

To Geo. L. Harris, Esq.
SIR:—A sincere desire to further the interests of our noble State and of Agriculture, in my apology for attempting to publish in a hasty manner, of complying with your request to furnish you with the results of my experience and observations of the costs and profits of stock raising in Nebraska.

In order to better understand the importance of Nebraska as a stock growing country, it may not be amiss to say a few words in regard to its locality, topography, climate, soil and crops. Geographically, Nebraska is situated between the fourth and fifth degrees of north latitude, and between about the sixty-ninth and one hundred and fourth degrees of west longitude.

The soil of Nebraska is proverbially one of the finest textures, the deepest and for its extent, the most fertile in the world, possessing a power of absorbing excessive moisture and of resisting excessive drought, that is truly remarkable.

On the eastern portion of the State the white grass, or the bunch, prairie and buffalo varieties prevail, and with some others less noted make up the grazing of the great "natural prairie," lying between the 100th meridian and the mountains.

Where water is insufficient, as is the case in some districts, the tubular or artesian well can be resorted to with full assurance of success. That the climate of Nebraska is gradual, being more moist, is now a pretty generally conceded fact.

It follows from the foregoing that locality is an important element to consider in estimating the cost of stock raising in Nebraska. Also the cost of labor and the price of grain should not be overlooked; and as those vary with the seasons and the markets of the world, it will be readily seen that the question of profit is one of a complicated nature.

It is to be found upon these beautiful and health giving plains. Not only is this region valuable for grazing, but grain growing will be found to succeed when fairly tried. Right in the accused Indian, and extend our system of railroads to the mountains and what a chance twenty years would effect in this whole region!

The Sioux City Journal gives an elaborate description of the new Academy of Music, opened in that place Saturday evening. The hall is 50 by 38 feet, 20 feet high, with an arched ceiling. There are 800 chairs in the hall and gallery, but its possible capacity is set down at an even thousand.

An enterprising girl, of twenty, living near Alton, Illinois, has contracted with her father to dig him a well, at least five cents a foot. It is reported that she was twenty feet under ground at last accounts, and no less than three offers of marriage from delighted young farmers had come down that hole since it was commenced.

Old Dr. Stearns, of New London, in his latter years, kept a drug store. A gentleman one day purchased a cigar of the Doctor, and, lighting it, began to smoke. "Please do not smoke in the store," said Dr. S., politely. "It is against our rule."

Two paths are before us all. A rough one has a single post—To duty. The other one is smooth and flowery with the flower, the rose, the myrtle. Those who take the rough one will find it grow smoother and broader and pleasanter, till it reaches the very gate of the celestial city.

Henry Ward Beecher's church is composed of 1882 members, just about two full regiments. They worship in 150 parlors, or more than thirty railroad cars. The musical director of Plymouth Church receives \$2,000; Mr. Hockwood, tenor, \$1,000; Miss Thurley, soprano, \$500; Mr. Zimmler, organist, \$1,500.

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