

Rankin himself Again.

We saw an article in the last Nebraskaian purporting to be a letter written from Bellevue, which was in fact written by Dr. Rankin, in Omaha. Our readers will remember that last fall, prior to election, the Nebraskaian had a letter written in Omaha, who used to write his letter weekly, dated Plattsmouth, Nebraska City, Dakota and various other places. The same game is now being pursued. And in answer to this letter of Dr. Rankin, of Omaha, concerning the Sarpy County Meeting, we have only to say that its whole tenor is, first and last, to prove to the people that live in Omaha or out of Sarpy County, what a long and effective speech was made by Dr. Rankin, to vindicate the truth of history. If our readers will remember, we published the proceedings of that meeting and stated that the Resolutions endorsing their Representatives, passed the meeting with but one dissenting voice. Now we leave the inference to the whole world as to the effect produced by the Doctor's speech, and the probability as to who voted against the Resolutions, and how it occurred that the meeting was unanimous save this one vote.

Florence.—We took a flying trip to Florence last Saturday, and through the seductive influence of Hon. A. J. Smith (whose sumptuous fare and "Battle Creek," we shall never forget,) we were detained there two days longer than we expected. If we were to be banished from Sarpy County, Bellevue, and from the presence of our friends, to go and take up our abode among strangers, we should say, let our lot be cast among the Florentines; for with a little cool, sound philosophy, tempered with christian forbearance, we think we could endure the fare and hospitable treatment of its liberal and generous residents. Not only without a murmur, but with a deep sense of appreciative satisfaction.

Florence is indeed situated upon a beautiful spot. Its long wide Main Street, with its stores, from one end of the town to the other, show that the proprietors had a proper idea of room and space, while the gentle slope, back of Main St., with its many handsome, neat and tasty dwellings, and in front on the river, also, there are many commodious residences, presenting an appearance that gives the beholder a pleasant idea of a fast growing western town.

Fr. Calhoun.—We visited this place last Sabbath, and was well pleased to see the improvement made in the town since our last visit, which was about one year ago. We found our old friend Stephens at his old place, still administering to the comfort and happiness of the pioneer traveler with his large fires, warm dinners, and comfortable stables, and what is more, his honest, generous reception of his guests, puts one in disposition to make his stay as long as possible. Fort Calhoun has improved much within the last year; it is the County seat of Washington County, it is a river town, and we think its future is a certainty.

The following anonymous letter was received by Mr. Strickland thro' the Post Office; we publish it because it contains the sentiments, we believe, of nine-tenths of the squatters of Sarpy County: PAPHILLION VALLEY, Feb. 6, '58.

Friend Strick:—A few of us up in this valley have seen an article in the Nebraskaian, signed "A S," pretending to give an account of a meeting held at Bellevue on the 30th ult., which is quite foreign to the truth; if the writer had signed it as he properly should; "A S S," we should all know who its author was: but there are ear-marks "a kinder sticking out," which show that they belong to an anti-mule which is not allowed to run at this season of the year and should therefore be taken up and returned to his owner who is said to live in Omaha. Again, it is said, he is an "ornary" anti-mule and his owner or owners don't think enough of him to look after him. We think up here that he is a prodigy in his way, and is the very anti-mule that P. T. Barnum has been in search of these three or four years past, to retrieve his fortune with.

But, seriously, Friend Strick, we happened to be present at that meeting, and one Bill Poole Rankin, who resides in Omaha, but did formerly reside in Sarpy, who has labored to destroy politically the

