



"If any man attempts to haul down the American Flag, shoot him on the spot."

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August 14, 1867. R. R. LIVINGSTON, M. D.

**G. R. McCALLUM,**  
Saddles and Harness,  
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**ABOUT NEBRASKA.**  
Ma. Editor:—In my last letter I stated that the geographies that were printed several years ago, represented the region of country between the Missouri river, and the Rocky Mountains, as a vast sterile desert.

I now propose to show that it is not a desert, but that it is as fertile as any other region of country of the same extent.

Let your readers take the map of Kansas and Nebraska, and they will see that the northern half of Kansas and part of Nebraska is watered by the Kansas river and its numerous tributaries, consisting of the Smoky Hill, Saline, Solomon, Republican and Blue rivers.

The south and central portion of Nebraska, is watered—in addition to the Republican and Blue rivers—by the Great and Little Nemahas, the Weeping Water, the Platte, Wood river and the Loup. The northern part is watered by the Elkhorn and Little

A little reflection will convince any person that has travelled much, that where there are numerous flowing streams of water, the land is apt to be fertile.

I have travelled extensively in north-western Kansas, and in central and western Nebraska, and I found the land as fertile as in Illinois. I frequently found grass on the bottom lands from three to five feet long, and I contend that where such grass grows, grain and vegetables will grow also.

There is a settlement in the Platte Valley known as the Wood river settlement which is from 150 to 200 miles west of the Missouri river. Two years ago I wrote to the gentleman that had the contract to supply Fort Kearney with corn, and in their answer, they stated that they had bought 20,000 bushels of the farmers at Wood river, who were delivering the corn at Kearney for less money than it could be hauled from the Missouri river for now, it is announced, that Korig & Wiebe have in this same settlement an extensive flouring mill.

Mr. Hinman at North Platte, 300 miles west of the Missouri river, writes that he raises good corn and vegetables, and the only reason wheat has not been tried, is because they have no mill to turn it into flour.

The valleys of Colorado—last year—produced a surplus of wheat, and the same evidence comes from all parts of this western country as soon as the land is opened for cultivation.

Some of your readers will perhaps say, that there is no timber in central and western Nebraska, and supposing the soil is rich, unless there is timber, crops cannot settle there. My answer is, that there is a great deal of timber in both central and western Nebraska. Had any stranger a few years ago started from Cottonwood, and travelled twelve miles up the Platte Valley, then south the same distance, then east, and then north to the valley again he would have thought that—except in the Platte Valley, there was not a tree inside of the square he traversed. Yet in the last three years, Cottonwood canon has furnished thousands of telegraph poles, tens of thousands of railroad ties, thousands of cords of wood and large quantities of lumber.

The valleys of all the rivers in Nebraska, have large quantities of timber, and there are hundreds of thousands of acres of upland, that will naturally grow to timber, as soon as the annual fires cease to burn over the land.

Of eastern Nebraska it is unnecessary for me to write. Your readers know that it is one of the best farming regions on the earth, and but a few years will pass around, before the same will be extensively known of the other portions of our young and fertile State.

**W. A. POLOCK.**  
A Curious Horse Suit.—A novel law suit came off a few days ago at Miles Point, Carroll county, Mo., before a Justice of the Peace, to decide the ownership of a colt. Fifteen witnesses were examined on each side, and all swore to the ownership. The verdict of the jury was to put up the colt and sell it to the highest bidder to pay the costs. The colt brought forty dollars—costs thirty eight dollars. The surplus was divided between the plaintiff and the defendant.

**The New Constitution of New York.**

The characteristic features of the new Constitution of New York (to be voted on by the people next November) are thus summarized by an exchange:

The Constitution as finally adopted by the Convention differs from the present New York Constitution in several particulars. The election of Governor and other State officers is ordered to take place at the same time, instead of in alternate years, as at present. The number of State Senators is unchanged, but their term of service is lengthened to four years, and the number of Assemblymen is enlarged from 128 to 139, to be elected by counties instead of districts, as now. An effort is made to secure a better class of men for the Assembly by fixing the compensation at \$1,000 per year, with \$500 additional for the Speaker. A two thirds vote of the whole Legislature will be necessary to overrule a veto upon any bill by the Governor.

