, unfit for agriculture—of too arid a climate and too lean a soil to attract or sustain any considerable permanent civilized population.

There were neither laws nor political organization. The bare and ill-defined territorial boundary was the only finger-mark of civilization or sign of civilized control. Writer and reader are able to remember that the nearest railway was yet three hundred miles from our borders. Reliable estimates that property values, real and personal, approximate two thousand million dollars in 1903 show the miracle wrought by these beginners whose creed has been faith and good works.

To be Continued.

## Matilda of Scotland.

Matilda of Scotland, queen of Henry I, of England, was a descendant of Alfred the Great. She was born about the year 1079, but the exact date is not recorded. No other Scottish princess has ever shared the throne of a king of England. She was known as "Matilda, the Good," inheriting her noble—as well as royal—mother's pious and charitable nature.

While quite young the Princess Matilda and her noble sister and brothers were left orphans. An uncle took them to England, caring for them at his own expense. The two princesses were placed in the nunnery of Romsey, where their aunt, Christina, was the abbess. Here they remained many years, becoming well educated and trained in the gentlest and highest manners as became princesses of their blood. For a time it was thought they would become nuns, for they had no home to go to on leaving the convent.

But the thought of becoming a religious was most distasteful to Matilda. Once when she was a little girl her mother—who secretly hoped her daughters might become cloistered nuns—put upon her head a black veil, after the fashion of a nun. Matilda's father, the king, became angered at the sight of his daughter in such garb and, snatching the veil from her head, tore it into shreds, declaring vehemently that he "intended to bestow her hand in marriage and not devote her to a cloister."



Matilda of Scotland.

This act of her father made a deep and lasting impression on Matilda's young mind, and years afterward when every influence was brought to bear in an endeavor to induce her to enter the cloister she emphatically refused, and repeated her father's words regarding her destiny.

But while in the convent of Romsey Matilda was forced to wear the black veil of a votaress to protect herself against the too ardent advances of the lawless Norman nobles who greatly admired her beautiful face and charming manner. But Matilda's own account of wearing this thick black veil is on record. She says that she "wore it with sighs and tears when in the presence of her stern aunt, the abbess," but the moment she was alone she "tore it from her head and stamped her feet upon it."

Doubtless it was during Matilda's stay in the convent that the young Prince Henry saw her and fell desperately in love with her, for only a few months after his accession to the throne, "he asked the hand of Princess Matilda, daughter of Malcolm, King of Scotland, of her brother Edgar, then king of Scotland."

The union proved to be a happy one and Matilda was not only beloved by her royal husband, but adored by her subjects, who called her "Matilda, the Good."

The portrait which accompanies this sketch is from a copy of a miniature that is still to be seen in the British Museum.

Sir Henry Eugene Robinson of London, England, last week enlisted in the United States navy, enrolling at the Pittsburg recruiting station as a mess attendant. He and a number of the recruits were sent at once to the Brooklyn navy yard. Sir Henry, who has papers showing that he was a lieutenant in the Boer war, had been a "remittance man," but lately the remittances failed to come from England and so he joined the American navy.

Every man has a dual personality; that of his better nature and of his lower self; as he grows older he grows more friendly with the one and more an enemy of the other.

The only happy man is the one who has learned to make the best of things.

## TO THE YOUNG MOTHER.

I want to give a little advice to young mothers. I feel that I have had a little recent experience with babies, as I am the mother of six little ones. Five are with me and one has been transplanted to the Master's Garden. My oldest child is nearly nine years old, while the baby is five months. They are all hearty and rosy now, but, with one exception, they were sickly in babyhood. Let me advise you. My experience was gained with many tears and wakeful nights.

No matter what the old folks say, never give the babies solid food until they have the most of their front teeth, and never before the tenth month. When you do begin feeding solids, you cannot be too careful. If anything disagrees with baby try something different. When you find something that agrees with him, do not be in a hurry to change.