best interests of the County, did get an opportunity to address the meeting, thro' the politeness of certain ones, and did avail himself of the opportunity to personally abuse Gen. L. L. Bowen. It is true, Mr. "A. S.," (or A. S. S.) the good people of Omaha, in our infancy, took us under her guardian care and would not admit us to have a voice in her councils in the early organization of the Territory, notwithstanding we out-numbered her in actual resident voters. No sir, Mr. "A. S.," your master said to the Squatters of Bellevue: "Let me name the man to represent you—one who will do my bidding, and you shall be treated as good and obedient children." Time passed, Mr. "A. S.," or "A. S. S.," a Delegate was to be elected. B. B. Chapman was the candidate of that corrupt clique, that had disfranchised a large portion of this Territory, one eminently qualified to serve any party that he thought could elect him. L. L. Bowen was also a candidate as you very well know, Mr. "A. S.," and was a Bellevue man. Other candidates were in the field, and there being a good prospect of electing Bennett of South Platte, Bowen was induced to withdraw from the contest, and ran for the Legislature by the influence of the pious ones of Omaha. You, Mr. "A. S. S.," did the bidding of your master in that campaign, and they think you belong to them yet, and it is not known in Sarpy that you deny ownership. Gen. Bowen was elected by seven votes you say, which was true. There is where your master was checkmated, sir. Gen. Bowen worked for his own people, and still carrying out his pledges to the Omaha people, South Douglas precinct was organized, thank God, we got a representative. The Gen. had proven himself a people's man and the Squatters were ready to throw up their hats for the General another year, and he was elected to the Council by almost an unanimous vote, but three votes against him; glory enough we should say for one man. But when the Legislature was convened, lo! and behold, he was elected President of the Council by a handsome vote and then let us see what followed with the General to lead off in the upper and Strickland and others in the lower House, obtained for us a county, checkmating you again, Mr. "A. S.," and to-day, I believe, that Gen. Bowen commands the confidence of four-fifths of the people, whilst you Mr. "A. S.," or "A. S. S.," have served your master as faithfully, sir, could not be elected to the office of constable by a vote of the people notwithstanding you have been put upon the treasury pap. I am afraid you will pull so hard that they will see the necessity of choking you off, and your master will not be able to provide for his numerous family, I fear, and you I fear will have to be sold to other service, for the squatters are not to be deceived any longer. Friend Strick, you can use this as you see fit. SQUATTER.

Will the Nebraskaian answer the arguments in the "Bugle" of last week, in relation to the course of the Nebraskaian on the Ferguson pre-emption?

Nebraska. Mr. Ferguson introduced a bill making a grant of alternate sections of the public lands to the Territory of Nebraska, to aid in the construction of certain railroads in said Territory, and for other purposes; which was read a first and second time, and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

SURVEYOR GEN. OF NEBRASKA. Mr. Ferguson also introduced a bill to establish the office of Surveyor General in the Territory of Nebraska; which was read a first and second time; and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

PENITENTIARY IN NEBRASKA. Mr. Ferguson also introduced a bill to provide for building a penitentiary in the Territory of Nebraska; which was read a first and second time, and referred to the Committee on Territories.

BRIDGE ACROSS THE PLATTE RIVER. Mr. Ferguson also introduced a bill to provide for building a bridge across the Platte river, in the Territory of Nebraska; which was read a first and second time, and referred to the Committee on Territories.

ROAD IN NEBRASKA. Mr. Ferguson also introduced a bill for the construction of a road in the Territory of Nebraska, from the Platte river to the Kansas line; which was read a first and second time, and referred to the Committee on Territories.

GEORGE JENNINGS IN LUCK.—It is stated in a late Irish paper that George Jennings has recently been declared heir to a property estimated at £3,000,000, together with an estate yielding £50,000 per annum, as the rightful representative of the Jennings, whose property has been for years in the English court of chancery. The lucky fellow was a baker's porter in Cork and earned 9s. a week.

Mr. Editor:—As many persons who have only had the experience of the two preceding winters in Nebraska have complained of the winds, and cold, it may be well to set figures opposite complaints, and see how they compare. To understand the tables, I remark that the amount of cloudiness is from 1 to 10; "1" denotes the lowest amount of cloudiness; "0" being clear, and "10" denotes the greatest amount of cloudiness. The force of the wind is denoted by the same numbers, "1" denoting a very light breeze; "2" a fresh breeze, and "10" a violent hurricane:

Table with columns for Month, Temperature (7 A.M., 9 P.M.), Mean Temp., Amt. Cloud, Force Wind, Wind-Direction (North, South, East, West, North West, South West, South East), Snow Rain, and Snow in Inches.

From the above table it will be seen: 1st. That the average degree of cold was not one degree below freezing point, and the average for January was over half a degree above freezing.

2d. The amount of rain and melted snow that fell during the five months was over 9 inches.

3d. The wind will hardly average a fresh breeze.

4th. The amount of cloudiness is not quite equal to four-tenths, or four days in ten.