The judicial system has been considerably changed, and the Court of Appeals, the highest Court in the State, is to consist of a Chief Justice and six Justices, who are to be elected by the people for terms of fourteen years, with the provision that no one is to serve after he has reached the age of seventy years. The present New York judicial system is very faulty, and one of the principal arguments urged in favor of a convention for the adoption of a new Constitution was the necessity of relieving the higher Courts of a vast quantity of cases that find their way there in consequence of the unfitness and incompetency of the Judges of the lower courts, and the general cumbersome system of administering justice. The changes made in this particular cover the whole range of courts and the terms of all the Judges are lengthened to fourteen years. A proposition to establish impartial suffrage is to be submitted separately from the Constitution, so that those who oppose giving the suffrage impartially to all classes need not vote against the entire Constitution unless they choose to.

They tell a story of Sinclair, the late Democratic candidate for Governor in New Hampshire, which would indicate that his nerves will bear the election returns. When a lad, with three other boys, he was watching a corpse, as the custom was. The dead person had bent forward to deformity, and, in laying out the corpse, they had attempted to straighten it by tying the shoulders down to a board. The young men were willing away the solitary hours by a game of cards, when suddenly the cords broke and up came the head of the dead man. They all scrambled for the door but Sinclair, who, without moving from his chair, quietly remarked: "Come back, boys, he only wants a game. Deal him out a hand!" Sinclair evidently wants a "new deal" at the political table by this time.

A Keokuk exchange is responsible for the following story: "One of the most singular and unaccountable circumstances of which we have ever heard transpired a day or two ago in this city. On last Wednesday a son of Mr. Patrick Moore, aged nine years, died after several weeks sickness. On Thursday it was to have been buried, and a number of the friends of the family assembled to assist in the funeral ceremonies. While the parents were in an adjoining room to the one in which the corpse lay, giving vent to their grief over the loss of their favorite child, it opened its eyes and began to cry in a loud voice, and tears streamed down its cheeks.

This continued to do till the parents ceased weeping. There were several persons present when this extraordinary occurrence took place and they all vouch for its truth. It was certainly a very singular incident, and we should like to hear some explanation of it."

**THEN AND NOW.**—Farmers in 1776—Man at plow, wife at cow, girl at yarn boy at barn, and all dues settled. Farmer in 1868—man at show, girl at piano, wife in satin, boy at Latin, and dues unsettled.

**WHICH.**  
The Hartford Times very properly informs Democrats that there is a law in Connecticut "against buying votes—against coercion and proscription. If your employer undertakes to coerce you, report him at once to the Democratic Committee." We agree to this. The employer who would discharge a man for casting his vote to suit himself is a villain. Yet we do not remember that the Hartford paper has had any words of reprehension for the Southern Conservatives who openly threatened to discharge from employment every freedman who dared to vote on reconstruction. The Times knows that thousands were so discharged, and that to day the Southern Democrats are deliberately driving colored men and their families to starvation because the heads of families presume to vote. Even as we write the Mobile Tribune comes to hand with an appeal to the whites of Mississippi to defeat the proposed Constitution of that State, closing with this advice:

"Be prepared, at whatever sacrifice of personal comfort, to discharge from your employment all who wish to vote down your liberties. The argument of the belly is a convincing one. We found it very effective in Alabama; try it in Mississippi."

Now what have you to say to this? You justify it, at least tacitly, in the case of Alabama. But when your chickens come home to roost you make a terrible outcry.—Tribune.

**PEACHES WITHOUT STONES.**—An agriculturalist has, it is said, tried with success, the following method of making peaches grow without stones: "Turn the tops of the trees down, cut off the ends, stick them into the ground and fasten them so with stakes; in a year or two those tops will take root, and when well rooted cut off the branches connecting those reversed and rooted branches with the tree proper, and this reversed peach tree will produce fine peaches without stones." The same experiment may be tried with white plums, cherries and currants.

