

CHAPTER XXII.

Conclusion.*

A GENERATION has passed away since the incidents I have written transpired. Most of the actors in those times have closed their earthly record.

Kansas has become a great and powerful State, with a population of one million. Her broad and lonely prairies are now teeming with life, and beauty, and prosperity. Her long Santa Fe trains, drawn by mules, laden with merchandise, slowly winding their way to an interior Territory, have given place to two lines of railway, which daily sweep the whole length of the State, which in turn are connected by metallic bands with the Atlantic and the Pacific, while others cross these from North to South, uniting the Mexican Gulf with the Upper Mississippi and Missouri, while still others intersect these, forming a net work of iron

*The reader will remember this chapter, like the preceding ones, was written twenty-two years ago, and is here given without change; though the subsequent growth and prosperity of the State has surpassed that of any other country in the world. The marvels of romance are here excelled. An active and cultured imagination could scarcely have pictured such a glorious future as the reality presents. And the end of the greatness and glory of Kansas is not yet! When a general system of irrigation and forestry shall be adopted in practice, her barren prairies of the West will rival Egypt in productiveness and dense population, as do her people now in intelligence, moral worth and practical virtues.

rails within her borders, more than 3,000 miles in length. Wonderful change! Mighty transformation! Surely the work of the enchanter is here with his magic wand! He has touched all the wheels of active life, and they have sprung into being obedient to his will.

In the early part of November, 1854, we unloaded our press, type and fixtures on the open prairie, where now is Lawrence; then a city of tents, with a few cabins built of cottonwood; thatched with wild grass. A city of 10,000 inhabitants, with schools, churches, printing presses, manufactories, and all the appliances of an advanced civilization are there. On the high elevation, known as Mt. Oread, over which swept those heavy, searching winds when we first ascended it, on that cold autumnal morning, to get a larger view of the country in which so many important events were to be enacted, now stands the State University, the proudest institution of learning in the whole West, sending forth its educating and refining influence to all the land.

Topeka! Its site was visited by us a few months later. Beautiful in situation, a lovely landscape, a few hopeful settlers; but the rudest of cabins marked the places where now stand palatial residences and costly structures, in magnificence rivaling those of many Eastern cities. The Capitol Building, now in process of construction, at no distant day will be worthy of imitation by many older States. The city boasts a population of 15,000, and is already assuming metropolitan airs.

Emporia! Three weary days Gen. Deitzler and the writer rode over a barren prairie on horseback, to

select a town site on the "Upper Neosho." Three more days were consumed in attempting to ford the river at various points, to reach the location of our proposed town. At length we found it. The earth was covered with snow. Desolation was everywhere. Before leaving Lawrence we had plotted it—a city on paper—and given it a name, a new one in the post-office directory, borrowed from a country known in the classical era in North Africa. We were hunting a point which in the future would fit the name—a great commercial center. Twenty-four years have flitted by; but Emporia, the child of the writer's hope and brain, is there with its thriving population, one of the prettiest towns we know, with its State Normal School, its banks, its places of industry, its thriving people, and its Holly system of Water Works, and withal its brilliant future, though claiming a population of full 5,000. It has now several connecting links of railway, where we found but converging Indian trails.

Every town in Kansas, save Leavenworth and Lawrence, has been located and received its name, its population, and its wealth since we first set foot on her virgin soil, and looked out upon her beautifully undulating and varied landscape.

Her prosperity, her greatness, her power, her brilliant destiny, owe their origin to the anxiety, the industry, the sacrifices, the good judgment and unswerving adherence to principle of her early pioneers. She little recks in her present condition the ceaseless struggles of those who laid and maintained the foundation of her future opulence.

The reader who has journeyed with us through these pages, has learned much that has heretofore been told in a desultory way. Many, even prominent actors in the strife, who shall read these Reminiscences, will be allowed for the first time to step behind the scenes, witness events and their causes never before chronicled. It has been my purpose to tell the truth, without the most distant hope of reward. If there is the slightest exaggeration of fact, or misrepresentation in any degree, the author is not conscious of it. Should such be discerned by any one, he will place the writer and the general public, as well as the future historian, under lasting obligations by calling the author's attention to it, to the end that it shall be corrected in his amended copy, which will be placed for preservation in the archives of the Historical Society of Kansas, in case it is not called for by the public to be reproduced in a still more enduring form.

The resistless stream of Time bears on its surging flood the wasting Years. Soon the last actor in these memorable scenes will sink beneath its turbid waves, and others will occupy his place. As we now look back with pride and satisfaction to the pioneers of the Mayflower, bringing to America their puritanical habits and desire for religious liberty, so may the inheritors of the free institutions planted in Kansas by our worthy compeers, look back with some kindred gratification to those who witnessed her sufferings in her natal morn, and who sacrificed much that she might be FREE!

Reader, FAREWELL!

APPENDIX,
WITH
INDORSEMENTS,
AND OTHER MATTER.