This last is unusual for this climate, as the season from November to May is usually dry. The unusual amount of snow, will account for the many cloudy days. I may add that the first frost was on the 16th of October, and the last steamboat left our wharf on the 15th of Nov. The first arrival was towards the last of March, making nearly eight months of navigation, during which time about 140 trips were made by the different boats to this place, and points above; and if you calculate the amount of money that each boat took away in freight, and payment for the various kinds of merchandise and products brought West, you will see that with all the complaints of Eastern speculators, about speculation in the West, the money invested here has nearly all gone back to pay for the products of the farms and manufactories in the East. This must necessarily be the case till we can raise our own supplies.

I will only add that a little over half of my life was spent in one of the most charming spots in Pennsylvania. The last twenty years has been spent in Kansas and Nebraska, with the exception of one visit East during that time, and I must know something of the climate and soil, having traveled from fifty miles south of Kansas river to Omaha creek, north of the Indian Reservation, and over some parts many times, and can testify to what I have seen. Not one winter in five has there been sleighing to any extent, nor with the exception of the two previous winters do I recollect seeing the thermometer below zero during the day. One day it stood at zero all day. One year I planted corn in March, and it was not killed by the frost. This was about 100 miles south of this. I have seen 90 bushels of corn raised to the acre, and from 40 to 60 bushels raised on the sod, i. e. after the first breaking of the prairie. I have not known the crop to fail once in twenty years, though some of the seasons were very dry. I believe the crops of '56 and '57 were inferior to any of the previous years. The atmosphere is dry, and I believe the climate healthy. I had the Ague a few times in 1838, but not since; have slept out on the prairie summer and winter, and traveled often in the night when on a journey, and have seldom been un-

able to be out and to attend to my duties. Taking it all in all, I doubt whether those seeking new homes, can find better elsewhere than in Nebraska. I am satisfied, I could add much; but enough.

Natural Chapel Discovered in 1851.

This solitary shrine is approached by means of a rugged and rock-strewn pathway, leading from Cowan's Depot to the summit of one of the Cumberland Mountains, which is 1000 feet above the level of the surrounding country, and about 3000 feet above the level of the sea.

Created upon a small platform of rocks, beneath the shadow of the frowning precipices of this Mountain that lifts its Titan head into the very heavens, the rear of this natural building projects almost within the shelter of a singular, natural cavern, the walls of which have been partly secured from moisture by the hands of the Almighty, thus furnishing accommodations for an altar hidden in the deep seclusion of the subterranean recess; the window of the little church of the wilderness, for such is the literal signification of its name, looks out upon one of the grandest and most varied prospects to be found even among the most picturesque groups of mountains in the world. From the peaceful repose of the lake, whence the water steals gently away with many a winding curve through the rich pasture lands from the deep, green foliage of many a sheltered glen and valley, the eye turns abruptly upon rugged and storm-trenched precipices, upon cloud-piercing and inaccessible peaks, in strange and startling confusion; the lower grounds glowing in all the pride of summer; the pine clad uplands sombre and mournful in the widowed vesture of autumn, and the tall summits white, as with age, in wintry desolation. All seasons and all varieties of land, of sky and water, are represented at one view in this epitome of nature. When the chapel bell is rung at the appropriate evening hour by the solitary recluse of the mountain shrine, just as the blink of the glaciers begin to cast over the darkness of the valleys into strange, unearthly twilight; the sound of the vesper hymn rises from within the lonely cavern, as if the solid earth itself poured forth from its deep heart the notes of praise; the voices of the mountain shepherds catching the burden of the strain, carry it from cliff to cliff, and from dell to dell, until it dies away in the distance like a retreating echo, giving notice to the low-lands that the toils and world-cares of the day are past, and preface by a heart-melting devotion, the season of repose. This thought often intrudes itself upon my mind: Can architectural skill, and all the genius of the artist, erect a church to God, so grand, so worthy of the Author of our being, as his own awful and magnificent temples, reared by the earthquake and fashioned by the volcanoes, deep in the bosom of the eternal hills; can organ-peal compare in deep solemnity with the loud tongued thunder speaking of infinite powers among the solitary mountains? When listening to the eloquence of some learned divine, expatiating upon human nothingness and the ineffable glory of the Deity from the gold-decked pulpit, by the glowing and mystic light of stained glass windows, I have mentally ejaculated: How weak the swelling organ note, compared with one wild thunder tone from God's own mountain cloud-throne, responding to the vesper hymn from the lone tenant of the cavern, as he stands self-immolated by the altar of the little church of the wilderness.

WEATHER TABLE, FOR FIVE MONTHS, ENDING JANUARY 31, 1858.

