The Pittsburgh Gazette.

KANSAS AND THE PLAINS.

JEFFERSON Co., KANSAS, June 17.

Last week I made an excursion to Sheridan, the present terminus of the Kansas Pacific Railway, more for observation than anything else. Early in October last I was over the same road, when everything was clad in the sere and sober livery of autumn. This time the earth was arrayed in all the glories of early summer.

Contrary to my expectation, the further we progressed westward to the extreme verge of agricultural settlement, the crops of every kind were more and more advanced in growth, and the tallest corn I saw was in Ellsworth county, within sight of Fort Harker. Beyond that there are no fields; no plow furrow has yet disturbed the soil, except on two small experimental farms on the north branch of the Smoky Hill near Sheridan, which are said to be to a good degree successful; ibut I had not time to visit. Fort Harker is 218 miles west of the Missouri or the State line; Sheridan is 405 miles west of the same point; consequently there is an area of 186 miles on which no agricultural experiment has been made. It is a region sublime in extent and beautiful in the long, graceful waving of the surface on which very little else than buffalo grass grows. On Big creek, at Fort Hays, there is a grove of splendid trees, on the dense, dark foliage of which, as contrasted with the pale green of the buffalo grass, the eye rests with great satisfaction. Hays is seventy miles westward of Harker. From Hays to Sheridan, one hundred and sixteen miles, the country is almost treeless, and scarcely a single running stream is found. There are many water courses, where, in the rainy season, torrents of water flow, and on which numerous capacious reservoirs could be made at small expense. But the soil is good, nearly all the way; and where it has been disturbed by the excavations on the railroad, and on the loose banks thrown out of the ditches, the growth of weeds, intermingled with beautiful flowers.

But those plains cannot be brought under cultivation until the railroad shall be carried forward to the coal and timber of the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains; and when they are, the work will probably commence on the mountain slopes and work eastward. The lack of water will be supplied by artificial reservoirs. Excellent water is obtained in abundance from wells dug to depths varying from forty to one hundred feet. I do not believe that artesian wells would be successful, owing to the absence of the necessary topographical conditions—the vicinity of mountains or higher levels.

The first use to which these extensive regions will be applied, will be as pastures for cattle and sheep, but even this business cannot be successfully entered upon until the Indians are either exterminated or compelled to behave themselves, and the road completed to the coal and timber of the mountains. The latter, thanks to the energy of the Kansas Pacific Railway Company, will soon be an accomplished fact; but when will that country be made secure from savage depredations?

But let the plains bide their time—there is still much land to be possessed on this side,—enough in Kansas alone for three, or four, or five millions of people. But where, you may ask, do the plains commence? So far as my observation goes I should say, at Fort Harker, or about that meridian—say half way from the eastern to the western border of Kansas. Of course there is no marked or definite line between the arable and pastural portions of the State; and the day will come when what we now call the plains will be dotted with dwellings, urban and rural, and wave with rich harvests: The soil is there, and the water is there, provided means are taken, as they can be, to keep it there. The plow will open the soil and let in the rain to fill the wells and cause fountains of water to break out where at present all is dry. All that region is now as hard as a highway, for it has been trampled for ages by millions upon millions of buffaloes, perhaps the most restless of herbiverous animals, and whose tread while plunging along is equal to the action of as many battering rams as there are hoofs. Owing to the dryness of the autumns and winters in that region frosts do not soften the ground as in the eastern States; the result is that there is probably no soil in the world of equal depth and fertility so hard and impervious to water as that. When broken up, and I observed along the railroad it is extremely loose and friable. The top soil of the Plains is of a dark chocolate color, and from one to two feet deep—sometimes more—underlaid with a subsoil composed of good retentive clay, in the composition of which lime enters largely. In some places it is precisely the same to all appearance as that found in the valley of the Missouri, and which Professor Haydon pronounces marl. Remains of numerous and some immense aquatic animals are found embedded in this vast deposit; and in many places ridges of drift of great extent, made up of water-worn gravel, principally quartz and kindred rock, are found. The channel of the Smoky Hill river, when low, is almost one continual sand bar made up of such materials, mingled with every coarse sand.

