Bellevue Gazette.

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Bellevue Gazette.

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Bellevue, Oct. 23, 1856.—1-tf

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Hon. S. A. Strickland, Bellevue.
Hon. John Finney, "
Hon. J. Sterling Morton, Nebraska City.
Omaha, June 20, 1857. 35

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3m32

POETRY.

Endurance.

BY CHARLES MACKAY.

Were the lonely acorn never bound
In the rude cold grasp of the rotting ground;
Did the rigid frost never harden up
The mould above its bursting cup;
Were it never soak'd in the rain and hail,
Or chill'd by the breath of the wintry gale,
It would not sprout in the sunshine free,
Or give the promise of a tree;
It would not spread to the summer air
Its lengthening boughs and branches fair,
To form a bower where in starry nights,
Young love might dream unknown delights;
Or stand in the woods among its peers,
Fed by the dews of a thousand years.

Were never the dull, unseemly ore
Dragg'd from the depths where it slept of yore,
Were it never cast into searching flame,
To be purged of impurity and shame;
Were it never moisten 'mid burning brands,
Or bruis'd and beaten by stalwart hands,
It would never be known as a thing of worth;
It would never emerge to a nobler birth;
It would never be form'd into mystic rings
To fetter love's erratic wings;
It would never shine amid priceless gems,
On the girth of imperial diadems;
Nor become to the world a power and a pride
Cherished, adored and defied.

So thou, O man of a noble soul,
Startling in view of a glorious goal,
Wert thou never exposed to the blasts forlorn—
The storms of sorrow—the sleets of scorn;
Wert thou never refined in pitiless fire,
From the dross of thy sloth and mean desire;
Wert thou never taught to feel and know
That the truest love has its roots in woe,
Thou wouldst never unriddle the complex plan,
Or reach half way to the perfect man;
Thou wouldst never attain the tranquil height
Where wisdom purifies the sight,
And God unfolds to the humblest gaze
The bliss and beauty of His ways.

Our Native Land.

BY MRS. JANE MARIA MEAD.

Our dear native land—with a palace or cot—
Be the climate serene, or all friged the spot—
'Mid Arno's green vales, or the desert's hot sand—
The sweetest of climes is our dear native land.
Though ever so rugged, and wintry, and wild,
Who loves not the sod that he loved when a child?
Who loves not the wood, where in boyhood he strayed?
The green, where he sported, the games that he played?
The stream, that rushed down from its home in the hill?
The river, that rolled by the clattering mill?
The dam, the little fishes o'erleaped in their play?
The rocks, shooting up through a tempest of spray?
The sacred old homestead, all shorn of its pride,
Where loved ones were born, and lamented ones died?
The hay-mow, the garden, the orchard, the well,
With its cool dripping waters, that chimed as they fell?
A light gilds the wave where he tossed the first hook,
To catch the bright minnows that glanced through the brook;
His time-sobered pulses with boyhood re-thrill,
Where shot his fleet sled down the snow-covered hill;
Where, pausing at morn, on his pathway to school,
He plied his new skates on the ice-coated pool,
Or waded the drifts that were piled by the storm,
To limn the white banks with his frolicsome form.
Oh, mem'ry paints raptures that manhood, in vain,
Would barter the wealth of the world to regain!
And clothes with a halo of beauty and truth,
The friends of his boyhood, the home of his youth.
Though life may have charms on a far foreign shore,
He sighs as he asks: "Shall I see them no more?"
An alien, 'mid scenes the most lovely or grand,
The heart has no home but its dear native land.

A question has been raised in one of our courts, whether a blind man can be made liable for a bill payable *at sight*.—The lawyers are puzzled.

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the Florence Courier.

Valley of the Platte and Loup Fork---Agricultural Statistics.

ED. COURIER.—In order that the statistics and estimates which I am about to present to your readers may be clearly understood, I shall give a very brief description of the Valley, and a short history of its first settlement.

That section to which this communication more directly refers, is situated between the Elkhorn river (about twenty miles west of Florence) and Genoa (on the north side of the Platte and Loup Fork Rivers,) comprising a tract of land extending about eighty miles east and west, and from three to seven miles north and south. Fremont is the first settlement in the Valley, about fourteen miles west of the Elkhorn, leaving the tract less than seventy miles in length. The settlements and improvements confined within these boundaries only are recognized in the statistics. Some very important and thriving settlements have already been made in the immediate neighborhood, forming very valuable tributaries to the Valley; but as they are outside, I shall pass them by. The country is perfectly level, the soil of a rich, loamy character, well watered, and containing plenty of good heavy timber. It is well adapted to agricultural purposes, as has been fully demonstrated last Summer.