Table with columns for Temperature, Clouds, Wind-Direction, Snow Rain, and Snow in Inches.

We are informed that the difficulty on Marietta & Cincinnati Railroad, in Ohio have been settled, and the road is now in operation.

News from the Plains and the Upper Missouri.

Among the number of travelers up the Missouri and on the Plains, we have met with Henry Belknap, Esq., who has spent the greater part of the year in explorations of the rivers and mountains of that far-off country. Mr. Belknap left St. Louis in the spring of the year, with Col. Vaughan, Indian agent for the Upper Missouri, on board the steamer Twilight. Leaving Col. Vaughan's post among the Black-foot Indians, he crossed the mountains to the head of the Columbia, and thence down directly thro' the mountains until he reached Utah Territory. Mr. Belknap was at Green River when the U. S. trains of provision, &c., were burned by the Mormons. A very small force of Mormons was concerned in the operation; twenty Mormons only destroyed Russell & Co's train. The men were awakened from sleep, and found two Mormons with rifles cocked standing at the head of each wagon. The whole affair of getting pos-

session of the wagons was conducted by the Mormons in the most civil, not to say friendly, manner. The men in charge of the wagons were allowed to take any articles they desired from the wagons in the train, and then the train was set on fire. The statement that they plundered the train is not correct.

Mr. Belknap represents that the position of the small body of men on Ham's Fork was critical in the extreme. The Mormons were ranging the country at will, driving off the cattle, cutting off supplies, and annoying the military in every possible way. Henry's Fork, where Col. Johnson proposed wintering his command, is a tolerably well sheltered valley, and provided with wood and grass, but it is very much exposed to attacks from the Mormon enemy. The latter are usually well mounted and well equipped; and they are said to be in possession of seventeen pieces of artillery. This is a very reasonable number, as many of the Mormons are mechanics, and have been engaged in the casting of cannon.

Fifty of Magraw's party, engaged in making a road in that direction to the Pacific, had volunteered in the army, and their services were accepted, and they had marched from Wind river to join Col. Johnson. Leaving the South Pass early in Nov., Mr. Belknap struck directly across the Plains, crossing the head of L'Eauqui Court and White rivers, and arrived at Fort Randall, on the Upper Missouri, on the 2d of December. The Ogallala Indians were at the Sand Hill Peak; two hundred and fifty lodges of Braves were in the Sand Hills between the head of L'Eauqui Court and White river, and other scattering bands were met on the way. These Indians were all starving, and they reported no buffalo in that section of the country.

There has been some hard fighting on the Plains the past fall and summer, between the different tribes of Indians, and eighty lodges of the Crows had been nearly exterminated by the Minnecajou tribe (Sioux) in one battle. A white man by the name of William Leclere, had been killed by the Yaoutoums. The other tribes of Indians were quiet. The country was reported to be black with buffalo, from Fort Pierre northward. It is also said that the prospect of a good winter's trade in that section of the country was highly promising.—Mo. Republican.

Horace Greeley, in a letter to the Tribune, from Chicago, under date of January 4, says:—

There was never a better time for men of moderate means and expectations to migrate from the old States to the West than the next season will present. Those who come out with a few hundred dollars (if they be thousands, so much the better) will find improved lands within reach of civilization far cheaper than they have been, with teams, stock, grain, and nearly everything else to match. A thousand dollars will go quite as far toward settling a family comfortably next April, as two thousand did last spring. I say emphatically to all who aspire to live by work rather than by speculation, if you can get comfortably into the West next April, with a few hundred dollars in cash, on reaching this point, you can hardly fail to do well. Single men or women who can reach this point with even ten dollars each need have no fear; though I would advise none of these to stop one hour longer in a city than may be required to determine on which route to leave it. In spite of the hard times and general prostration, there is still work for all the able and willing in this lustrous region. Of course, Labor must be nominally lower next season than it has been; but a year's wages will buy more food and clothing, land and outfit, than it ever did. To all who are willing, and know how to work, and who find employment with difficulty, or not at all, in the East, I say again, set your faces Westward so soon as you possibly can. Avoid the cities, unless you are skilled in some handicraft which is there in request, and seek homes on the soil—the homes of those who will hire you at first, but only to exchange those in due season for homes of your own. Combine fertile soil with healthy location at all events, and you can hardly go amiss. A single man may step off into the untroubled prairie and make a beginning where never he sees fit; but he who has a wife and child dren may better have forty acres of good land within reach of a school house, than ten times forty where no school house either is or soon will be. For him who is able to pay for it, land is cheap in New Jersey or Ireland, but for the hard-handed plow-jogger, who is poor in coin but rich in children, there is no country today so inviting as the broad, free West.

