

tous statement, impossible of proof or disproof, except as it is certain that Fremont did once pass through Nuckolls county, that he observed "frequent groves of oak," and that it is very likely that he called each of them an oak grove.

Another, also fathered by the State society, is found in Volume V, in an entertaining article by Hon. J. A. MacMurphy. It is here that Fremont is spoken of as the first white man known to have crossed the state of Nebraska; but that has been mentioned before. What I now question is the correctness of an anecdote further along, which Mr. MacMurphy says he received from Clement Lambert, one of Fremont's employees, whom he calls "Old Lumbar." It is of a feast made for the explorer and his party by the Pawnees of a village near Columbus, where they are said to have stopped two or three days to rest and recruit, though it was at the beginning of their journey; and it tells how the commander was horrified at being served with a portion of boiled dog, and refused to eat it. The story turns on this, and on consequences that resulted long afterwards on the same journey.

This must manifestly have happened when Lambert was a member of the party, and that was only on the first expedition. On this trip they met no Indians in Nebraska on the way out, save three of the Cheyenne nation, but they did come to a Pawnee village in the neighborhood indicated, as they returned in September. But they only bought some vegetables, and kept right on; and Lambert was not there for even that, having been sent forward some days previously to Bellevue for carpenters. So that here again we are constrained to wonder what reliance may be placed on this story; which is a good story, giving an inside view of Fremont's first party, and intimating that Lambert and Basil Lajeunesse were really the guides, and Carson and Maxwell merely hunters.

The dog part of it, also, does not agree very well with Fremont's own account of his first dog-feast, which occurred on that journey, but among the Sioux in Wyoming. He tells what dog-meat tastes like, and mentions that he is not "nice in such matters."

Another case is more difficult. It is a statement of Dr. George Bird Grinnell's, where, in speaking of a certain title of honor among the Pawnees, he says that it was never bestowed upon a white man, with but two exceptions; Major Frank North and Fremont, the Pathfinder. It is hard to believe that Fremont was ever in such contact with the Pawnees as to lead them to confer such a signal distinction upon him, but Dr. Grinnell is too eminent an authority for his statements to be lightly questioned; but when can it have happened? Gen-

eral Fremont's time seems to be pretty well accounted for.

Previous to 1842, he had never been west of the Missouri; he had been surveying with Nicollet between the Upper Mississippi and the Missouri, but the Pawnees were never in that region. In 1842 he passed through the Pawnee territory both going and coming, but in going out he only saw a last year's camp and some of their trails, and on his return his relations with them were brief and of a strictly business nature, as noted above. Aside from this, all the Indians that he met this year were at war with the Pawnees.

In 1843 again, all that he saw of the Pawnees on his way west was their highways across country; and again he stopped at a village of theirs in returning in the succeeding year, this time on the Smoky Hill. And they received him with "unfriendly rudeness and characteristic insolence," and were so far from bestowing titles of honor upon him that half of them, as they afterwards told Major Wharton, were for murdering him and his men in the night.

His third expedition was undertaken in the spring of 1845, and its object was the exploration of the region west of Salt Lake. He may have lingered to fraternize with the plains Indians, but it was not his custom to tarry when he had an object in view, and it seems hardly probable that he did so in this case. When he came east again in 1847, he was escorted by General Kearney, who clapped him under arrest as soon as they reached Fort Leavenworth; so that this does not appear a likely time for the ceremony, either.

On his fourth excursion, in the winter of 1848-49, he went out the Smoky Hill, apparently, which would have taken him well to the south of the reputed haunts of the Pawnees. He did spend several weeks at or near Kansas City in making preparations; but none of the early travelers speak of the Pawnees ever being seen nearer to the States than Fort Leavenworth, and there only a few at a time, for trade; and I do not think it probable that the degree was conferred upon him during this sojourn. Neither was it bestowed upon the march by any traveling lodge, for though he had Indians with him on all his later expeditions, they were invariably Delawares, the neutral tribe employed quite generally as hunters and interpreters. He returned this time by sea.

Of the fifth and last trip we have a circumstantial account from the daguerreotypist who accompanied it, and it is quite certain that Senator Fremont was not adopted into the Pawnee tribe on this occasion. He was absent from his party for a month soon after setting out, but unless we assume that this was a subterfuge to cover his initiation, we must accept his statement, that he returned to St. Louis for medical treatment. This was in the fall of 1853, and

as soon as he reached the coast he hurried back to the Atlantic states again. He was now a candidate for a more honorable title, all things considered, than that of *Pani Leshar*; namely, that of president of the United States; and though he did not obtain it, it is not likely that he solaced himself at any time after this with the lesser dignity. He was no longer young, and his time for seeking diversion in Indian tepees (if he ever had such a time) was past. Nor can any one, from reading the journals which he has left, and the records that others made of him, find in him such a character as would have lent itself to intimacy with the Indians. Fremont was an austere man, capable of rousing supreme attachment and devotion in his followers, but not one to form close friendships with them, still less to enter into an Indian's ideas. The Indians did not confer honors for distinguished services to science nor to the United States government, but for services directly affecting them, or that they could at least appreciate. There is nothing, I believe, in General Fremont's journals, to indicate that the native tribes were at all interesting or congenial to him.

Still, it is rash to question Dr. Grinnell's positive statement; and, furthermore, THE CONSERVATIVE is informed by Major North's surviving brothers that the Pawnees used to say that, besides their brother, one white man had received the honorable title under discussion; "one who had been through this country with a command, engaged in building a road, and that some of the Pawnees went with him over the mountains." This fits Fremont fairly well, but possibly it may fit some other man as well, or better. It is doubtful, as mentioned above, if any Pawnees ever accompanied Fremont on any of his travels.

The question seems to be still open.

A. T. RICHARDSON.

Charles W. French, of Hyde Park High School, Chicago, will reply to an article which appeared in THE CONSERVATIVE over the signature, "W. S. S.," March 16. Prof. French's subject is "The Duty of the Schools to Democracy." It will be published in June.

**SURE PRE-  
VENTIVE.**

For two years the  
Guarantee Hog  
Cholera Cure has  
been used at Arbor

Lodge. In that time between three and four cases of the medicine have been fed to a herd of swine, running from fifty to two hundred in number. Not a single outbreak of cholera has occurred, although it has been prevalent and malignant on nearby farms.