That species of vegetation known as buffalo grass, with which hundreds of thousands of square miles of this region are covered, is a very peculiar variety. It is fine and delicate in the blade, and rarely rises above three inches in height. Its color is a light green, and it is, while growing, soft and pleasant to the tread. The seed stem is generally not more than six inches high, very slender, and bears on one side only, a very small head, which looks something like the feather of an arrow. But so elastic is this grass that it rises and stands as erect as ever the instant after the hoof of the heaviest animal has passed it. Indeed it is the only grass that could bear the trampling of the buffalo. Providence seems to have prepared it for the special use of that animal, and it is well named when called buffalo grass; for it is a fact, that as these animals are driven back before the advancing tide of population, the other taller and coarser grasses common to the prairies come in and smother it. In the region around Fort Harker we see this process going on. This probably is the most nutritious of all grasses, and has the singular property of retaining in a dry state throughout the winter all the nutriment it had in its highest maturity and vitality. Domestic animals that feed upon it alone are fat enough for the shambles in the spring.

If buffalo grass could be grown free from admixture with other and stronger grasses, I know of none that would be so well adapted to lawns. But were I to attempt to introduce it, I should send up to the plains for a quantity of sods, rather than gather the seeds, which are exceedingly sparse upon the ground. In gardens the seed might be grown; but on the plains a man would be very busy who would collect an ounce in a day. It spreads rapidly by the roots, and small tufts set at short intervals would soon overspread the ground.

High winds career over these plains almost continually. Sometimes, and most commonly in the warm season, it is a pleasant, refreshing breeze; but at times something very like a hurricane prevails. The winters are severe, owing rather to the sharp winds than to a low temperature. But the plains are considerably elevated—Sheridan, which is nearly two hundred miles this side of the mountains, is shown by the railroad profile to be 2997 feet above tide, which is quite as high as the summit of the Allegheny mountains.

The evening before I left Sheridan there was a light shower, accompanied by some grand electrical displays, and succeeded by a vivid rainbow, forming a complete semi-circle, the base of which was at least ten degrees above the visible and true horizon. This showed that the sun had sunk an many degrees below the horizon on the opposite side at the time of its appearance. The next morning was bright and clear, with a gentle breeze. It was a great luxury to sit at an open window of the car and breathe that atmosphere.

For years to come we may not expect an agricultural population to press much beyond Fort Harker. Saline county—from twenty to fifty miles eastward—is one of the finest arable regions I have seen in Kansas; but thence westward the country changes from the prairies of heavy, tall grass to the comparatively thin-clad plains. A belt of broken land, with numerous rocks, crowned knolls and narrow, but rich valleys seems to separate the two grand divisions of this State, the prairies and the plains. This broken belt is admirably adapted to the dairy business, as has been experimentally proved. I visited the residence of Mr. D. B. Long, a Western Reserve dairyman, who has established himself a mile or two south of Fort Harker in the cheesemaking business. He has a herd of fine cows, and makes about one hundred pounds of rich cheese per day of the most exquisite flavor. Mr. Long told me that milk yields ten per cent. more cheese in that locality than any place he knows in Ohio, and of finer flavor. He sells all he can make readily at twenty-one cents per pound, wholesale. His cows feed largely on buffalo grass; but in this locality there are plenty of other grasses. Only a few days before I was there a herd of buffaloes ran over his ground. He has a pair of buffalo calves, which he is rearing with his other calves. They keep together, however, and occasionally utter a low, savage, yet melancholy low. While I looked at them—and they are quite tame—they scampered to the whey tank and drank greedily for a few seconds, and then walked off. It is to my mind clear that, like the Indian, the buffalo may be tamed, perhaps domesticated, but not *civilized*. They are not pretty. These calves were of the present year.

Up to the line spoken of Kansas will pack full of people. They are crowding in now at a rate beyond anything known in our border States and territories. There is something in this region so peculiarly attractive in its fertile soil, its pure and healthy atmosphere, its surpassing beauty and variety of landscape, that people who come here to look for homes generally find them. The area of Kansas east of the meridian of Fort Harker is just about equal to that of the State of Ohio. West of that meridian it is about the same.

C.

Making Coffee.

