
SKETCHES OF TEXAS.

SKETCHES

TEXAS IN 1840

DESIGNED TO ANSWER, IN A BRIEF WAY, THE NUMEROUS ENQUIRIES
RESPECTING THE NEW REPUBLIC, AS TO SITUATION, EXTENT,
CLIMATE, SOIL, PRODUCTIONS, WATER, GOVERNMENT
SOCIETY, RELIGION, ETC.

BY ORCENETH FISHER,
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CLERK'S OFFICE, DISTRICT,
DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, ss.)

Be is remembered, That on this twenty-third day of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and forty-one, Orceneth Fisher, of said District, has deposited in this office the title of a book, which title is in the words and figures following, to-wit: "Sketches of Texas in 1340, designed to answer in a brief way the numerous inquiries respecting the new Republic, as to situation, extent, climate, soil, production, waters, government, society, religion, &c. &c. By Orceneth Fisher, of the Illinois Annual Conference"—the right whereof he claims as proprietor, in conformity to the act of Congress, entitled "an act to amend the act respecting copyrights."

Teste:

JAMES F. OWINGS,
Clerk of said District.

The writer takes pleasure in presenting before the public the following favorable notice of his work, by Rev. P. Akers, well known in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Rev. Dr. McNeill, of this city:

Having examined Rev. O. FISHER's "Sketches of Texas," we take pleasure in recommending it to the public generally, and to any who may wish to emigrate to that interesting part of the world in particular, as a very useful and instructive manual concerning that rising republic.

P. AKERS,
FRANCIS A. McNEILL.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. Jan. 18, 1841.

INTRODUCTION.

Until recently, Texas was but little known to the rest of the world. It formed, indeed, a part of the Mexican government, but at the same time remained an almost unbroken wilderness. A few settlements had been made by the Spaniards, or creoles, but these were generally small and far between. The city of San Antonio, situated near the head of San Antonio river, was the principal, and is said to have once contained more than seventy thousand inhabitants; but this had long since dwindled down to a comparative shadow, and all the Mexican inhabitants in the state at the time of the revolution did not, perhaps, exceed seven thousand. Under the blighting influence of Catholic ignorance, superstition, and bigotry, the country could not prosper.

Means were adopted to introduce another race of men, in order to effect its settlement and improvement. But, as might have been expected, men accustomed from their infancy to political and religious freedom, and having enjoyed a high degree of moral and intellectual light, could never consent to be the dupes and slaves of ignorance and superstition.

Mexico, by introducing into her dominions such a class of men, introduced the very principles of revolution; and those principles were sure to operate, sooner or later, with resistless violence.

Had Mexico been wise, she would have fostered those principles thus introduced, and would have labored for their universal diffusion throughout her empire. This would have effected a revolution of another sort—bloodless, and yet glorious. She would have retained her identity as a nation, but she would have exchanged her low, grovelling, and worthless character, for one truly great and elevated, and worthy of a republican government, which she professed to be.

But this was too high for her to reach. Where there is no disposition in the heart to imitate the virtues of our superiors, *envy* is at once excited, and this, if indulged in, will soon degenerate into malice, which only wants an occasion to break forth into open violence. This appears to have been the case with Mexico in respect to Texas. Her jealousy was kindled against her new citizens. She wrested from them the constitution under which they were induced to settle in her dominions. They were roused to indignation. They remonstrated—were not heard, but treated as rebels against the government. They flew to arms in self defence, and declared themselves **FREE AND INDEPENDENT!**

But what a spectacle is now before us!

A little handful of colonists, perhaps not exceeding twenty-five thousand in all, declaring war against a mighty nation!

But what are numbers when opposed to wisdom, prudence, and energy of character? These, the Anglo-Americans, who formed the principal strength of the Texan colony, possessed in a high degree. To these we must certainly add, the interposition of an overruling Providence, who superintended and guided this whole affair. For God rules over the kingdoms of men, and puts down one and sets up another. Hence, we see this little band

not only declaring, but maintaining, their independence, against all the forces of Mexico.

The sympathies of the people of the United States were greatly excited on this occasion, and many flew to the relief of their brethren and friends in the new republic.

The severity of the war was soon terminated by the capture of Santa Anna, the Mexican General, and his army. But Mexico has not, as yet, acknowledged the independence of Texas. Texas has, however, been recognised as a "free and independent nation," by the governments of the United States, France, and Great Britain. She has suffered but little disturbance from abroad, since the year 1836, and her population has increased perhaps without a parallel in the history of nations. Her healthful climate, rich soil, valuable timber, commercial advantages, etc. etc. have already attracted the attention of the enterprising both in the United States and other countries; so that information more full and accurate is demanded by all parties and all classes. The farmer, the mechanic, the merchant, the lawyer, the christian, and the minister of Christ, are all presenting their inquiries respecting this new and interesting country. (It may be doubted whether the latter feel as much interested in behalf of this part of their work as they should.)

The object of the following work is to answer, as far as practicable, and in a brief way, these numerous inquiries.

It is not, however, pretended that this work contains a full description of Texas; that would require a much larger volume. But, as the title indicates, it is designed

to give a sketch of the physical and moral aspect of the country, as the author found it in 1839 and '40.

A considerable portion of the information contained in the following work, is given from the author's own personal observation: the rest has been obtained from others, whose veracity could not be called in question.

To render it convenient, as a book of reference, I have introduced the various subjects under their appropriate heads, and exhibited them in separate and distinct chapters.

If this little work shall conduce in any proper way to the further settlement and improvement of that fair and lovely portion of the world, and especially if it shall be the means, under God, of furthering the holy cause of christianity among the people there, by inducing christians and christian ministers to direct their energies to that portion of their work at this favorable juncture, the author will feel himself amply compensated.

SKETCHES.

SITUATION AND EXTENT OF THE COUNTRY.

TEXAS is bounded on the east by Louisiana, on the north by the State of Arkansas and the territory of the United States, on the west and southwest by the northern States of Mexico, and on the south by the Gulf of Mexico. It extends from the mouth of the Rio Grande on the south, to the forty-second degree of north latitude; and from the Sabine river on the east, to the Rio Grande on the west; and embraces, in its widest extent, about sixteen degrees of latitude, and about thirteen degrees of longitude; and is supposed to contain about one million two hundred thousand square miles.

Texas is comparatively narrow on the east, but rapidly widens in proceeding westward, stretching out both to the north and to the south; so that, at its western extremity it is some hundreds of miles wider than it is at its eastern boundary.

The course of the Gulf from Sabine pass to Aransas bay, a distance of, perhaps, three hundred miles, is that of a gentle curve to south southwest; from Aransas bay

to the mouth of the Rio Grande, a distance of near two hundred miles, the direction of the coast is a little east of south.

The mouth of the Rio Grande is the most southern point of Texas. It is in latitude twenty-six degrees north.

FACE OF THE COUNTRY.

No land upon earth, perhaps, possesses a more lovely surface than Texas. It is upon the whole a picture of the richest and deepest colors. With the exception of the lands along the coast east of Colorado river, the country is delightfully undulating, and sometimes approaching a little to the mountainous.

The beauty of the scenery greatly increases in proceeding westward. Near Trinity river you enter the lovely and rich prairies. West of that river the surface is occasionally gathered up into a vast magnificent mound, skirted half round or more with prairie, and crowned with valuable timber. Then, again, a noble, gentle ridge stretches away in the distance for miles, watered on each side with a gurgling little stream, fed by living fountains, and richly studded with valuable cedars and other timber. Upon one of these prairie eminences an observer may take his seat, and cast his eye upon the rich vale of woodland below him. Raising his eye a little, he beholds beyond this another noble ridge of black rich prairie, inviting, as it were, the plough of the farmer. Beyond this, again, he espies the tops of the lofty cedars, rising from another vale of woodland, and then another ridge, and so on, until the enchanting scenery dies away in the distance. In the northwest and west

there are some more lofty ridges, which rise into the grand and sublime. These are not spurs of the Rocky Mountains, as has been supposed by some, but a separate cluster of gentle elevations.

