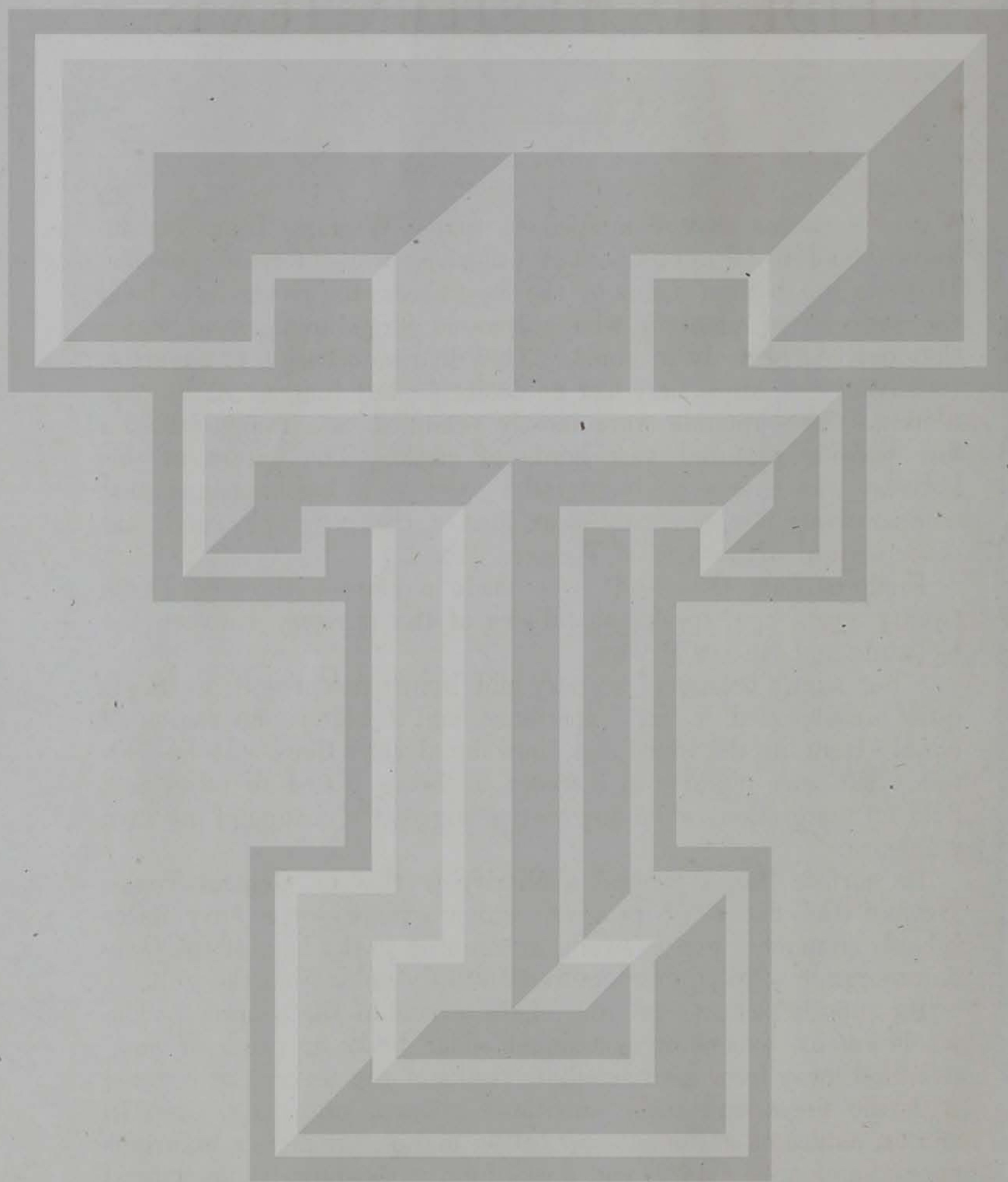


Marcus H. Rogers

EMIGRANTS  
GUIDE  
TO  
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## GUIDE

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## GUIDE TO WESTERN TEXAS.

VARIOUS causes have combined to make Western Texas an unknown land to large numbers of otherwise well-informed persons. Hitherto the bottom lands of the most accessible rivers have been the property of planters, who cultivated large areas, from which they derived princely incomes. They had no occasion to advertise its advantages, since they had no desire for any increase of its population. The uplands were mostly occupied as a range, where a few persons pastured vast herds of cattle. The nature of this industry was averse to immigration, and so it has happened that comparatively few have any clear idea of the geography, soil, and other natural advantages of Western Texas.