Making coffee is an art yet in its rudiments among our people. The stuff commonly drank as coffee—bitter, opaque and full of minute particles of the calcined berry—is no more like the nectar that really deserves the name than chalk is like cheese. Not one American in ten ever tasted real coffee. Mr. J. L. Labiaux, of Newark, N. J., has invented a coffee-pot which renders the making of bad coffee difficult. A bag or pouch of felt is suspend from the inside, filling the pot completely across; the ground berry is put in, falling to the bottom of the bag, and the boiling water now poured upon it, filtering slowly through the coffee and bag, and falling thence to the bottom, perfectly clear and pure. It is impossible that it should now contain aught of the berry but its essence. If water is poured in a second time, a very different fluid is drawn off, acrid or bitter and unwholesome—much like the vile decoction usually swallowed as coffee.

Coquettes.

Young ladies who coquette with every young man they meet, who look wonderfully sweet, and kind and sentimental on every stranger who comes to town; who fish for the praise and compliments of the men wherever they go; who grow outrageously offended if politeness is paid to any but themselves, and who are always jumping ready to go out when asked, no matter whether they have been acquainted five minutes or five years; who think nothing of giving tangible hints to that effect, and who in all this, having nothing in view but to fleece their victims, to trifle with their feelings, and to satisfy their own poor vanity; well from such may the Lord deliver the male sex both day and night, for such will make them waste their time, squander their dollars and do irretrievable mischief to their morality.

A SOUTHERN Historical Society has recently been formed in New Orleans, with branches in all the Southern States. The object of the Association is to collect and preserve, for the use of students of history, all information which may give accurate and distinct accounts of the events which have taken place in the South, and particularly during the rebellion. The President is Rev. B. M. Palmer, D. D., of New Orleans, and the fifteen Vice Presidents are taken one from each of the Southern States, and from the District of Columbia.

DOUGLAS TRACY, of Griswold, Ct., sixty years old, is the "champion" sheep-shearer of New London county. At one time he sheared sixty-three sheep in six teen hours, and at another twenty-three sheep in five hours, and caught the animals himself, the latter averaging four and a half pounds of wool each. Recently he sheared a sheep in ten minutes.

PROPOSALS.

ERIE RAILWAY COMPANY.

Tenders will be received at this office until JULY 10th, 1869, for the following Supplies, to be delivered as required, on the line of the Erie and Atlantic and Great Western Railways, for the use of said Railway Companies to 1st January, 1870:

Railroad Castings of all descriptions;
Railroad Spikes;
Railroad Chairs;
Track Bolts and Nuts;
Hot and Cold Pressed Nuts and Bolts;
Fish Plates;
Bar and Round Iron, "refined;"
Boiler and Sheet Iron;
Pig Iron, "Anthracite;"
Pig Iron, "Charcoal" equal to "Salisbury;"
Wrought Iron Axles, to order;
Frog Steel, to order;
Steel Frog Plates and Points, "to order;"
Spring Steel;
Steel Axles, to order;
Cut Nails and Spikes;
Wrought Nails and Spikes;
Georgia Pine, to order;
Chains;
Lard Oil;
Bell Rope;
Hay;
Shovels.

The deliveries to be made in such quantities as may from time to time be determined upon by the Company, after the acceptance of the tender.

Parties bidding must state the quality of the material offered, and at what point delivered, also furnish samples when required.

Payments in cash, as customary with this Company.

The Company reserve the right to reject any bids, which must be enclosed, sealed, and addressed to

GEO. C. HALL Purch. Agent,
1 Erie Block, foot Reade St., New York.
jy21:k74-MWF

TO SEWER CONTRACTORS.—

The Sewer Commission of the City of Allegheny are prepared to receive proposals for the construction of the following sewers, with their appurtenances, inlets, manholes, &c.:

CONTRACT NO. 1,

Comprising about 2,000 feet of 12 inch and 15 inch circular pipe sewer, on Lincoln avenue, from Allegheny avenue to Rope alley, along Hope alley to Western avenue, along Western avenue eastward to the line of West Common sewer.

CONTRACT NO. 2,

Comprising about 200 feet of 12 inch circular pipe sewer on line of Herron alley, between Monterey avenue and north line of Denney property.

Drawings and specifications can be seen at the Engineer's office, City Hall. Bids must state the kind of pipe proposed to be furnished, (cement or vitrified clay pipe,) and must be endorsed "Sewer Proposals, Contract No 1," (or No. 2, as the case may be,) and delivered on or before 3 P. M., July 8, 1869. Forms of proposals, on which alone the bids will be received, will be furnished at the Engineer's office. The Commission do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any bid.