On the Colorado river, also, are found some ridges, which have received the name of Colorado mountains.

These elevations commence with a high peak, called *Mount Bonnell*, about four miles above Austin city. This bold eminence overlooks the Colorado river, with a perpendicular front seven hundred feet high, affording a most enchanting prospect. To the north and west extend these gentle mountains, rising in noble grandeur, peak above peak, for 20 miles; while below the city, the Colorado may be seen for 15 miles, silently wending its way among the gentle hills and valleys, to mingle its waters with the mighty ocean: while just beneath you, almost, appears the infant city, the capital of this young republic, rising up to cast a richer smile upon this lovely picture.

These mountains are said to be about thirty-five miles in length, containing upon their tops some valuable table lands, while they are interspersed with some of the richest valleys, perhaps, in the world. Beyond these lie the celebrated table lands which extend to Santa Fe.

East of Colorado river the land along the coast and for 50 or 60 miles inland, is very flat, and elevated only a few feet above the level of the sea.

PROPORTIONS OF PRAIRIE AND TIMBER LANDS.

Much of Texas is prairie land. She has, however, an abundance of fine timber—equal, perhaps, to any in the world.

Most of the low lands are prairie, except the creek and river bottoms, which are heavily timbered.

East of Trinity river the uplands are nearly all covered with timber. West of that river the country is beautifully divided between prairie and woodland, for a distance of, perhaps, three hundred miles.

In the extreme northwest and southwest, the prairies are said to be extensive, and timber scarce.

VARIETIES OF TIMBER.

Texas not only possesses good and valuable timber, but a considerable variety of it.

The principal are the live oak, of an excellent quality, long and short leaf pine, red cedar, ash, cypress, post oak, and oak of every sort, walnut, hickory, pecan, elm, hackberry, magnolia, muskeet, etc. etc.

The largest tracts of pine are found in eastern and middle Texas. The Texas pine is equal, I suppose, to any in the world.

Red cedar is chiefly found in Middle Texas; that is, between Trinity and San Antonio rivers. It is sometimes found in very thick groves; so thick that a man on horseback can scarcely ride through it. These thick groves are, by the people, called "cedar brakes." Cedar grows best on rich bottom land, contrary, it seems, to all the rules of nature, in the north; grows to a considerable height, and affords a very valuable timber for fencing and building.

Live oak abounds chiefly along near the coast, on the bottoms of the rivers, creeks, bayous, etc. It is also found in considerable quantities in the uplands west of Brasos river, but it is not so large nor valuable.

Magnolia is of but little consequence, so far as the writer learned, except to beautify the forest. It is a lofty tree, of the ever-green sort, with a large oval leaf

of a beautiful dark green. In the spring it presents the beholder with a large beautiful white flower, and becomes as it were the queen of the woods.

The wild peach is a beautiful ever-green shrub, with a leaf somewhat resembling the leaf of the common peach, but of a darker green. It bears a fruit much resembling in appearance the black wild cherry. Muskeet is a shrubby tree, said to be of the locust family, very firm in its texture, and receives a high polish, very little inferior to mahogany. It abounds in the western part of Texas.

FRUIT TREES.

Among the domestic fruit trees the fig may be considered chief. In the southern parts of the country, especially, it comes to a good state of perfection, and produces abundantly; and affords its faithful keeper a luscious fruit from May to late in November.

The peach flourishes well here, and bears the second year after planting the seed.

The pomegranate tree is also cultivated in the gardens near the coast; as is also the quince, the orange, and a considerable variety of shrubbery. The rose holds its leaf all the winter, and is but a short time without blossoms.

WILD FRUIT TREES.

Besides the pecan, which abounds in this country both on the low and uplands, we find among the native shrubbery the large and dwarf plumb: the latter grows about three feet high, is very full of limbs, is found generally

in patches, and is said to be very fruitful. Of the quality of the fruit I am not prepared to speak. The mulberry abounds in Texas, and in some places blackberries are found in large quantities.

Among the vines are found the muskadine, and what the people of the country call post-oak and mustang grapes. The latter climbs into the branches of the trees to support itself; while the post-oak grape contents itself with an humble residence near the ground. Both are said to be very productive, and the grapes large and pleasant. Doubtless the native grapes of Texas might be cultivated to great advantage.

The apple has not been introduced long enough to test the climate in reference to its production. It is believed, however, it may be cultivated to advantage in the high lands, and remote from the sea. Near the coast it will not do so well.

Cherries, I believe, do well in any part of the country, excepting immediately on the coast. Here, the almost constant sea breezes, strongly impregnated with salt, keep in check almost every description of vegetation.

WATERS OF TEXAS.

Under this head we shall take into consideration bays, rivers, etc.

And first, we shall speak of her bays.

These are numerous, and are stretched along in one almost unbroken chain, from the southwest corner of Louisiana to Brasos Santiago, near the mouth of the Rio Grande, which is the southern point of Texas.

The principal of these are Galveston, Matagorda, Corpus Christi, Sabine, Espiritu Santo, Aransas, and the Lagune de la Madra sound.

Sabine bay is principally formed by Sabine and Natches rivers. It is separated from the Gulf by a narrow pass about seven miles in length, and from half a mile to a mile and a half wide. The pass is navigable for large vessels, and already a considerable business in the cotton trade is carried on between this bay and New Orleans. Something is being done also in the lumber trade. The bay is said to be forty miles long from north to south, and about twenty or twenty-five from east to west.

Galveston bay receives the waters of Trinity river and some smaller streams. It is sixty miles long from north to south, and twenty-five from east to west. About twenty-five miles up the bay a bar runs across the whole width, over which there is but six feet water. This confines the navigation of the bay to small vessels. It is, however, a place of considerable business. Steamships and other vessels are constantly plying between the port of Galveston and New Orleans.

Galveston island is situated at the mouth of this bay.

It is said to be thirty-five miles long and three and a half broad. The city of Galveston is situated on the north side of this island.

There is a small sound running east from the bay, along near the coast for some miles, and one running west to within a few miles of Brasos river.

Connected with this bay, on the west, is a small bay called San Louis. It is separated from the Gulf by a small island of the same name. This small bay is supposed to possess one of the best harbors on the Gulf. It has a sufficient depth of water for large vessels, and the harbor is well protected from storms.

A company has been chartered by the Texan Congress to construct a railroad, or canal, from this bay to Brasos river—a distance of about fourteen miles. When this shall be accomplished, it will make this an important place of business, as it will turn the trade of Brasos river into this bay.

A company is now constructing a bridge across the west pass, to connect the island with the main land.

A town is rapidly building up upon San Louis island; and vessels from Europe are visiting their harbor, to receive the rich productions of the cotton plantations along the Brasos and other streams in its vicinity.

The mouth of Brasos river is about twelve or fourteen miles west of San Louis pass, in latitude 29 degrees north. It enters the Gulf without forming any bay at all, contrary to the representations of almost all the maps I have seen.

MATAGORDA BAY.

Seventy-five miles southwest of Brasos river we meet with Matagorda bay. It receives the waters of Colorado river. The bay is 65 miles long, and from six to ten broad. It lies lengthwise along the coast; and is separated from the Gulf by a narrow neck of land, only two or three miles wide, extending from the east, and by Matagorda island; and from Espiritu Santo bay by Cavallo island. This bay has nine or ten feet water over the bar, and about twenty feet water inside, to within about seven miles of Matagorda. Here the bay is obstructed by a bar, over which there is said to be but two feet water. This bar is only eighty yards across, and could, it is supposed, be removed with but little expense. This the citizens of Matagorda will doubtless endeavor to accomplish as soon as possible, as well as the removal of the raft at the mouth of the Colorado river, as the prosperity of their town must be deeply affected by them.