One of my little girls began to fall when about five months old. I found that she was not getting enough of "Nature's food." I tried to feed her on cow's milk in different ways, but it seemed that her little stomach rebelled, and she would not drink it at all. One day she seemed so sick and hungry that I decided to try her again on milk but when I went to prepare it, I found there wasn't a bit of sugar in the house. Baby was crying so pitifully that I was in despair. Fortunately, I thought of a jar of honey in the pantry, and with this I sweetened the milk. She was delighted with the new drink. For the next five months she lived on milk and honey, for I soon had to wean her. She got well and was as fat as could be in a short time. In the tenth month, I began to put pieces of bread in the milk and honey. Gradually, I added other articles to the bill of fare, and when she was eighteen months old she could eat a little of almost everything on the table. When she was twenty months old I was taken sick and was unable to attend to her myself. She took sick with bowel trouble. I guessed the cause, but could not help myself. One day my little boy came to me and said, "Mamma, Aunt Winnie just gives Mervie meat all the time." Aunt Winnie was the old colored cook. It was impossible for me to get another cook, or to change her methods. As quickly as I could get up, I put Mervie on a bread and milk diet, and she got all right.

MRS. CARRIE M. SOLLIE,  
Luther's Store, Ala.

## TO MAKE CANDIES.

By Norma Williams.

Butter Scotch—One cupful of brown sugar, half a cupful of water, a piece of butter the size of an egg, and a teaspoonful of vinegar. Boil about twenty minutes, and flavor if desired.

Chocolate Caramels—Put one cupful of brown sugar, one cupful of molasses, one cupful of sweet milk and a tablespoonful of glycerine into a kettle and boil fast. When nearly done, add a cupful of grated chocolate, and test in cold water. Pour into buttered pans.

Cream Dates—The white of one egg, half an eggshell full of water. Stir in confectioner's sugar until stiff, sprinkle sugar on the moulding board and mix until very smooth. Make into small flat balls; cut the dates in two; take out the seeds and put half a date on each side of the balls.

Cocoon Candy—Grate up the meat of two coconuts, put in a kettle with four pounds of pulverized sugar, the beaten whites of two eggs, the milk contained in both nuts. Stir together over the fire until you discern an appearance of candy turning back into sugar. Take off immediately. Make into round, flat cakes and put on buttered dishes to harden. If you want part of it pink stir in the least bit of pokeberry juice after you remove the candy from the fire.

Boston Cream Taffy—Boil two cupfuls of granulated sugar in a cupful of cold water; add a tablespoonful of vinegar and two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar. It should be boiled until it snaps in cold water; add a teaspoonful of any essence preferred, and turn the candy out; when cool enough, pull white. For nut molasses candy, have the kernels ready, either whole or chopped, and sprinkle them over the taffy when it is poured out; they will sink in, and the whole can be cut into squares as it cools, with a knife dipped into ice water. Or the nuts may be sprinkled over a dish and the candy poured over them.

Zephyrs—Put into a soup plate, or other deep dish, a tablespoonful of orange flower water, the whites of two eggs, and add to it gradually enough confectioner's sugar to bring it to a consistency of pretty thick loing. Now stir into this as many chopped almonds as the icing will take up and then drop little lumps of this mixture rocky on white paper, and bake a light golden color in a slack oven; now lift them out, remove the paper and set them on a dish, strewing them with finely powdered sugar and leave till firm. This recipe is quite as good, if not better, made with filberts or walnuts. The nut should be chopped until it is about as large as the head of a pin.

Brilliant French Varnish for Leather—Spirits of wine, three-quarters of a pint; vinegar, five pints; gum senegal in powder, one half pound; loaf sugar, six ounces; powdered galls, two ounces. Dissolve the gum and sugar in the water; strain and put on a slow fire, but don't boil now, put in the galls, coppers and the alcohol; stir well for five minutes; set off, when nearly cool strain through flannel, and bottle for use. It is applied with a pencil brush. Most superior.

## IN THE SICKROOM.

Good cheer is better than medicine. The best has an important part to play as a remedy for irritability. Don't tell long stories. Don't rehash other people's trials. Don't think up miserable possibilities. Order, observation and obedience are three cardinal virtues in a nurse. Add to these tact, the want of which is the base of nearly every sin a nurse may commit.