By order of the Commission.

CHAS. DAVIS,
City Engineer.

CITY CONTROLLER'S OFFICE,
CITY OF ALLEGHENY, July 3, 1869.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED PROPOSALS

Will be received at THIS OFFICE until 3 o'clock P. M. on SATURDAY, July 10th, 1869, for grading and paving the following streets, avenues and alleys, viz:

GRADING AND PAVING

Ridge avenue from Grant avenue to Charters street.
Page street, 647 feet west of Fulton street, Fifth ward.
Murdock alley, from Frazier to Fulton street.
Gerst alley, from north line of Third street to north line of Kaufman's lot.

GRADING ONLY.

Jefferson street, from Shields alley to Monterey street.
Sarah street, from Union avenue to city line.

PAVING ONLY.

Evans alley, between Locust and Franklin st.
Wards alley, from Fulton to Sedgwick street.

Spec fications can be seen in the office of CHAS. DAVIS, Esq., City Engineer.

jy3 W. M. PORTER, City Controller.

AUCTION SALES.

BY H. B. SMITHSON.

ASSIGNEE SALE.—AT AUCTION.—On TUESDAY, July 6th, will be sold at Public Sale, the entire stock of iron ware and tinned ware, fry pans, sauce pans, ladles, skimmers round and oval drops, wire and wire rods, &c., &c., belonging to the estate of JOHN D. GRAY. The sale will take place on the premises at 11½ o'clock A. M., at Frankstown station, Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad. Trains leave depot, corner Liberty and Water streets, at 11 o'clock A. M. Sale positive. Attention of sinners and wire workers especially requested to the sale.

Je30:l24 H. B. SMITHSON, Auctioneer.

NOTICE.

CITY TAXES, 1869.

In accordance with Section 6th, Page 299 of City Digest,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

TO THE

CITIZENS OF PITTSBURGH,

That the assessments for 1869 of City, City Building, Special, Poor, Business, City School and Ward School Taxes and City Water Rents have been returned to me for collection.

The above taxes are subject to a DEDUCTION OF FIVE PER CENTUM if paid on or before the

First Day of August,

and TWO PER CENTUM if paid between the

FIRST DAY OF AUGUST

AND THE

FIFTEENTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER.

No deduction will be allowed on taxes paid between September fifteenth and October first.

An addition of five per centum will be made to all taxes unpaid October first, and an additional five per centum will be added to all taxes remaining unpaid on November first.

A. J. COCHRAN,
CITY TREASURER, 4th AVENUE.
PITTSBURGH, July 2, 1869. c5:l68

AMUSEMENTS.

NEW OPERA HOUSE.

LESSEE.....M. W. CANNING, Esq.
MANAGER.....Mr. CHAS. H. DUPREZ.

SUCCESS AND ATTRACTION UNEQUALED.
ONE WEEK MORE.

Commencing Monday Evening, July 5th,

and continue every night during the week.
TWO GRAND PERFORMANCES ON THE 6th—afternoon at 2½ o'clock, evening at 8 o'clock.
Second and positively last week of the gigantic Introducing on this occasion the great sensation burlesque,

Duprez & Benedict's Minstrels,

BOSTON PEACE JUBILEE.

And two new extraordinary programmes by this famous Mammoth Troupe of 38 ETHIOPIAN ARTISTS, led by the great LEW. BENEDICT.

Twenty-five Cent Social Matinee Saturday afternoon, at 2½ o'clock.

Grand farewell benefit Saturday night, July 10th, previous to the troupe's departure for Chicago and Philadelphia. jy5:l63

GRAND CONCERT

AT

LAFAYETTE HALL.

TOERGES ORCHESTRA, consisting of 35 instruments, will give its

FIRST GRAND CONCERT,

Assisted by Madame BINDERMANN, the celebrated Pianist from the Conservatory of Leipzig; Also, by Prof. WILLIAM POPE, at the above hall on

THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 8th.

Prices of admission, $1.00; Gallery, 50 cents. Seats may be secured at the music store of G. F. Toerges, No. 80 Seventh avenue, without extra charge. jy3:l35

BURNELL'S MUSEUM AND PARLOR MENAGERIE.