**LADIES SHOULD READ NEWSPAPERS.**—It is a great mistake in female education to keep a young lady's time and attention devoted to the fashionable literature of the day. If you would qualify her for conversation, you must give her something to talk about—give her education with this actual world and its transpiring events—urge her to read the newspapers and become familiar with the present character and improvements of our trade. History is of some importance, but the past world is dead and we have nothing to do with it. Our thoughts and our concerns should be for present world, to know what it is and improve the condition of it. Let us have an intelligent opinion, and be able to sustain a conversation concerning the mental, moral, political and religious improvements of our times. See that each other's feelings, and thoughts, and actions are pure and true; then will our life be such. The wide pasture is but separate spires of grass; the sheeted bloom of the prairies but isolated flowers.

It would seem that the half has not been told concerning the frauds on the revenue in the South-West. A dispatch from Galveston tells an astounding story of discoveries said to have been made by Treasury agents there. In a bonded warehouse in that city out of 400 barrels supposed to contain whiskey 300 were found to be filled with water, and a large quantity of combustibles had been secretly stored in such a manner as to leave no doubt that the destruction of the warehouse was intended. Some of the officials involved have fled, and others have been arrested.

While Democratic newspapers are making such free charges of Radical frauds on the people's money, would it not be well for them to turn their eyes just once towards that eminent Democrat, John Devlin, of New York, who has just been sentenced to two years imprisonment in the penitentiary for swindling the Government out of six hundred thousand dollars of whiskey tax.

There are only two things that produce a gurgling in the throat. Johnson is familiar with one of them, and ought to be with the other.

**The Kuklux Unmasking.**  
The operations of that dastardly, villainous, rebel secret conclave are becoming constantly more bold and open; not a day passes that we do not receive from reliable sources particulars of the most lawless and reprehensible conduct by the members of the Kuklux Klan. We have received from irrefragable authority information of the fact that in Williamson and Maury counties the teachers of colored schools are being constantly threatened with violence if they do not break up their schools and leave the country. Only a day or two ago, in the above mentioned county, a teacher received an anonymous letter from the Klan, declaring that if he continued his school his life would pay the penalty. No one can fail to see the lawlessness and danger to society of such proceedings. What guaranty can there be of the security of life when a band of outlaws is permitted, undisturbed, to threaten people in this manner?

We are aware that the Kuklux is the essence of Rebel conservatism. That they are inimical to colored schools needs no argument to prove, and the record of past outrage leaves little doubt that they will speedily become so emboldened as to proceed to violence to suppress colored instruction, turn school houses and drive teachers from the State. This fact of the Kuklux having set out in the work of breaking up colored schools, if there were no other testimony of the dangerous character of the organization, should call loudly for prompt and vigorous measures on the part of the proper authorities towards its effectual and entire suppression.

"My God! think of my being tried before a nigger jury for horse stealing!" exclaimed a Southern white Democrat, alarmed at the proposition to allow colored men to sit as jurors—Sure enough there might be danger of a conviction, and just think of the number of villains whose occupation would thence be gone!

In a certain family, not long since, a pair of twins made their appearance, and as a matter of course, were shown to their little sister of four years. Now, it so happened that whenever a rather prolific cat of the household had kittens, one of them, of course the prettiest, was saved, and the rest drowned. When the twins were shown the child by their happy father, little M— looked at them long and earnestly, and at length, putting her little finger-tip on the cheek of one of them, looked up, and said, with all the seriousness possible—"Papa, I think we will save this one!"

We all remember how the Democrats achieved a partial success in Ohio last fall, electing a majority of the Legislature and reducing the Republican majority on the State ticket to two or three thousand. Their method of accomplishing that is beginning to be revealed. One John M. Higgins, a leading Democrat of Portsmouth, Ohio, has just been convicted of stuffing the ballot boxes at that place at the election in question, and goes to the penitentiary for it.