Frederic Law Olmstead, who made a journey through Texas twenty years ago, speaks as follows of the territory between the Colorado and Nueces Rivers.

"For sunny beauty of scenery and luxuriance of soil, it stands quite unsurpassed in my experience, and I believe no region of equal extent in the world can show equal attractions. It has certainly left such pictures in memory, as bring it first to mind as a field for emigration, when any motive suggests a change of my own residence.

Its surface has a general similarity to that of Central Texas. Beyond the flat coast prairies, which extend some forty miles inland, commence gentle swells, continuing to the base of the Gaudalupe range of hills, one hundred and fifty miles from the gulf.

Its superb pastures are the characteristic of the country. The whole extent, except an occasional cedar brake or patch of post-oak, and away from the immediate banks of the streams, is covered with the finest and most nutritious grasses, supplying, even in winter, sufficient sustenance for cattle, and in summer, a luxurious superabundance. Herds and flocks form, consequently, its natural riches; and of these, where so little care is required, it is almost impossible to overestimate its productive capacity.

The streams which, in other parts of the State are thick and discolored with mud, flow here clear as crystal; and the soil, which,

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like Vinson



as you advance from east to west, across the State, steadily improves in fertility, here culminates in a black calcareous loam, which is universally distributed."

Through the centre of this territory the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad is constructed. It matters not that a land is rich; if it is not thickly settled a railroad cannot be operated in it profitably.

To make known the inducements which this territory offers to immigrants, and to promote the speedy settlement of lands on either side of the railroad, and to the west of its terminus, are the objects of these pages. No claim is made to anything like philanthropy. A good country is offered to good people; a country where they may better their condition and create business for the road. The G. H. and S. A. Railway asks the citizens of older states to settle along or near its line, because the change will prove of advantage to them, and their prosperity will add to the value of the road. Thus, self-interest is the motive that controls both.

The railway, which is two hundred and twelve miles in length, has for its terminal points, Harrisburg, on the east, and San Antonio on the west.

#### HARRISBURG.

is a town of about two thousand inhabitants, and is situated upon Buffalo Bayou, a navigable stream, which empties into Galveston Bay. The Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad runs through it, and connects it with the cities of Houston and Galveston. Houston, the great railroad centre of Texas, from which roads radiate to all parts of the nation, is five miles distant. Galveston, which is forty-five miles distant from Harrisburg, is the great commercial city of Texas, at whose wharves may be found large numbers of sail and steam vessels from European and American ports. The machine shops of the railway, which employ a large number of workmen, are located here, and add greatly to the prosperity of the place.

#### HARRIS COUNTY.

About one-sixth of Harris County, in which Harrisburg is located, is covered with timber; the rest is prairie. The soil is not considered so good as the average in other counties west, but it produces sugar, cane, cotton, and all other products of the country except cereals, very well, to which its convenience to market gives great additional value.

There are some twenty or more saw-mills on Buffalo Bayou and San Jacinto River, employed in cutting pine and cypress timber. These streams, and numerous small creeks, furnish an abundance of fire-wood, the cutting of which, and the carrying of it to Galves-

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No tourist ever visits this section without being struck with the amazing beauty of the magnolia trees which abound in the woodland. The *magnolia grandiflora*, which here reaches its greatest perfection, is the most beautiful of trees. Its flowers, of which each tree will produce hundreds, are, when fully open, quite as large as a large-sized breakfast plate, and so fragrant that the whole air is redolent with their perfume.

The half-opened magnolia bud, which is large as a cocoanut, has no superior, if, indeed, it has an equal among flowers.

The woods are alive with mocking birds, whose melodious songs and perplexing imitations greatly enhance the pleasures of a residence in this delightful county.

The bottom lands of Buffalo Bayou are like those of all Texas streams—heavily timbered on both sides. In the immediate vicinity of Harrisburg there is much beautiful woodland, while there is an abundance of graceful ferns and a great variety of wild flowers.