LABACCA BAY.

This is an arm of Matagorda bay on the northwest, extending inland about 25 miles, and is from three to six miles wide. The navigation of this bay is not obstructed, and vessels are constantly plying between its ports and New Orleans. A considerable part of western Texas is supplied with foreign goods through this bay, and many of the late emigrants to the country land here.

ESPIRITU SANTO BAY.

This bay lies southwest of Matagorda bay, and is connected with it by a pass navigable for small vessels. It is said that vessels drawing seven feet water can ascend to the head of the bay. It receives the waters of the Guadaloupe and San Antonio rivers, which unite a little before they reach the bay.

ARANSAS BAY

Lies west of Espiritu Santo bay, and is also connected with it by a pass, which is navigable for small vessels and steamboats. This bay is about 25 miles long from east to west, and about twelve miles broad. It is separated from the Gulf by St. Joseph's island and the main land. The navigation of this bay is considerably obstructed by shoals, etc. It receives the waters of Aransas river.

These western bays are surrounded by a beautiful, undulating, and well watered country.

From Aransas bay the direction of the coast is south, about 40 minutes east.

CORPUS CHRISTI BAY.

The Corpus Christi bay lies south of Aransas bay. It is said to be about forty miles from north to south, and thirty from east to west. It is separated from the Gulf by Mustang island, which is said to be about 45 miles in length, and from two to four wide. This island is destitute of timber, but is said to be rich and beautiful. The bay connects with the Gulf by a pass called Corpus Christi inlet, which has seven feet of water over the

bar. The bay is entirely destitute of bars; the water is clear, banks high, and the whole together a rich picture.

NEUECES BAY

Is an arm of Corpus Christi bay, at the northwest, eight miles long and four wide. It receives the waters of the Neueces river. This river appears to be the boundary of the most desirable portion of Texas.

South of Corpus Christi bay, and connected with it, is the De la Madra sound, which is said to be eighty miles in length, and from four to six wide. With the exception of a narrow channel near the main land, which has about three and a half feet water, the sound is very shallow, having only about ten or twelve inches water.

It is separated from the Gulf by the Padra's island, or Is'a del Padre; the southern point of which helps to form Brasos Santiago bay.

BRASOS SANTIAGO

Is the last bay upon the Texas coast, situated a few miles above the mouth of the Rio Grande, and opposite the city of Matamoras on that river. The bay is said to possess a fine and commodious harbor, with seven feet water over the bar at the inlet. It is a place of some business, as the goods intended for Matamoras are chiefly landed at this place. It is thought to be a fine location for a commercial city.

The reader will perceive by the foregoing account, that, by her chain of bays, Texas has an inland water

communication of some hundreds of miles. These bays are all more or less navigable for vessels of considerable size, and Texas is delightfully situated to enjoy the commerce of the world. Her harbors are never obstructed by ice, and seldom are they disturbed by storms. Under a calm latitude, perpetually fanned by the trade winds, and almost her whole coast embroidered with smiling bays and islands, she presents to the beholder a southern front, not often excelled in beauty. There is nothing, however, that is properly *romantic* about it; no high promontories—no projecting rocks to catch the attention of the mariner, and put him upon his guard; but here, all is soft, mild, gentle loveliness. Indeed, some part of the coast, especially the eastern, is too flat and low for either comfort or beauty. And much of it being destitute of timber, there is a monotony about it that is rather irksome after being a few days in the same place. On this account the western coast of Texas is much to be preferred.

RIVERS.

The rivers of Texas are not large, but are considerably numerous. Few countries in the world, of the same extent, have an equal number of rivers. The principal are the Rio Grande, (known upon the maps by the name of "Rio Grande del Norte,") the Colorado, Brasos, Trinity, and Sabine.

Rio Grande is much the largest river, being, it is said, eighteen hundred miles long. It takes its rise in the Rocky Mountains, in about latitude 40 degrees north, and enters the Gulf in latitude 26. It has but few tributaries, and but a moderate depth of water; is often

obstructed by rapids, and cannot be safely navigated, it is said, more than about two hundred miles, to Laredo. It separates Texas from the northern States of Mexico.

From the Rio Grande to Neveces river, a distance of, perhaps, a hundred miles, the country is represented as being mostly destitute of water and timber.

Neveces, San Antonio, Guadaloupe, Labacca, and Navidad, are small but beautiful rivers, which mostly take their rise in or near the Guadaloupe mountains; are generally formed by never-failing springs, and have a course of from one hundred to three hundred miles. They are adorned with numerous branches, in the form of small rivers, creeks, and brooks of chrystal water, supported by living fountains, and some of them of extraordinary size, affording, it is said, 600 or 700 barrels of water per minute. Some of them form small rivers at once.

These streams water a considerable extent of country, and one of the fairest portions of the republic. They are said to be little affected by the change of seasons; and such is the inclination of the country, that they afford a vast amount of hydraulic power.

The *Colorado* river rises in the Padra Piuta mountains, is said to be about eight hundred miles in length, and divides Texas into two nearly equal parts. This river is obstructed near its mouth by what is called a *raft*, of about five miles in length. If this were removed, large steamboats could ascend as far up as Columbus, a distance of about one hundred miles. Perhaps the day is not far distant when this river will be navigated as far up as Austin city, about two hundred miles. The Colorado has a considerable number of tributaries, supported by perennial springs, and watering a rich and

delightful portion of the country; but the limits of this work will not admit of a detailed description of it. The country along this river, and that watered by the numerous small streams west of it, will constitute the great manufacturing district of Texas.

Brasos river lies east of the Colorado, upon an average nearly one hundred miles, and runs nearly parallel with it. It has its rise in the same mountains, and is, by the course of the river, about 1000 miles in length. It enters the Gulf without forming any bay, as before observed, and is navigable for schooners about 60 or 70 miles. Small steamboats, in a good stage of water, may ascend as far as Washington, a distance of about two hundred miles from the coast by the course of the river. The water at the mouth of the river is deep outside of the bar, and inside there is said to be forty feet of water, with a very commodious harbor; but the entrance to it is obstructed by a bar, over which, at low tide, there is but four and a half or five feet water. If this bar can be permanently removed, it will be a peculiar advantage to this rich and productive country, and especially to the town of Velasco, at the mouth of the river. It is likely that either the bar will be removed, or the before mentioned canal or railroad, connecting this river with San Louis harbor, will soon be constructed.

This river, as well as all those west of it, is considerably rapid, the whole country sensibly inclining to the Gulf. The country watered by it, is of extraordinary beauty and fertility.

Between the *Brasos* and the Colorado, about 200 miles from the Gulf, is situated that fair portion of the earth which, it is said, the Camanches called, by way of distinction, "The Land of Beauty." One branch of this river

runs through a salt lake, or rather, takes its rise from it, (as several streams empty themselves into the lake;) in consequence of which, at low water, the river is considerably brackish.

Trinity river lies east of Brasos, and takes its rise a little west of the Cross Timbers, near Red river, north of latitude 33 degrees. Its course is a little south of southeast. It has a number of tributaries, and waters a considerable portion of Texas. It is about 600 miles in length, and is said to be navigable for small steamboats about three hundred miles by the course of the river. Since the removal of the Indians, this country is rapidly settling and improving.

Naches river is situated between Trinity and Sabine rivers, in the southeastern part of the country. Its principal branches are the Angeline, Atoyac, and Ayish bayou. The Naches discharges its waters into Sabine bay, and is navigable for small steamboats a considerable distance. It is located in the best lumber region in the republic, and even now considerable business is carried on in this line. It is probable, in a few years, this will become a very lucrative business.