The Great Family Resorte.

FIFTH AVENUE, between Smithfield and Wood streets, opposite Old Theatre.
Open Day and Evening, at the year round.
Admission, 25 cents; Children, 10 cents.

FIFTH AVENUE HALL.

No. 65 Fifth avenue, opposite the Opera House, Pittsburgh, Pa., is the coolest and most desirable place of resorte. Liquors can be had at this place Pure and Good. The Billiard Rooms are on the ground floor in the rear.

PIC NICS.

PARTIES GETTING UP PIC NICS, private or public, attention is called to the beautiful grounds, situated on the Pandle Road, at Mansfield. The grounds are unsurpassed for beauty and variety. A large platform, half with flooring boards and in good order, on the grounds. The best of order at all times preserved. Arrangements can be made at all times with the railroads for transportation. For particulars address

ELI WICOFF,
CONTINENTAL HOTEL,
Mansfield.
je23:k93

SUMMER RESORTS.

CRESSON SPRINGS.

This Favorite Summer Resort,

Situated on the Summit of the ALLEGHENY MOUNTAINS, 2,300 FEET ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE SEA, will be open for the reception of guests on the 15th day of JUNE. The buildings connected with the establishment have been entirely renovated and newly furnished. Excursion Tickets sold by the Pennsylvania Railroad, at Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh, good for the season. All trains stop at Cresson. TWO FURNISHED COTTAGES FOR RENT. For further information, address

GEO. W. MULLIN, Proprietor,
Cresson Springs, Cambria county, Pa.
jy5:l67

STOCKTON HOTEL,

CAPE MAY, N. J.,

Will open on the 24th of JUNE, 1869. This hotel has been erected within the past year, affords ample accommodation for nearly one thousand guests and is furnished equal to any of the leading hotels in the United States.

For terms, &c., until then, address,

PETER GARDNER, Proprietor,
No. 307 Walnut street, Philadelphia.
je2:k15-WFM

UNITED STATES HOTEL,

CAPE MAY CITY, N. J.,

Will be opened for the season SATURDAY, May 29th. In all first class appointments, equal to any and yet affording to families all the comforts of a home. Presidents Grant expects to visit Cape May this season and will stop at the "United States." Address,

AARON MILLER, Proprietor.
my21:j94

LEGAL.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT for the county of Allegheny, No. 79, June Term, 1869.

In the matter of the account of D. W. ELDERSON, Esq., Trustee to sell real estate of MARY DAMPSON, dec'd.

And now, to wit, June 17, 1869, on motion of John Barton, Attorney for Geo. Grames and wife and other distributees, the Court appoint JAS. S. STRICKLER Auditor to make distribution of the fund in the hands of trustee.

The Auditor appointed in the above case will meet the parties interested in the above fund at his office, No. 145 Fifth avenue, on SATURDAY, 24th day of July, A. D. 1869, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of attending to the duties of his appointment.

BY THE COURT.
J. S. STRICKLER, Auditor.
June 22, 1869. je23:l35-w

IN THE MATTER of the application of the "Consolidated Mutual Insurance Company" for charter of incorporation. No. 143, Sept. Term, 1868.

Notice is hereby given that the "Consolidated Mutual Insurance Company of Pittsburgh" have made application to the Court of Common Pleas for a

CHARTER OF INCORPORATION,

and that the same will be granted at the next term of court, unless sufficient reason should be shown to the contrary.

JACOB H. WALTER,
Prothonotary.
Je30:l23 w

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.—Whereas, letters testamentary on the estate of MARY ANN YOUNG, deceased, late of Indiana township, Allegheny county, Pa., having been granted to the undersigned by the Register of said county, all persons having claims against said estate are requested to present them duly authenticated for settlement, and those indebted to said estate will make payment immediately to

BENJAMIN KELLY,
Executor.
Je2:k10-W

NOTICE.—Whereas, letters testamentary to the estate of Samuel Wallace, late of the borough of Birmingham, deceased, have been granted to the subscriber, all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims or demands against the estate of the said decedent will make known the same without delay, to

ROBERT WALLACE, Executor,
No. 60 Water street.
Pittsburgh, April 29th, 1869. ap29:w