Leaving Harrisburg by the G. H. & S. A. road, the country for the first twenty-five miles is prairie. And here it may be well to premise that the prairies of Texas differ materially from those of the Northwestern States. There are no such vast extents of land without visible timber as in Illinois and in other northern localities. Along the coast, as in the country immediately west of Harrisburg, there are stretches of prairie of from ten to twenty miles before reaching the timbered bottom lands; but, generally, there are small motes or groves of timber within that distance. So that even the largest prairies are diversified, while in the interior the timber and prairie lands generally alternate, so that there is nearly always an abundance of wood within easy hauling distance.

Another peculiarity of Texas prairies is their great variety of soil; some are of stiff, black soil, while others are of a loamy or sandy character. The timber in this stretch of country is mostly oak, of which there are several varieties, with some pine. Travelers from the North are often amazed at one of nature's most unique productions—

#### TEXAS MOSS.

This singular growth is seen hanging from the boughs of almost every tree, giving to the landscape a most grotesque and wierd-like appearance. This plant, which is valuable as well as curious, is known in science as *tillandsia usneoides*, in commerce as New Orleans moss, and in common parlance as "old man's beard." The fibre, which it yields in abundance, and with but little labor, is an excellent substitute for curled hair, and is used in the South almost exclusively for mattresses, cushions, etc. Its cost is not



more than one-fourth that of hair, and the demand for it is always good. A strong hand can gather from five hundred to seven hundred and fifty pounds per day. The yield of fibre is about two-sevenths, so that seven hundred and fifty pounds of moss will yield about two hundred pounds of saleable moss.

The business of gathering, curing and bailing moss is followed without much system, and there is no doubt but that better results, larger quantities and superior qualities could be attained by improved methods.

The moss, when gathered, is taken to some convenient gully, through which the surface drainage runs. A little dam is made to back the water; it is then filled with moss to a depth of from seven to ten feet, if the water can be made to saturate it so high. A covering of earth is then thrown on, and it is left to rot. In from five to eight months it will be ready to take up. The precise point desired is to take up the moss when the bark and bloom are thoroughly rotted, and the fibre unaffected. This can only be ascertained by experiment and frequent inspection. Mules and drag hooks are employed in taking out the wet moss, and in scattering it upon the grass, where it is dried and the trash removed by hand-picking. The dust and dirt are removed by thrashing it over a frame work of poles. It is then ready for baling. Moss of the best quality is perfectly black, and has a strong, fine, tough fibre. In the market it is worth five cents per pound.

This industry is one that requires but little capital, and is certain of a good market for the product. It is highly probable that moss can and will be made available for paper stock. If so, the industry will assume greater importance.

Cattle eat moss with the greatest avidity, and thrive upon it; as a food for milch cows, it is accounted excellent. There is an idea prevailing in the low lands of Louisiana that no place can be healthy in which moss grows. That this moss does grow in places which are unhealthy is very certain, but it also grows in localities of remarkable salubrity.

The first station on the road is called

#### **PIERCE JUNCTION.**

It is named from Thos. W. Pierce, Esq., to whose untiring enterprise the State of Texas is indebted for the completion of the road to San Antonio.

Pierce Junction is eight miles distant from Harrisburg, and is the point at which the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio road is intersected by the International and Great Northern. The International Railroad traverses the great pine region of Texas, which produces a limitless supply of excellent lumber, convenient

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to the belt of country through which the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway passes.

#### **STAFFORD**

is twenty miles west of Harrisburg. It is but a small place, and yet it is an important trading point for a region of cotton-producing country.

Six miles west of Stafford is

#### **WALKER.**

The bottom lands in this section produce abundantly, and are very easy to cultivate.

#### **RICHMOND,**

the seat of Fort Bend County, is six miles west from Walker and thirty-two miles from Harrisburg. It is handsomely situated on the west bank of the Brazos River.

The number of inhabitants is about two thousand. It is well supplied with churches, schools, Masonic and Odd Fellows Lodges, and has an excellent weekly newspaper. Leaving Richmond, we pass through a prairie country to Random, the next station, which is ten miles distant. While there are but few settlers immediately in the vicinity of Random, it is still an important station for the shipment of cattle.

Adjoining the county of Fort Bend, on the west, and divided from it by the San Bernard, is the county of Wharton. The station of East Bernard is on the boundary line, and is some ten miles west from Richmond. It is a cattle station, and the point at which the citizens of Wharton, twenty miles south, take the train.