Mill streams abound in the country, and a number of mills are in operation.

Sabine river separates Texas from Louisiana, as far north as the 32d degree of north latitude. It thence shoots off to the northwest, and heads near the Sulphur fork of Red river. It is a gentle stream, has but few tributaries, but is said to be navigable for small steamboats about 400 miles.

It should be observed that the Texas rivers are generally very narrow, and at first view make but a poor appearance in comparison with the broad streams of the

United States. But what the Texas rivers lack in width they, to some extent, make up in depth; so that, with a comparatively narrow channel, they can float a respectable vessel.

Some medicinal springs are also found. The principal of these are a sulphur spring in the northern part of Montgomery county, and the "White Sulphur Springs" of Bexar (Bahar) county. The latter are very remarkable. They consist of a large basin, as it were, dug out of a solid rock, 20 feet in diameter. The water boils up from the bottom of this basin in large quantities, and runs off in a bold stream. It will doubtless soon become a place of fashionable resort.

FISH.

It may be proper, in closing the chapter on the waters of Texas, to say something with regard to their fish. I had several opportunities of testing the quality of these, both of the salt water and fresh.

The Gulf of Mexico is well supplied with fish of various kinds, and these ascend the creeks and rivers as far up as the salt water extends, and may be caught at any season of the year. And as to their quality, I scarcely need say, they are excellent. I never tasted better.

Fish abound also in the fresh waters, and are very fine.

The sound Lagune de la Madra is said to be the best fishery along the coast. The water is so shallow for many miles, that sometimes a strong north wind is said to leave thousands of barrels of red fish upon the sand, where, of course, they might be easily taken.

The soils of Texas are various. The red lands are situated in the eastern and northern parts of the country. They commence on the Sabine, about 200 miles from the Gulf, and extend northward to Red river, and how far west along that river is unknown. In the settled parts of the country the red lands do not appear west of Trinity river; and, indeed, they principally disappear at the Naches. From that to the Trinity the soil is of a greyish appearance; much mixed with sand, easily cultivated, and is said to be quite productive. The Red lands are allowed by all to be rich and productive.

But by far the best lands, as the writer conceives, are found west of Trinity river. Here we meet the lovely rolling prairies, swelling into high mounds, or stretching out in extended ridges of black, rich, sandy loam, ready for the plough, easily broken, (sometimes with one yoke of oxen,) and very productive. West of Brasos river the land seems, if possible, to increase in richness; and this richness continues as far westward as the writer travelled, and is said to continue throughout the whole western region of the republic.

There are, however, varieties of soil in the prairie lands. These varieties may be divided into three classes. The black, stiff lands—the black, loose, sandy lands—and the chocolate lands. The first of these appears to contain a large quantity of lime; so that, notwithstanding it is considerably sandy, in the dry season it becomes very hard, and opens to the sun in large crevices: in rainy weather it is very adhesive, loading the wheels of carriages, &c. Of course it is not so easily cultivated as the other soils, but some think it pays them

well for cultivation. The other soils are cultivated with much less labor, and of their fertility there can be no doubt. The chocolate soil is, by many, preferred to all others in the uplands.

The bottom lands on Brasos and San Bernard rivers, and Old Caney creek, are thought to be the richest lands in Texas, perhaps among the richest in the world. No person, it is presumed, can have a proper conception of their quality without seeing them, and witnessing their productions. But even in the rich uplands, the industrious farmer, in ordinary seasons, can raise more than he can gather in.

In the southeastern parts of the country there are large districts of poor land, valuable only for its good timber. Along the water courses, however, there are said to be some excellent lands, even in this part of the country. And there is, on the Naches river, a large tract of excellent upland—an isolated garden-spot, as it were—in the midst of a comparative desert. This tract is known by the name of “Bevil’s Settlement.” It lies opposite the mouth of Angeline river.

With regard to the productions of the country, let it be observed, the farmer can raise, with little labor, all the necessaries of life, and many of its luxuries. There is no doubt but wheat will be raised in great quantities in the uplands, remote from the damp, salt, sea air, which, near the coast, would destroy it by the rust.

Corn grows well; but when the manner of raising it shall be better understood, and better qualities are introduced, it is believed much more will be raised to the acre.

Rye and oats grow well. Irish potatoes are raised,

and sweet potatoes can be raised in vast quantities, and of a superior quality.

It is one of the finest sugar countries out of the tropical regions, and doubtless this article will be produced in abundance after a few years; but in consequence of their wars, little has been done as yet, enough, however, has been done, to test the soil and climate as to this article.

Cotton is at present the staple production of the farmers, and already great quantities, of an excellent quality, are exported from the country. Most of this is sent by the way of New Orleans; but during the year 1840, a considerable amount has been shipped directly to Liverpool; and doubtless the trade of the new republic with Great Britain will, in a few years, be very considerable.

Garden vegetables of every description north of the tropical regions can be raised here in great perfection, and in great abundance. And such is the mildness of the climate in the southern half of the country, that many vegetables are found fresh in the gardens all through the winter. Cabbages, turnips, lettuce, mustard, &c. &c. may be seen in gardens, at any time of the winter, fresh and good.

There are two special seasons of planting gardens: the first in the spring, the second in the fall. But one crop of corn is raised in the year; because that is sufficient, and the cotton crop occupies the rest of the time.

Corn, near the coast, is planted in February, and gathered in July. Cotton is planted in March, and continues to grow until about the first of December. When the old stalks are not pulled up during the winter, they will sprout and grow up in the next spring.

Cayenne, or bird pepper, is indigenous to this climate,

and in the southwestern part of the country it grows in considerable quantities. It seems to partake of the nature of a shrub, and, it is said, bears the second year from the seed. But the wild fowls are so fond of it, that the people are under the necessity of cultivating it in their gardens, in order to reap much benefit from it. This pepper is of an excellent quality.

The myrtle, or bayberry, is found in the republic in great quantities.

The prickly pear grows here to great perfection.

The palmetto, in many places, adorns the vales by its broad leaves, from which we have our palmetto fans, hats, &c.

There are many other plants peculiar to this country, which the limits of this work will not allow me to describe.

MINERALS.

Texas, it is thought by many, abounds in mineral wealth; and this is doubtless true to a considerable extent. But it is easy for the public mind to run into extravagance upon this subject. Some gold, however, has been discovered in different places; and, it is said, a valuable silver mine was discovered at an early period by the Spaniards, in the western part of the country, and to some extent worked by them. But being annoyed by the Indians, the mines were abandoned.

Iron ore abounds in the country, especially in the northern parts of it. And it is said that copper and lead are also found in considerable quantities. Bituminous coal exists in great abundance and of good quality.

Perhaps some of the best coal mines discovered, are situated along Trinity River,

But such a country as Texas should not depend upon her mines for wealth. Possessing a large share of perhaps the best soil in the world, together with other natural advantages almost unequalled, she can be rich without her mines. Not that the writer would have these treasures of the earth overlooked, or neglected, but he would be far from having the public mind generally turned to them as a source of wealth. Where this has been the case in other nations, agriculture and the arts have been neglected, and poverty, and a general corruption of manners, have, sooner or later, ensued. Where agriculture and the arts are faithfully pursued, there is a gradual, but constant elevation of mind, and improvement of society.

When the geological surveys of Texas shall have been completed, her mineral wealth will be better understood, and will then, doubtless, sufficiently attract public attention.

It might be observed under this head, that Texas possesses a sufficient quantity of rock, of various quality; of marble, limestone, and granite. It will be understood, however, these are not found in the alluvial regions along the seacoast. But there they find an excellent substitute in the live-oak, which, from its remarkable durability, is sold for the foundation of houses, & c. in the place of rock.

