

## PIKE'S REPUBLIC.

It is most agreeable to learn, even through the roundabout medium of the New York Tribune, of the establishment by the neighboring state of Kansas of a permanent public park on one of the interesting historic spots located within the borders of that commonwealth. They seem sometimes to outsiders to be somewhat fantastic in their ways, down in Kansas, but they have good hearts and lots of good ideas, and if one could not be a Nebraskan one would perhaps not find it such an extreme hardship to be a Kansan. We of the South Platte country should have an especial fellow-feeling for our neighbors on the south, for we came near having our lot thrown in with theirs—how near, few of us know, for the story of the annexation project of 1858 has never been written.

This time it is the Kansas State Historical Society which has accepted a gift of land from Mrs. Elizabeth A. Johnson of White Rock. This land is said to be the site of the puzzling Pawnee Republic which was the scene in the year 1806 of two striking occurrences; the first being a visit from a Spanish military force from Santa Fe, numbering several hundred, under the command of Lieutenant Malgares; the second a visit from a detachment of the United States army, consisting of sixteen privates and five officers, under the leadership of Captain Zebulon Montgomery Pike. The Spanish came to explore the country, turn back any Americans they might encounter and "renew the chains of ancient amity" with the Pawnee, Omaha, Kansas and other tribes of Indians; they missed the tiny band of Yankees, and explored no further than to this Pawnee Republic, where their hearts failed them and they turned back. The Americans were out to view the unknown region their government had lately purchased and to do with their might whatsoever their hand found to do. Coming to this curious Republic, they were confronted by the abhorrent sight of a Spanish flag waving before the head chief's tent; Captain Pike at once called for its removal. His army could not have been very imposing in the eyes of the Pawnees, a single village of whom could put a thousand warriors on horseback at a moment's notice; especially after the recent passage of the gay Spanish troop, with upwards of two thousand horses. Pike himself admits that "this was carrying the pride of nations a little too far," but the Spanish flag came down and the emblem of the United States was exalted in its stead. This event, which the good people of the neighborhood hold to have been the first raising of the stars and stripes over Kansas soil, it seems they have been in the habit of celebrating each year on the 29th of September, its anniversary; and it is to commemorate it that Mrs. Johnson, who

has owned the adjacent land for nearly thirty years, has presented to the state a tract of eleven acres, covering what is said to be the exact spot; thus setting a notable example of intelligent public spirit, and securing for her own name the grateful remembrance of posterity, to a time when the memory of other Kansas women, who have sought fame in more explosive ways, will have perished from off the earth.

## About the Flag.

The whole truth regarding the occurrences of Monday, the 29th of September, 1806, however, is that they did not pass off so exactly like an ordinary 4th of July flag raising as one might suppose. In fact, after he had carried his point, Captain Pike deemed it politic to return to the Indians the detested yellow banner, and then he marched on, with his sixteen infantry, toward the Rocky Mountains, where there awaited him such suffering and such a monument as perhaps have fallen to the lot of no other of our soldiers. If now some prophetic vision could have been granted him, as he trudged over the endless plains, of the next encounter between those two flags, ninety-three years later?

## Pike's Story.

His account of the affair is worth reading. "After the chiefs had replied to various parts of my discourse," he says, "but were silent as to the flag, I again reiterated the demand for the flag, adding that it was impossible for the nation to have two fathers; that they must either be the children of the Spaniards or acknowledge their American father. After a silence of some time, an old man rose, went to the door, and took down the Spanish flag, and brought it and laid it at my feet; and then received the American flag, and elevated it on the staff, which had lately borne the standard of his Catholic majesty. Perceiving that every face in the council was clouded with sorrow, as if some great national calamity was about to befall them, I took up the contested colors, and told them, that as they had now shown themselves dutiful children, in acknowledging their great American father, I had no desire to embarrass them with the Spaniards, for it was the wish of the Americans, that their red brethren should remain peaceably round their own fires, and not embroil themselves in any disputes between the white people; and that for fear the Spaniards might return there in force again, I gave them back their flag; but with an injunction that it should never be hoisted during our stay. At this there was a general shout of applause, and the charge was particularly attended to."

## A Correction.

If these Kansas people have their facts right, as they undoubtedly must, then the location of this enigmatical Republic

was about ten miles south of the Nebraska line, in Republic county, on the Republican river; and THE CONSERVATIVE has erred on several occasions in conjecturing, from inspection of the old maps, that it was on the Nebraska side and in the neighborhood of Superior.

The newspaper article from which we have our information makes a further statement as to the origin of the name Republic for this sub-tribe of Indians; in regard to which something may be said in another number of THE CONSERVATIVE.

## A Suggestion.

Kansas thus delighteth to honor one of the places of historic interest within her limits; Iowa has taken great pains with the grave of one of Lewis & Clark's men, whom they buried on a bluff below Sioux City; could the present Nebraska legislature do better than to mark in some fitting way one or all of the three old army posts our state possesses; Fort Atkinson or Calhoun, Old Fort Kearney at Nebraska City, and the Fort Kearney of the freighting days?

A. T. R.

## REPLY TO THE CHRIST MYTH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CONSERVATIVE:

I have read with much interest the articles in the recent numbers of your paper on "The Christ Myth," pro and con. Mrs. Evans' article has been treated historically and personally and I would like to treat it from a theological standpoint thus:

Two kinds of proof may be adduced in behalf of Christianity, internal and external. The internal arguments are drawn from the nature, scope and doctrine of Christianity coupled with the sublime character of the author of Christianity—Christ. The external arguments are based on the authority of those who embrace Christianity as well as the authority of some who denied Christianity as well as history.

## Some Internal Arguments.

The doctrine of Christianity is so simple, so grand and so sublime that it cannot be considered as the work of man, although this doctrine is the work of several authors who committed to writing what they learned from Christ and who composed their works, at a distance from one another. Yet in these doctrines there is no contradiction, but they form one harmonious and consistent whole. In them are no absurdities, no contradictions, all the doubts, conjectures and capricious fancies of every system till then are satisfactorily and sufficiently solved. This alone would be a sufficient evidence of the truth of the doctrine of Christianity. A sublimer morality than philosophical minds had been accustomed to hear is presented to us; a morality, that not only solves all the secret mysteries of