MR. DOUGLAS AND HIS SOUTHERN PLANTATION.—The Vicksburgh Southern says:—

As some explanation of the unexpected change in the action of Mr. Douglas, we may state that several months since the Illinois Senator disposed of his estate in Mississippi, and having no longer any tangible interest in "the peculiar institution," we presume he thought the occasion a good one to conciliate the Free-Soil fanatics of the North and North-West.

The Dubuque and Pacific Rail Road, is now in use 8 miles west of Dyer'sville, (the late terminus,) thus giving rail road transportation 43 miles west from Dubuque. Upon the completion of the road 2 miles farther west the company will be entitled to 230,000 acres of land, being the first installment from the Government of the large donation made by Congress. This, at \$6 per acre, will cover the entire bonded and floating debt of the company.

Local & Territorial.

The Court House building Committee are taking active measures to put this much needed improvement, in process of erection. We hope to see this project carried out at once.

Hon. Alexander Davis, a member of the 2d Legislature, from Douglas County, died Feb. 6th, from a congestive chill, at Elkhorn, where he had recently removed.

Our Singing School is now in active operation, and its members appear to be well satisfied with its teacher, D. E. Longsdorf. It meets at the School House on Wednesday evening of each week.

W. H. Cook, of this City, has been appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania, Commissioner of Deeds, for that State, in the Territory of Nebraska.

A report is in circulation that Pawnee Rogers, has gone where good Indians go, having died with the Small Pox, in Mormon Hollow, where he has been encamped with several of his tribe, some weeks past.

A snow storm commenced on Sunday afternoon, which continued till Monday. It was the most severe storm that has occurred this winter, and the snow fell to the depth of 10 inches. On Wednesday morning the mercury was 25 degrees below zero. Previous to the preceding evening, the mercury has not been below zero since November. It is now more mild, and in a day or two, will probably be as pleasant as usual.

We call attention to the communication to be found elsewhere, from "Vidi." We hope to hear from him again. One that is so able to give us "facts and figures," cannot fail to be interesting.

Will Post Masters Steal?—Our Florence subscribers, or a portion of them, complain of not receiving the Gazette. We can assure them that the Florence package has been carefully made up, and regularly mailed each week. Where the fault lies we are unable to say; but there is certainly something rotten in Denmark. We also know that our papers are duly forwarded from the Post Office in this City, and as they pass thro' the hands of only two more of Uncle Samuel's "detectives," or "infectives," (we're not sure which term is the most appropriate,) our Florence friends are quite as able to tell who does the stealing, as ourselves. As we take some little pride in performing our business matters accurately, we are not a little vexed to hear that our subscribers do not receive their papers. If we hear more complaint, we shall be under the necessity of securing the services of two strong men and a small boy, to inform the offenders that "prigging," is against the "rules and regulations of this house," and if they do not immediately cease operations, will be severely dealt with.

The Ladies Benevolent Association will meet at Mrs. Kinney's, next week Thursday.

A Ball will be given at Balkeley's Hall, on Monday evening, February 22d. Tickets have been issued, and those wishing to participate, will find them for sale at a moderate price, to suit the hard times.

Our fast young men are out "four in hand," enjoying the sleighing. We hope no one will be so presuming as to tender us a seat behind a 2,40. We should be decidedly opposed to such a procedure.

We call attention to an original article on the outside of to-day's paper, from the pen of "Uncle Fuller," a gentleman who has seen something of pioneer life, as our readers will perceive. We hope to hear from him again.

Gov. Richardson has returned to Illinois, for his family. He is expected back about the first of June.

The Mock Legislature still continues its sessions at the School House. The next one will be held on Friday evening. A Bill was introduced, last week, to relocate the Territorial Capitol. It created quite an excitement, and the scenes which took place at Omaha, some few weeks since, were re-enacted with great success, amid a general uproar, and almost a free fight.

We have been informed, by the Register of the Land Office at Omaha, that in future, all persons advertising contested Land cases, to be tried before the Register and Receiver, must have their notices inserted three times, but when the party can be found, a written notice must be served on him.