SALINES

Texas possesses a number of salt springs, and several salt lakes. One of these, situated in the Southwest-

ern part of the country, is very remarkable for the abundance of salt produced there by natural causes alone. It has been said that a hundred mules may be loaded at one time, and in twenty-fours it cannot be missed from the mass. The northern Mexican States are chiefly supplied from this lake, and a late writer supposes the world itself might be supplied from the same place.

The lake is a mile and a half long and half a mile wide. The bottom of it is said to be covered with salt, from one to seven feet thick. It forms in large chrystals of pure alum salt. It is surrounded by one of the finest countries for raising stock, the prairies being evergreen and destitute of flies. It is 65 miles from the lake to the harbor of Brasos St. Jago, and 80 from Corpus Christi bay; so that the salt can be transported with but little expense.

ANIMALS.

Texas is, perhaps, one of the finest portions of the world for raising cattle. Its numerous prairies afford a never failing and rich pasturage, while in most of the uplands her numerous chrystal fountains supply them with the purest beverage. So short and mild are the winters, that the grass stops growing only for a short time, and a sufficiency remains green all the time to keep the cattle in fine order. The muskeet grass is said to be impervious to the frosts of that climate; and so very nutritious is this peculiar kind of grass, that, where it abounds, it may be said the cattle are rolling in luxury all winter, as well as summer. The author of this

work, in his tour through the country, in 1840, saw in a prairie near the Colorado river, abundance of green grass about the middle of the month of January. In the southwestern part of the country it is presumed that frost seldom makes its appearance.

It is worthy of remark further, that, except upon the low lands, flies and musquitoes are scarce, so that the cattle can feed, summer and winter, without molestation. The cattle, so provided for in the rich pastures of nature, grow enormously large; and thousands of them are raised almost entirely without expense. And yet, so well are they situated for commerce, that their market is fine, and beef brings a good price. Hence, some are making fortunes in this way, who could do, perhaps but little in any other. A man who is weak handed, can, nevertheless, raise stock.

Thousands of wild horses are found in the country; and in the northern parts, buffaloes, almost without number. In the same regions are found, also, a species of wild cattle, of a deep red color, and said to be larger than the buffalo. A few buffaloes are found near the Gulf. Deer are also found in great numbers, especially in the alluvial prairies.

The large black wolf abounds in the country; but the small prairie wolf of the western States, I think, is seldom, if ever, found so far south.

Every species of domestic animals can be raised in Texas, with as little expense, I suppose, as in any other part of the world.

Wild turkeys abound in the woodlands, and grow very large.

During the winter season the low lands of Texas are visited by vast numbers of wild geese, brants, sandhill

cranes, ducks, & c. which are constantly during the day rending the air with their music. Crows, also, and blackbirds, in great numbers, visit the country. Quails find, in Texas, a delightful and constant home; and may be found in abundance; while the music of various little songsters is sweetly rolling through the air, giving life to the charming scenery in which they live.

The prairie hen is found in the country, but did not appear in great numbers.

Buzzards abound in great numbers along the water courses near the Gulf, and along the coast, and soon devour the bodies of such animals as they find dead. Some idea of their numbers may be gathered from the following circumstance. A gentleman had been applied to for a beef; his cattle being a little wild, he took his rifle, and went out, and killed one, perhaps a mile from his house. The skin was immediately taken off, and the beef dressed. No buzzards were in sight. The gentleman returned to the house, and ordered his servant to take a team and fetch it in; but when the servant came for the beef, which was, perhaps, in an hour, the beef was devoured by the buzzards! Very little, besides the bones, was left! Yet these birds are considered very innocent, and are left undisturbed by the people.

TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Texas is a new country - the republic of a day. Only four years ago the greater part of the territory now settled, was an unbroken wilderness, under the dominion of the roving and ruthless savage, and the wild beast. She commenced her revolution in 1836, with

only about 25,000 inhabitants. With these statements before the reader, together with the fact, that Texas has ever since been more or less engaged in war, he will not fancy to himself cities like New-York, Philadelphia, or Boston, or even such cities as Cincinnati, St. Louis, or Louisville; but he will look for such cities as he would suppose could grow up, under the circumstances above named, in two, three, or four years.

Texas is supposed to contain at this time about 250,000 inhabitants; an increase of population perhaps without a parallel in the history of nations.

The city of Austin is the seat of government. It is a new town, beautifully situated on the east bank of the Colorado, about 200 miles from the coast by the course of the river—something over 100 in a direct line. It was laid out in 1839, then a wilderness. It now contains perhaps more than 1000 inhabitants. It is situated in the heart of the republic, and in a rich and healthful region.

Galveston City, situated on Galveston island, at the mouth of Galveston bay, is the New-York of Texas. It contains near 4000 inhabitants, and is a place of considerable trade.

Houston City, at the head of steamboat navigation, on Buffalo bayou, (a tributary of Galveston bay,) was formerly the seat of government; but since the public business was removed to Austin, it has not improved much, but is still a place of considerable business. It contains about 3000 inhabitants.

San Augustine, the seat of justice of San A. county, is a fine flourishing town, in the eastern part of Texas. It contains near 1000 inhabitants.

Velasco, at the mouth of Brazos river, Brazoria, Co-

mbia, and Marion, Richmond, San Felipe, Washington, and Nashville, are towns of note, situated at different points along that river. Matagorda is situated near the mouth of Colorado river, and is a place of some note. Linnville, situated on Labacca bay, is also a place of considerable business.

Columbus and Lagrange are promising villages, situated upon Colorado river.

Bastrop, is also situated upon the same river, and is a place of considerable notoriety,

San Antonio is an old Mexican city, situated near the head springs of San Antonio river. It is now principally in ruins, containing only about 500 Mexicans, and two or three hundred Americans. It is, however, situated in a country combining so many natural advantages, that it will, doubtless, rise again to its more than former splendor and wealth. Gonzalez, Texana, and Victoria, are flourishing towns in the western part of the country.

The principle settlements are found in San Augustine, Jasper, Shelby, and Nacogdoches counties, in the east; along Red river on the north; and in Montgomery, Washington, Fayette, San Felipe, Brazoria, Matagorda, Colorado, and Bastrop counties, in middle Texas.

Clark's settlement is noted in the west.

The town of Rutgersville is situated in Fayette county, a few miles east of Colorado river, and about eight miles southeast of Lagrange.

Rutgersville is particularly remarkable for its institution of learning and its good society. The town comprises a league of land, that is, four thousand four hundred and forty-four acres; and is situated in a very picturesque and beautiful country. There are some gentle

elevations between Rutersville and Lagrange, from which the observer has a lovely and extensive prospect of variegated landscape. It is said this prospect is fifty miles in extent. Town and out lots are sold in Rutersville on strict temperance principles; no person being allowed to introduce the traffic in ardent spirits without forfeiting his possessions.

Lots and lands at "Centre Hill" are disposed of upon the same principles.

Centre Hill is very pleasantly situated west of Brazos river, and about twenty-five miles south of Washington.

The country watered by the Labacca and St. Marks rivers is rapidly settling. Indeed, the same may be said of almost all the country; the tide of emigration is setting into this new republic with astonishing rapidity. Neighborhoods are forming, and villages rising in almost every direction.

NATURAL CURIOSITIES.

There are several of these, besides those remarkable fountains already alluded to.

1. There has been discovered on the Colorado river, near Bastrop, a set of enormous bones, said to be larger than any other heretofore discovered; and with this peculiarity, that the animal possessed horns of extraordinary dimensions. Another set of bones has lately been discovered on Brazos river.