The first claim was staked out on the tenth of May, 1856, by Geo. Emerson. On the 19th of the same month he moved on to it with his family. His was the first family that settled west of the Elkhorn. In order to reach his claim, he was compelled to go to Fontenelle, then cross with his goods in two canoes, swim the cattle across, and draw the wagon over by ropes. Isaac Albertson made a claim on Shell Creek, some six miles further west, on the same day, but did not bring his family out until the next Fall. During that Summer but few settlements were made, and not more than twenty families remained there over winter. But little was done in the way of improvements—building or breaking.—Indeed, it may be said that the work of improvement and permanent settlements did not commence until the Spring of 1857.

Owing to the lateness of the Spring, which all very well remember, but few persons could get out to their claims before the latter part of May. Their cattle were then nearly worn out—hay and other provender was scarce, and being too early for grass, they could not do as much breaking as they had intended. Had the season been favorable, as much more would have been broken up and planted. No corn was planted before June, and a great deal of it not until near the latter part. All but about eighty acres was "sod corn." But let us see how many acres of corn were planted, under all these adverse circumstances:

	Acres.
Monroe County	450
Platte "	297
Dodge "	966
Total number of acres of corn	1713

This may be considered *something*. Estimating the average yield at fifty bushels per acre—which is certainly very low—we have for the different counties the following neat figures:

	Bushels.
Monroe County	22,500
Platte "	14,815
Dodge "	48,300
Total number of bushels	85,615

This is quite a nice little "pile" of corn to be raised in one season. Let us estimate its value in dollars and cents. Corn is now selling at fifty cents per bushel.—At this price we have, as the value of the corn crop, the handsome sum of $41,807,-50. This is so much wealth added to the Territory, as otherwise we would have been compelled to send to Iowa, Missouri, or some other state for the supply.

The potatoe crop comes next, and the number of acres planted foot up as follows:

	Acres.
Monroe County	105
Platte "	10
Dodge "	19
Total	134

A better crop of potatoes I have never seen any where, and to estimate the yield at 200 bushels to the acre is rather low But at this rate we have a crop of 26,800 bushels. These, at 50 cents per bushel, (the present market price,) foot up $13,-400,00 as the value of the potatoes.

Already the reader may begin to form *some* idea of the wealth of this Valley, as well as the industry and enterprise of its citizens. But we have another item from which they may form an idea of the amount of of stock already there. The number of tons of hay put up during the Summer, foot up as follows:

	Tons.
Monroe County	735
Platte "	465
Dodge "	812
Total	2012

At $6 per ton, we have for the value of our hay, $12,072. Putting the whole matter into a nutshell, we have the value of our products in the Valley of the Platte and Loup Fork, as follows:

Corn	$42,807 50
Potatoes	13,400 00
Hay	12,072 00
Total value	$68,279 50

These may be considered very fair figures, and they are by no means fancy sketches—creations of the imagination—but real facts, which can be verified beyond a doubt. They were gathered from personal observations, and from each setler seperately.

Other products have been raised in abundance. Some buckwheat was sown, from which a large yield was received.—One man sowed three pecks, and gathered 40 bushels. Melons we had in abundance. The Chinese Sugar Cane was found to thrive, and garden vegetables produced abundantly.

Improvements of different kinds have advanced rapidly. Three steam mills are now in active operation. At Cleveland, a splendid, large hotel has been erected. At Columbus there is another, and all along the Valley fine, comfortable houses have been erected.

Quite a number of towns have been laid out, some of which have grown considerably—others *not* so much. At the head of the list stands Cleveland. The proprietors are men of energy, means and influence, and have gone to work with an energy and zeal that yields to no obstacles. Its location is such as must give it importance, and attract the attention of settlers and capitalists. Its future will be bright and prosperous.

I have now presented the reader with *facts*. I leave him to draw his own inferences, and arrive at such conclusions as his common sense must dictate,—Whether Platte Valley holds out any inducements to settlers, is for him to decide.
Yours, &c., M.

California Farming.

Our readers will doubtless be interested with the following accounts of farming in California, conducted on a large scale; and some valuable hints may be obtained by farmers in the eastern portion of the Union, from the thorough and systematic arrangements. We copy from the Report of the Committee to visit Farms, &c., appointed by the California Agrirultural Society, made to the Society last autumn, as given in the California Farmer.

From Sacramento we rode to the farm of J. C. Davis, Esq., about twelve miles west of that city, on the Puto creek.—This farm took the first premium of your Society last year, and Mr. Davis has been incessant in his efforts in improving his stock, orchards, buildings, and indeed every thing connected with his extensive premises. His farm contains about 8000 acres of land—1000 enclosed by a good fence. The water is raised by steam from the bed of the creek, in such quantities as to enable him to irrigate a large portion of his lands. He has a large peach orchard, and an extensive variety of other fruit trees, besides several thousand grape vines, which are producing very abundantly this year. His barns, stables, corrals and arrangements for stock are all on an extensive scale, and admirably arranged for the purposes intended. Mr. Davis has 3000 head of cattle and about the same number of sheep. He is using every effort to improve the quality of his stock by introducing the best breeds, and by this means the value of his stock is rapidly increasing every year. He has raised this year 400 hundred acres of wheat and barley, which has yielded over 30 bushels to the acre. He has about 150 head of horses, some of which are of a superior quality.