#### **WHARTON COUNTY.**

The lands of Wharton are unsurpassed by any in fertility. It has an abundance of timber, and is in its character very much like the county of Colorado.

Ten miles from East Bernard is West Bernard, which, like its namesake, is a cattle station.

#### **COLORADO COUNTY.**

This county is divided nearly in the middle by the Colorado River. It has an abundant supply of timber, about half its area being bottom land, heavily wooded, or upland covered with post, live and other varieties of oak. The lands are of the first quality, and produce from thirty to forty bushels of corn, and from a half to one and a-half bales of cotton to the acre. The bottom lands are alluvial and of inexhaustible fertility. There is no better stock range, and hogs fatten on the abundant mast.



There are quarries of both sandstone and limestone, with good clay and sand for the manufacture of brick. The brick made in this county are of good quality.

The Colorado River approaches one side of Columbus, then makes a circuit of fifteen miles, and returning, borders the town upon the opposite side. The distance through the town from bank to bank of the stream is only about one thousand yards. It has been demonstrated repeatedly by competent surveyors and engineers, that were a channel cut one thousand yards in length, a fall of eighteen feet could be obtained. This would afford water power for an unlimited amount of machinery. In fact, a water power could thus be secured that would be unequaled in the State.

That a power like this cannot much longer be permitted to lie idle is a self-evident proposition, and those capitalists who first take the matter in hand and prosecute it to completion will reap a rich harvest. Nor for the investment of capital, do we know of a better opportunity in the State. Hence we urge it upon the attention of capitalists.

#### **EAGLE LAKE.**

This station is seventy miles west of Harrisburg. It has grown up almost entirely since the war, and is a place of considerable business. Like most new railroad towns, the buildings are temporary and rude; but travelers by the railroad will find an excellent dining station, where good meals are served at fifty cents each. Several stores and commission merchants' warehouses are located at this point.

Eagle Lake is a body of fine, clear water, covering about four thousand acres. It is literally full of black bass, trout, perch, cat, and other fish. Its banks are thickly wooded, and filled with game of many varieties. It is a favorite resort for sportsmen. Land, at this point, can be purchased at from \$2.50 to \$8.00 per acre; the price depending upon proximity to railway stations.

Ten miles west of Eagle Lake is the thriving little station of

#### **ALLEYTON.**

This is a great point for the shipment of cattle and cotton, to which the one is driven and the other hauled, from a large extent of thriving territory.

The noted Kessler Springs are in this county. These are chalybeate in their character, and it is claimed that their curative properties are valuable. They are about four miles from Alleyton.

#### **THE COLORADO PRAIRIE.**

There is a unique strip of country extending diagonally from the northwest to the southeast, across the Galveston, Harrisburg, and

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San Antonio Railway, from about Webberville, in Travis County, to the source of the Caney, in Wharton, known as the "Colorado Prairies." It consists of the second bottom lands of that river. They were all in cultivation before the war, and covered with the plantations of wealthy gentlemen. They present a surface perfectly level, and of extreme beauty, being skirted all along by timbered lands. They are easy of cultivation, and abound in good water. They yield bountifully of corn, cotton, and vegetables of all kinds. The flourishing cities of Bastrop, LaGrange and Columbus are located in this unique strip.

### COLUMBUS.

The county seat of Colorado County is situated on the west bank of the Colorado River, three miles from the last station, and eighty-four miles from Harrisburg. It has a population of about four thousand.

The buildings are generally substantial, and many of them of a costly character. Immense oaks with hanging moss shade the walks and public places. The United Friends of Temperance, Odd Fellows, and Masons are represented by lodges, and a weekly newspaper, the *Colorado Citizen*, is published here.

The popular idea of a Texan, in many localities, is that of a creature, unwashed and uncombed, with a brace of pistols at his waist, a bowie knife in his boot, and a whiskey bottle hung to the horn of his saddle. One who lives by outrage, and when unwell "kills a nigger," as other men take a tonic, to invigorate the system, and give tone to the general health. Yet all the State, with but few exceptions, presents examples of good order and decorum which more pretentious places would do well to follow.

In no section of the country is there a more refined and elegant society than at Columbus, and in none are the churches of all denominations more flourishing.