2. Petrified wood and other substances, are frequently found along Brazos and Colorado rivers, and in other places. And on the waters of the Colorado is found the celebrated petrified forest. Here it is said are trees standing in a state of petrification, either in whole, or

in part! The body of a large tree has been discovered near Rutersville, in a state of petrification.

It is also stated that a set of *petrified waggon wheels* has been discovered in the western part of the country! This must be a subject of deep interest to the philosophic and enquiring mind.

3. A few miles southwest of Rutersville, and on the west side of Colorado river, is a high mound, formerly known among the travellers through the country by the name of "Pilot Knob," more recently called "Mount Maria." It is said to be about five hundred feet high.

On the top of this mound bursts forth a bountiful spring, which forms a lovely cascade by pouring its waters down the lofty hill side.

I did not examine the cascade myself, (being short of time,) though I was in sight of the mound, and in its neighborhood. The mound may be seen at a distance of many miles. It is said there is an abundance of limestone spar at the cascade, which is very beautiful.

GOVERNMENT.

The government of Texas much resembles the government of the United States, with this exception, however: theirs is a *consolidated*, while ours is a *confederated* government. Their constitution is nearly a copy of ours. The common law of England is declared to be the law of the land; subject, however, to statutory modifications.

The greatest objection to their government with which the writer became acquainted, is, that it allows of negro slavery. This the long experience of the Christian world has proved to be a great *political* if not

moral evil; and it is devoutly to be hoped that the day is not far distant when this foul stain shall be washed from the escutcheons not only of the proud American States, but also of every nation under heaven.

It should be remembered, however, that the slavery of Texas is only an attenuation of American slavery; for the constitution does not allow the introduction of slaves from any part of the world except the United States. It is further believed, that slavery exists in as mild a form in Texas as in any other part of the world.

The constitution of Texas does not allow either Indians or free negroes to live in the country and hold property, without a special grant from Congress. This favor has been bestowed upon very few as yet.

They have no national bank in Texas. Many of the people, however, appear to be strongly in favor of one.

In the place of bank notes the government has issued "treasury notes" to the amount of some millions, which form a considerable part of the circulating medium.

These notes are greatly below par among the merchants, but they are received by the government at par for customs, land, taxes, and all government dues. This will secure their ultimate redemption, and, perhaps, ere long, restore them to their par value.

COMMERICAL ADVANTAGES.

I have already stated, that Texas is situated to enjoy the commerce of the world. But especially is she convenient to the market of New-Orleans, the West India Islands, and the several ports of Mexico, along the Gulf. She can also ship the vast productions of her inexhaustible soil to Europe with as little expense or delay as most

of the United States. Besides all this, no country is so well situated to command the trade of the Northern Mexican States. Texas lies between them and the Gulf. And it is said to be only 450 miles from the city of Austin, in Texas, to Santa Fe. Most of the way has been considerably travelled by Mexicans in time past: the route is through a fine, well watered country, and a good waggon road could easily be constructed. If this were accomplished, together with a permanent restoration of peace, the current of trade would be turned at once into Texas; whereas, they now receive their goods from St. Louis and New-Orleans, by way of Red river, and pack them on mules.

Texas will undoubtedly become, at no very distant period, a great manufacturing country. To induce her to this, she possesses in abundance the necessary water power, and the raw material she can produce in almost any quantity, and of a superior quality. It is well known that Texas is one of the finest countries in the world for raising sheep. Her mild climate, (neither too hot nor too cold,) her rich pasturage, good water, and gentle hills and dales, free from mud, make it almost a Paradise for them. It scarce need be added, that hands can be supported in Texas at less expense than in almost any other part of the world.

STATE OF SOCIETY.

Many very erroneous reports have gone abroad concerning the people of Texas, and have produced a false impression upon the public mind. Because a few outlaws and desperadoes have gone to that country, some have very improperly concluded that all the peo-

ple of Texas are desperadoes and outlaws. Nothing can be more unjust and unreasonable.

The reader must not expect to find society in Texas already settled and matured as it is in older countries. This could not reasonably be expected in a country so new, and not yet freed from the harrassing evils of war, with a population sparsely scattered, and made up of emigrants from almost every portion of the civilized world.

Texas, however, possesses largely the elements of good society; and when these elements shall become properly arranged and adjusted, she will, it is hoped, possess a society equal to any in the world.

The institutions of religion are supported by them with a zeal, that would do honor to an older country. They have a national bible society, with county auxiliaries, in vigorous operation.

Their contributions to the cause of missions are often large and respectable. And the respectable stranger, especially the authenticated minister of Christ, meets with that hearty welcome, and generous hospitality, that makes him feel at once that he is at home and among his friends.

The people who now compose that republic are intelligent and enterprising, and many of them possess a high degree of moral worth. It is not to be denied, however, that there is, about some of the little villages, and in some of the settlements, a large and alarming amount of immorality; such as Sabbath breaking, gambling, &c.; yet not more than is to be found in many places of the United States. These are great and crying evils, and the emigrant, especially the young man,

should examine well the society before he makes a selection.

EDUCATION.

The subject of education has received considerable attention already from the people. Common schools are to be found in almost every considerable settlement, and there are a few schools of a higher order. The government has also manifested a disposition to foster these institutions by granting them suitable charters, and making donations in land for their endowment.

A college, under the patronage of the M. E. C. has already commenced its operations at Rutgersville, under the superintendence of Rev. Mr. Richardson and lady; who are said to be well qualified for their charge. This young and promising institution, it is hoped, will prove a great blessing to this new country.

To aid the cause of education among them, they have a considerable number of presses, from which papers are regularly issued.

Besides several papers published in Austin City, Galveston, and Houston, a weekly paper is published in Brazoria, by a worthy gentleman, one in Richmond, one in Washington, one in Matagorda; and perhaps in several other places news papers are published.

RELIGION.

The subject of religion is one of the deepest interest, both to the Christian and philanthropist. In it are concentrated all the principles of good government, social order, domestic happiness, and spiritual delight. With-

out this we have nothing here to sweeten the bitterness of this life, and we have no hope of happiness in the world to come.

In speaking of the Christian religion in Texas, we shall find much to gladden the heart of every believer in Christ and friend of humanity. But, first, let it be remembered that, prior to the late revolution, the Christian religion, as held by us, was not by any means allowed in that country. From time immemorial Texas had been the prey either of savage heathenism, or of Romish superstition and bigotry.

When citizens of the United States were encouraged to settle in Texas, by large donations of land, the rights of conscience were also held out to them, as an inducement to emigrate. But this promise was only designed to deceive, as the results in the case will warrant us in believing; for no sooner were the people settled in the country, and formed into social order, and commenced their religious operations, than their rights of conscience were wrested from them, and they were made to feel that they were under the domination of a catholic priesthood. Even their former marriages were counted null and void, and the ceremony required to be performed anew by a regular priest of "Mother Church." The priesthood went further: they absolutely required the people to be baptized into the catholic faith! It was not to be expected that the highminded and intelligent people from the United States, would tamely submit to such ecclesiastical dominaton as this. And to this, perhaps, more than to any other earthly cause, we may attribute the revolution. But this is wandering from my subject. I set out to give a sketch of the religious character of the country before the late introduction of the gospel

is thought to be very fine, and well deserves the attention of the enterprising. Here are no low marshy lands to produce malaria. The lands are rolling and rich; the climate is pleasant and healthful; the natural pasturage cannot be exceeded perhaps in the world; no flies to disturb the cattle or horses in their feeding, or the traveller in pursuing his journey.

But I must not close without saying a few things with respect to the war with Mexico and their Indian difficulties.

As to the first, I have already observed that Mexico has not, as yet, acknowledged the independence of Texas. Of course both parties are considered hostile to each other. This is not strictly true, however, in respect to the Mexican States bordering upon Texas. These, so far as I could learn while in the country, were entirely friendly, and in consequence, a considerable trade was carried on with them. The frontier settlements were, however, sometimes disturbed by marauding parties. This evil, it is hoped, will soon be done away by the efficient measures of the government.