About three miles farther of the Puto is the extensive farming establishment of General Hutchinson and C. E. Green.—They have 1800 acres of land enclosed with a good fence, besides a large tract of unenclosed adjoining. One thousand acres of wheat and barley have been harvested this season, and notwithstanding the extremely dry summer which has caused such extensive failures of the cereal crops in other parts of the State, the crops on this farm have been comparatively good. One field containing 20 acres of wheat and barley, averaged 73 bushels to the acre. It is but fair, however, to state that the field had been previously used for a hog pasture. They have cut this year 1000 tons of hay, for ranch purposes and for baling and marketing. All the requisites for farming in the most systematic manner are to be met with on a large scale at this place. Blacksmiths and carpenters are constantly employed in making and keeping in order the implements necessary for so large a farm. As a complete system of farming for grain growing, it is seldom that its equal can be found in this or any other state. Its work stock consists of 30 mules, 24 horses, 24 oxen; and about 100 head of American cows and young stock, and 500 hogs.—They have 20 wagons, 50 plows, 25 harrows, 2 eight horse-power threshing machines, 7 reapers and mowers, 4 hay presses, and of other farming implements varieties corresponding in extent with those enumerated.

Oak Knoll Farm, of 1160 acres, (near San Jose,) divided into seven fields, containing 580 acres tillage, 350 acres pasture, 250 acres woodland. The main business is grain growing, and to which the most attention is paid. Four hundred and fifty acres have been under cultivation in wheat, barley, rye and oats, this past season. A part of the seed is drilled in, and a part plowed in with gang plows, in each case with a satisfactory result.—In the centre of this portion of the farm is a stone granery of 11,000 bushels capacity. A fire-proof tool house and a frame barn of large size, for storage of hay and grain in sacks, and other use.—The bridges, roads and gates in good order and convenient; and the whole ornamented with shade trees in lines and clumps.

The appearance of the stock in the pasture fields bears evidence of the richness of the feed, all having ample shade and water; this last led from pipes from a main aqueduct, one and a quarter miles in length. The corrals near the house connect with the pasture. These are convenient, having sheds for shelter and an ample supply of water in each.

The dairy-house which is of stone, is convenient to the house and corrals; the floor cemented, the roof plastered and ventilated—the milk-stands of oak. The dairy stock is small in number, but choice in quality, docile and sleek.

The working stock all have good stable accommodations; and the winter's feed is provided in nine large canvass-capped stacks.

The stables, wagon-shed blacksmith and carpenter shops are large and convenient. Near by are the buildings occupied by the foreman, gardner and farm hands. The chicken coop and sty have not been neglected, being with the dairy a profitable source of income and subsistence.

The house and out-buildings are so arranged, that while perfectly convenient and guarded against fire and risk, as to harmonize with the surrounding landscape, whose natural beauties are increased by clumps of Eveagreens, hedges of Roses, Locust and Osage Orange, planted between the orchards. Water is led into the house and stables, raised for the purpose by horse power the waste running off into the sheep yard and styes.

The orchard is of 60 acres, containing about 9000 fruit trees and 6000 vines of choice varieties. A vineyard of 3000 foreign vines, and a small nursery of grafted fruit. The whole subsoiled, and weeds kept under by cultivators made on the place. This orchard has means of irrigation to the amount of 30,000 gallons per day: but this practice is not followed.

The working stock for the farm is twenty American horses and mules—the tools ample, and of the newest and best paterns and varieties. The ordinary working force is a foreman, gardner, choreman and four hands. The trades of blacksmith, carpenter and wagon maker being included in these. By such combination of labor materially decreasing the cost of production and improvement.

WHO DROPPED THAT?—Lately a gentleman of Chicago was accompanying two ladies to the panorama of the Arctic Expedition, when in crossing Market street, he stepped on a hogshead hoop which flew up and struck him across his not very handsome nose.

"Good heavens ladies!" he exclaimed, "which of you dropped that?"

A sailor dropped out of the rigging of a ship of war, some fifteen or twenty feet, and fell plump on the head of the first lieutenant.

"Wretch!" said the officer, after he had gathered himself up, "where the devil did you come from?"

"An' sure I came from the north of Ireland; yer honor."

Total eclipse of the sun—as the boy said when he fell into the well.