### BORDEN.

Nine miles west of Columbus is the neat little station of Borden, so called after Mr. Gail Borden, the man who, by the invention of canned milk, became nursing mother to half the babies of the nation. It is a delightful location, and was selected by Mr. Borden as the site for his beef works. At these works beeves are slaughtered and worked into extract of beef, roast beef, and beef hash. These works are in operation during the fall and winter.

Seven miles from Borden, and one hundred miles west of Harrisburg, is the flourishing station of

### WEIMAR.

The town was laid out October 3, 1873, and the depot opened



on the 17th of November. It soon became a thriving place, doing a large business for LaGrange, Hallettsville, Hackberry, Oakland, Content, Osage, and other flourishing sections. Its future is bright, and there can be no doubt that Weimar will become one of the important inland cities of Texas.

There is a very good hotel, a church, a school house, and a bank, also a steam cotton gin and grist mill.

The soil of the country, immediately surrounding the town, is a black, sandy loam, easy of cultivation, producing an average of three fourths of a bale of cotton, and from thirty-five to forty bushels of corn to the acre. It is very healthy. The water is abundant and good.

The settlements and towns adjacent and tributary to Weimar are :

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Distance.</i>
Sweet Home, Lavaca County . . . . .	28 miles.
Hallettsville, " " . . . . .	22 "
Benthall's Store, " " . . . . .	17 "
Lawther's Mills, " " . . . . .	16 "
Rhodes' Store, " " . . . . .	15 "
Hackberry, " " . . . . .	11 "
Skunkville, " " . . . . .	12 "
Wellersburg, " " . . . . .	10 "
Oakland, Colorado County . . . . .	7 "
Content, " " . . . . .	3 "
Osage, " " . . . . .	5 "
Ehlinger's, " " . . . . .	7 "
LaGrange, Fayette County . . . . .	15 "
Fayetteville, " " . . . . .	11 "
Rossville, " " . . . . .	9 "
Oquin, " " . . . . .	12 "
Bluff, " " . . . . .	13 "
Black Jack, " " . . . . .	14 "
Hollman's " " . . . . .	5 "

Also Warrenton, Ruttersville and Beigle Settlement in Fayette County.

The people from this section are from Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, and some from the Western States—mostly old residents. As a general rule they are not very rich, but are independent and are hospitable. There has not been, prior to or since the war, a single disturbance of any kind. Peace and harmony prevail. There is no sectional feeling—Northern and Western friends are welcome among them. There are at Weimar flourishing lodges of Masons, Odd Fellows and Good Samaritan Templars.

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The depot was at present a popular and manifest all there are three fine good brewery. A used for public entertainment about half that number September, 1876. the vicinity of the ment of game to the proper season there of ducks, geese, There are five steam

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**SCHULENBERG,**

in Fayette County, is the next station beyond Weimar, from which it is nine miles distant. It is one of the most promising and beautiful situations on the line of the road.

The depot was opened December 8, 1873, and the town contains at present a population of one thousand, who are mostly Germans, and manifest all the thrift for which that nation is so remarkable. There are three fine hotels, twelve stores, two lumber yards, and a good brewery. A commodious hall, known as the Germania, is used for public entertainments. Ten thousand bales of cotton, and about half that number of hides were shipped for the year ending September, 1876. Excellent bricks are made from clay found in the vicinity of the town. Schulenberg is a fine depot for the shipment of game to the cities of Galveston and Houston. During the proper season there is always an appetizing display at the station, of ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, quail, plover, and other game. There are five steam gins within a radius of three miles.

**FLATONIA,**

Twelve miles west of Schulenberg, and one hundred and nine miles from Harrisburg, is one of the most promising of the new towns of Texas. It was opened in April, 1874. It contains a church, a school-house, a bank, and fourteen business houses.

Good water can be had by digging forty feet. There are a number of steam saw mills and gins in the vicinity of Flatonía. Gray sandstone of good quality is found within a convenient distance of the town. Good prairie lands may be purchased in the vicinity of the town at from three to eight dollars, and timber lands at from ten to fourteen dollars. The county is fine and rolling, with post and live-oak timber.

**FAYETTE COUNTY**

is advantageously divided into timber and prairie lands, affording every farmer timber enough for fuel, fencing and building, and fine open grazing land for his stock. The grass is excellent, and stock and sheep are raised with profit. The chief products are cane and cotton. Some wheat, rye, oats, and barley are raised. The last three do well. Vegetables of all kinds are abundant, two crops being made in the year. The climate is healthy, and the summer not oppressive, because of the Gulf breeze, which always renders the nights delightful. Nearly every remark made with reference to Colorado County applies to Fayette, except that it is not adapted to cane, and is better for sheep raising.