No invasion of the country by the Mexican army is at all anticipated by the people. If any collision take place between the two countries, it will, probably, be at sea. But it is hoped that these difficulties will not last long. Mexico is in no condition to sustain a foreign war. Torn to pieces by internal divisions and commotions, she has more to do at home than she can accomplish. And unless some revolution, more favorable in its character than any that has yet taken place in her government, shall succeed, she must, ere long, fall a prey to her own jealousies.

As to her difficulties with the Indians upon her northern frontier, she has but little to fear.

The principal of these are the Comanches, who are said to be very cowardly, and recede as fast as encroachments are made upon their territory. There is, however, room enough for hundreds of thousands of families in the country, undisturbed either by Indians or Mexicans.

The several bands of Cherokees, formerly located in the northeastern part of the country, have been driven out, and the lands which were occupied by them are rapidly settling.

ADVICE TO EMIGRANTS.

I feel it my duty to give a few words of advice to all persons intending to emigrate to the new republic.

1. And first, take your waggons and good horses with you: they will pay you well for doing so. If you are a farmer, take your ploughs, and such other tools as you will need to carry on your business. Let every mechanic also take his tools with him.

2 Let every person take with him a sufficiency of good summer and winter clothing, for two or three years. On all the abovenamed articles the emigrant pays no duties.

3. As to the most convenient route, it may be well to say a word or two.

You can go to Texas by land, through the States of Missouri and Arkansas. But this route is rough and tedious, and you will be likely to become discouraged before you arrive at the most desirable part of the country. To go by water as far as Rodney, on the Mississippi river, and there take the Texas road, by Natchitoches,

Gain's Ferry, on Sabine river, San Augustine, &c. is a much more speedy and comfortable route. Waggon and teams can be taken down the river on board the steamboats with but moderate expense.

Those who are willing to risk the dangers of the ocean, can have a still more speedy passage by going the whole route by water.

4. The fall season is most suitable for removing; as at that season the roads are good, provisions are plenty, health will, perhaps, be secured with more certainty; and then you will be in time to make arrangements for a crop the ensuing season.

5. On arriving in the country, enter your name at the first custom-house.

6. Beware of land claims, or certificates! you will probably be annoyed by venders of these, who will offer them very low for cash! If you would not be cheated out of your money, examine well the character of the claim before you purchase. And then, should you not know something about the quality of the land, and the character of the neighborhood, its situation, advantages, &c.? You should not give more than fifty cents an acre for unlocated land.

7. If you regard your health, keep away from the low lands, stagnant waters, and river bottoms. Be sure that you get good, pure, soft water.

8. And especially, if you are a member of the church of Christ, do not be ashamed to own it. Take your certificate of membership with you, and present it to the church the first opportunity. Acknowledge God in all your ways, and he will direct all your steps.

9. Do not suffer the mania of speculation to run away

with you. Be content to be an honest, humble, industrious christian, and you will prosper.

But do not expect a fortune at once, nor suppose that you will find in a country so new, all the conveniences you have in the old: wait patiently until you can have them.

10. Remember! you are not to go thither to make society worse, to strengthen the current of sin by sliding into it yourself; but it is your business to make society *better* by setting a good example, by exhibiting in your life and conversation, the pure and sacred principles of the gospel of Christ.

ADVANTAGES OF EMIGRATING.

It may not be amiss, for the benefit of those concerned, to sum up in a few words the advantages to be derived from a removal to the new republic.

Temporal advantages, lawful in themselves, should not be despised even by Christians: but they should not by any means hold the first rank. The grand object should be, to glorify God in doing good. We may, with an eye single to the glory of God, do good to ourselves, to our families, and our fellow men. When, where, and how, we may do the most good, are important questions.

As to the temporal advantages, therefore, to be derived from a residence in Texas, over one in the western States, the following may be assumed as the principal:

1. In the climate: this is mild summer and winter: the heat of summer is tempered by the trade winds; and so mild are the winters, that the cattle need no shelters, &c.

2. From this will arise a great saving of labor and expense. The farmer provides nothing for his stock, (except the horses, &c. he keeps up for work,) and of course saves all the labour and expense of housing and feeding.

3. All this labour may be bestowed on the cultivation of valuable produce, for which he will find a ready market.

4. He may raise horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, &c. almost without number, without any expense of feeding; and yet the market is good.

Garden vegetables may be had fresh and good, more or less, all the year, in the southern parts of the country.

6. All housekeepers save a great expense in fuel.

7. Mechanics obtain good wages, and find a ready employment, especially in the western and middle parts of the country, and can pursue their business throughout the year. School teachers, well recommended, find employment almost every where, and obtain good salaries.

8. Water and timber are far superior to the water and timber of the western States, &c.

9. If you are a Christian, you will have an opportunity of doing good, in a spiritual sense, to those who need it much.

DISADVANTAGES.

1. Perhaps you will not find society so well organized, as in the United States—you must go to make it better.

2. You will not find old farms, orchards, &c. ready to your hand.

3. If you go into the new settlements, you will not be likely to find provisions so cheap, nor so plenty, as where you left.

4. As good as Texas is, people cannot (unless they are invalids) live there without labor, and retain a good character.

5. It is a slave country.

APPEAL IN BEHALF OF TEXAS.

In conclusion, the writer would respectfully call the attention of the Christian public, and especially of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to the spiritual wants of the people of Texas.

When our Heavenly Father, in the order of his providence, opens a field of usefulness to the church, it is that that field may be occupied by his servants, and that without delay. Nor can we suppose the church to be innocent in the neglect of so important a matter.

The salvation of souls is a subject paramount to all others—a subject of the deepest interest to God, and angels, and good men—as far above the greatest concerns of this life, as eternity is greater than time.

But this great work (the salvation of souls) is to be brought about, under God, by human agency. And these agents are the members of his church,—the partakers of his grace. For God saith to the wicked, “What hast thou to do, to declare my statutes,” &c.

But to his disciples he saith, “Ye are the light of the world!” “Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations.” So then, the salvation of the world is a work which, as to the visible agency of it, is committed to the church, and God will doubtless hold her accountable for the faithful performance of her duty in this matter.

If she would discharge her duty successfully, and thus keep her skirts clear of the blood of souls, she must follow up the openings of his Providence, and promptly oc-

copy all the ground thus committed to her care, and vigorously and faithfully cultivate it.

All the world is not ready for the gospel; and the church is not accountable, of course, for the cultivation of that ground she *cannot* occupy. But we may here pause and enquire. Has the church kept pace with the openings of Providence? Has she promptly seized upon, and faithfully cultivated all the ground which her Lord has presented to her? In particular, has the church done her duty in full with regard to Texas? What a whitened field is here presented! A nation to be occupied! not now full of people, but rapidly filling up, and destined to take a high stand among the nations of the earth. The moral and religious character of this nation is to be formed; and the forming of this character appears now to be mainly committed to the Methodist Episcopal church. What shall her character be? Christian, or infidel? It must be one or the other. They are now calling for help, they desire to be a Christian nation; they ask the minister of Christ, they *beg* him, to come over and help them! Have their calls been responded to as they should have been? Have their wants been met? They have not.

Some laborers, indeed, have been sent into that part of the work, but not in sufficient numbers to secure all the nodding harvest.

We have said the Methodist Episcopal Church has a conference there. She has a conference of fifteen or sixteen ministers and preachers. But what are these among so many? And what are these in comparison of what the church might, nay, ought to do? It is believed the Methodist preachers now in the republic are as industrious and laborious as their strength will admit;

and yet, from the writer's own personal knowledge, many places are not supplied with the gospel; and some of these are places of importance, where the people are not only *willing*, but anxious to hear the truth as it is in Jesus. As proof of this, several persons of respectability professed faith in Christ while I was laboring in one of the destitute portions of the country.