We see now how the Democracy carried the Ohio election. Anybody can carry elections who is rascal enough to stuff ballot boxes, and a great many Democrats are.

Election for Congressman in Louisiana will, after all, take place at the same time as that upon the new constitution. General Hancock, playing into the hands of those who want the constitution defeated, ordered dismissed at first, but Gen. Grant, as soon as he saw the original order, wrote and called Gen. Hancock's attention to the language of the reconstruction acts and thus indirectly intimated what his duty was in the premises. Gen. Hancock thereupon changed his order and directed that elections should all be held at the same time, as in other States in process of reconstruction.

A reporter for a London paper wrote the verdict of a coroner's jury, "died from hemorrhage," and the public gained the information next day that the deceased "died from her marriage."

**Beautiful Sentiment.**  
Shortly before the departure of the lamented Heber for India, he preached a sermon which contained this beautiful illustration:

"Life bears us on like the stream of a mighty river. Our boat first glides down the narrow channel—through the playful murmurings of a little brook, and the windings of its grassy borders. The trees shed their blossoms over our young heads, and flowers seem to offer themselves to the young hands, we are happy in hope, and grasp eagerly at the beauty around us. But the stream hurries us on, and still our hands are empty. Our course in youth and manhood is along a deeper and wider flood among objects more striking and magnificent. We are excited at some short-living disappointment. The stream bears us on, and our joys and our griefs are alike left behind us. We may be shipwrecked, but we cannot be delayed whether rough or smooth. The river hastens, till the roar of the ocean is in our ears, and the tossing of the waves is beneath our feet, and the floods are lifted up around us, and we take our leave of earth and its inhabitants, until of our future voyage, there is no witness save the Infinite and Eternal."

George Francis Train was committed to the Marshalsea Prison for debt a fortnight ago, on execution for the sum of £500. The Pall Mall Gazette says: "In consequence of his non appearance the manager of his lectures was obliged to apologise to those present, and to offer to return their money. Here, however, a difficulty arose, the character of which he frankly stated. Five hundred free tickets had been issued, there were hardly more persons in the room and he would be unable to discriminate between those who paid and those who had not. Some got their money and others were to call on the manager next day at his residence."

Dull business lately drove a Chillicothe merchant, for pastime, to hugging the kitchen fan, and his wife has kicked up a rumpus about it. If he had only invested a few dollars in advertising, the local paper says, he would have had enough business to keep him out of mischief. Moral—If you don't want to hug the girls, and get caught at it, advertise.

**ORIGINS OF THE WORD FLIRT.**—This mythical word, which has never received a clear definition though its attempted interpreters, originated in the time of the French King Louis the Fourteenth. The gallants of the courts acquired a habit of addressing their girlish friends as "ma fleurite," or "my little flower." The noun "fleurite" finally grew into a verb, and the term "fleurite une demoiselle" was used in speaking of attentions paid to a beauty. After the importation of "fleurite" to England, it degenerated to "fluter," and finally to "flirt." So say the authorities.

The Cincinnati are afraid that another bridge over the Ohio at Louisville will very materially interfere with the navigation of the stream. They prefer their rivers, like their dictionaries, unbridged.

A little fellow had lived for some time with a penurious uncle, who took good care that the child's health should not be injured by over-feeding. The uncle was one day walking out (the child at his side) when a friend accosted him, accompanied by a grey hound. While the elders were talking, the little fellow, never having seen a dog so slim and slight a texture, clasped the creature round the neck, with the impassionate cry: "Oh doggie, doggie! and did you live w' your uncle too, that ye are so thin?"

A New York dancing master has introduced a "kiss cotillon" in which the partners kiss as they swing. It is said that this cotillon is exceedingly popular, and that many persons are induced to "trip the light fantastic toe," who have heretofore had "conscientious scruples" against the old-fashioned kind of dances.

A county convention in Illinois, resolved "that we do not desire a President whose mouth, like that of the Mississippi river, is always open."