It is a fact worthy of the consideration of the church, that the minister of the gospel may have access to a large portion of the colored population also, and they are glad to receive the gospel. Of this I had sufficient proof while in the country. In one neighborhood I formed a class of eighteen members; and the probability is, that could they have had the continued services of a faithful and zealous minister of Christ, hundreds of them would have turned to the Saviour.

But as it is, what will become of those poor sheep in the wilderness? How shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? Who will go over into Texas and help them? And who will furnish the means? Who will go over as a local preacher, exhorter, class-leader, or teacher? Do you labor to support yourself and family, you can support them in Texas with less than half the labor you find to be necessary in most of the United States; so that this is no reason why you should not go: nay, it is a reason why you should, for there you will have more time to devote to the service of the Lord.

And why should you be afraid to leave the United States? Have you received a commission to preach the gospel at home only? or is it in the following language: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every

creature?" Now what else soever this may mean, it certainly does *not* mean that you should stay at home.

Perhaps you object, "Texas is a slave country, and I cannot consent to live in the midst of slavery." And what then is to become of the people? Are they to have no gospel because some of them own slaves? Is slavery so horrid a crime that you cannot approach near enough to the poor slaveholding sinner to tell him of his danger, and point him to the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world? No, nor even the poor sinner who happens to live in a slave country, though he be entirely innocent of the crime? And then, the poor slave! Must he, because he has been so unfortunate as to lose his liberty, without his consent, must he also lose his soul? Is it then an unpardonable sin to become a slave when you cannot help it? Is this the gospel of Christ? Is this the way in which God manifests his love to mankind? Did this policy obtain among the apostles of our Lord? Witness the epistles of Paul and Peter. Did they not preach equally to masters and servants? Did they not, upon their repentance and profession of faith in Christ, admit each to the church? Were there then no "believing masters" who were "beloved partakers of the benefit?" Surely the master and slave both need the gospel of salvation as much as any other people on earth. And would it not be doing the poor slaves a great favour to get their masters converted, that they might rule over them in love? And how greatly would the burdens of the slave be diminished if he were delivered from the drudgery of the devil, the slavery of sin? As much as you may be horrified, and that justly too, (for I am not the apologist of slavery,) at the evils of physical bondage, is not the bondage of sin infinitely worse? Do you then pity

the poor slave? Show your love by your works. Break first the hard bondage of sin; then his condition will be tolerable. Bring his master to Christ, and unite them both, master and slave, in the bonds of Christian fellowship. This will open the way for his gradual improvement, and perhaps the final liberation of the slave. But if you cannot do for him now all the good you *would*, do what you *can*. Do him the greatest good; make him a Christian by teaching him the way of salvation. This you may do; the way is now open. The master and the slave both invite you to this labor of love. And is not this a call of God? an opening of Providence? Whoso readeth, let him understand. Surely you have more confidence in God than to suppose that he will, while you are faithfully discharging your duty to him and your fellow men, abandon you to those vices and evils which may surround you. Why do you dwell among, and preach to, in your own country, sabbath-breakers, swearers, perjured persons, adulterers, fornicators, thieves, murderers? and, perhaps, many of them were once slaveholders, who sold their slaves for money, and are now bartering it to you for various articles of property! And do you receive the price, more or less, of these poor slaves, and refuse to preach to them the gospel of Christ? Are you not supported to a considerable extent by the labor of their hands, though you are far from them? Nor can you perhaps well do without their labor! Whence your cottons, sugar, molasses, coffee, rice, &c.? Are you not, to a considerable degree, fed and clothed by these poor creatures? And what returns have you made? nay, what returns *will* you make? While you receive of their carnal things, should you not minister unto them in spiritual things?

Read over again your commission, and then listen once more to the plaintive cry of "come over and help us!" from distant lands, and then, while you see souls perishing for lack of knowledge, look into eternity—into Paradise,—into hell;—and listen to the fruitless wailing of the damned! Look at judgment, when ministers, and Christians, and their charges will all come up before the throne for examination and reward, and souls shall be weighed in the balances of eternity! Look at all this, consider it well, and then ask yourself what is duty, and "what thy hand findeth to do, *do it with thy might*; for there is no device nor work in the grave whither thou goest."

Remember! If the world is to be converted, it is not to be done by *inaction and self indulgence*. The life of the Christian is a life of sacrifice and toil; but he has the promise of a glorious reward. And such are the opportunities of doing good at this time, that the whole church is called upon to put forth her energies in her Master's cause. It is no time for the stewards to waste their Lord's goods, nor for the laborers to be idle. And this is true not only in reference to Texas, but also in respect to all our work. And have we not reason to believe that God will soon call us into Mexico? and should we not be in readiness! The world is our field: the grain is ripe, and ripening: come, laborers, to the harvest! "He that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal!" Let her who cannot use a sickle, prepare the workman a dinner, or give the thirsty laborer a cup of cold water; she shall not lose her reward. "Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him." Amen.

HYMN TO TEXAS.

Rise, Texas! rise, to great renown!
Let virtue's wreath thy temples crown:
Let wisdom deck thy brow, and rear
Her diadem of glory there.

Be thou among the sons of peace,
Yet, ever scorn inglorious ease:
The last to fight, the last to fly,—
Let thy defence be the Most High.

Keep justice; she will make thee firm;—
Nor will religion do thee harm;—
Lamp of pure fire, she'll light thy way
To true distinction's cloudless day.

Let plenty crown thy fertile lands,
The produce of industrious hands;
Let flocks and herds in droves abound,
To deck thy verdant pastures round.

Let ships thy smiling coast adorn;
Let treasures on thy streams be borne;

To other lands send thou supplies,
But base dependence e'er despise.

Thy public men be men of worth,
To bring thy rich resources forth:
Let *all* conspire to make thee great,—
A wise, a virtuous, happy State.

Having a little room to spare, the author has thought that the following extract and notice of "The first annual catalogue of Rutgersville, College," in Texas, would not be unacceptable to his readers, after what has been said of that institution in this work. The notice above referred to is taken from the "Western Christian Advocate," of January 1st, 1841, and is as follows:

RUTERSVILLE COLLEGE, TEXAS.

Guess what was our surprise when we tore an envelope off a small pamphlet, and read out of it the following title page: "First Annual Catalogue of Rutgersville College, Rutgersville, Fayette County, Texas, 1840; Austin Sentinel, Print." Then followed the names of a board of trustees. After this the faculty, whose names are, Rev. Chauncey Richardson, A. M., President; Mr. Chas. W. Thomas, A. B., Tutor; Mrs. Martha Richardson, Preceptress.

In the male department there are thirty-five students. In the female, twenty-eight.

The college was chartered January, 1840, with university privileges.

The studies pursued in the college are divided into departments.

1. Department of Moral Science and Belles Lettres.
2. Department of Mathematics.
3. Department of Natural Science.
4. Department of Ancient Languages & Literature.

5. Department of Modern Languages.
6. Preparatory Department.
7. Female Department.
8. Medical Department.
9. Law Department.

The following princely donations of land were given to the institution.—

By the Texan Congress, acres,	17,776
Kutersville college site, with buildings,	76
By individuals throughout the republic,	24,357
	<hr/>

Total number of acres, 42,209

Town lots to the number of twenty-four were also donated in several towns.

Money at par value was also contributed, amounting to the handsome sum of \$5,610.

Rev. C. Richardson contributed in choice minerals and shells, to the amount of \$600.

To the library ninety-three volumes were given by various donors.

Certainly here is a first rate beginning. We heartily wish God speed to our Texan friends.

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