LaGrange, the county seat, is a handsome town, surrounded by a society of exceptional culture and refinement. There are several fine schools in the city, and churches of all denominations.



**BASTROP COUNTY.**

In its general features it resembles Colorado. It has plenty of steam mills, cotton gins and presses. Most of its fine territory is tributary to the G. H. & S. A. Railway.

**LAVACA COUNTY.**

The timber of Lavaca County is very like that of the others that we have been describing, with this exception that water-oak and pecan abound. As the traveller progresses westward, he finds the pecans larger and more abundant. The finest taken to New York market are gathered in Western Texas. The business of nutting is a healthful, pleasant and profitable employment for the younger members of a growing family. The soil varies from the lightest colored sandy post oak to the richest, blackest, and stickiest hog-wallow land. Wells of cool, refreshing water are obtained in all localities at a moderate depth. There are farms where successive crops have been raised for from ten to twenty-five years without a perceptible decrease of production. There is a gradual, but very perceptible elevation from the south to the northern boundaries, sufficient to produce the most perfect natural drainage, while in scarcely any part is there any extensive surface, either so flat as to retain stagnant water, or so hilly as to render it valueless for agricultural purposes.

Both sugar and cotton are profitably raised. Every farmer cultivates enough sorghum for his own use, and many grow ribbon cane with success.

Lands can be purchased at from \$2.50 to \$10 per acre.

**HALLETSVILLE.**

The county seat of Lavaca is sixteen miles south of Schulenberg. It has a population of about 700, and does its business with Schulenberg. There are two excellent hotels.

**WAELDER,**

in Gonzales County, is twelve miles west from Flatonia. Two years ago it was a cotton plantation. It is now a thriving town with a railroad depot, a telegraph, and all the conveniences of modern civilization. The school-house is an excellent building, delightfully located in a grove, and surrounded by a beautiful lawn. Prof. T. L. P. Holoman, the teacher, has located permanently, and is about to commence the erection of buildings for a manual labor school and college. The sight for the school is one of the most beautiful in the State, and the plans such as will place a thorough education at the command of any boy possessed of a willing mind and two strong arms. Mr. Pierce, whose private property most of the town is, has liber-

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### **HARWOOD,**

the next station, is thirteen miles from Waelden. It will probably be at this point that the proposed tap road to the city of Gonzales will have its depot. Harwood is the station for a large portion of the County of Gonzales.

### **THE CITY OF GONZALES.**

Gonzales, the county seat of Gonzales County is situated on the Guadalupe River, a short distance below its junction with the San Marcos. The town has about two thousand inhabitants. It has also a public park, a two-story sandstone court-house, a Masonic and Odd Fellows' college for both sexes.

### **GONZALES COUNTY**

is one of the most delightful in the State. The traveler, riding from Harwood to the city of Gonzales, a distance of twelve miles, passes through one of the most beautiful groves that can be anywhere seen. The trees are majestic, the grass abundant and clear of undergrowth.

This country embraces almost every variety of soil and timber. The valleys of the Guadalupe and St. Marcos are for the most part prairie, embracing two characters of soil, viz: Black waxy and dark gray soil, in which are perceptible numerous snail-shells. Both soils, with proper culture, are remarkably productive of all crops grown in the country, and when properly prepared, and in season, are easily cultivated.

The most useful of the timbers are walnut, pecan, mulberry, elm, sycamore, burr oak, and hackberry.

Black walnut grows here in greatest abundance, and of large size. Cabinet workmen manufacture it into elegant furniture. It is also used for fencing and building purposes. In some places are dense forests of pecan trees, whose nuts sometimes yield quite an income, a single tree being known to yield in one year as high as fifteen bushels of nuts. The large trees are also sawed into lumber, and used for building purposes.

On the west side of the river the prairies are in many places fast growing up with mesquit trees. This is also a valuable timber, being considered the very best attainable for fence posts. This tree often affords, in the beans which it produces, an immense amount of excellent food for cattle and horses, while the leaves and bark afford a good material for tanning leather, and a gum exudes



from wounds in the tree but little, if at all, inferior to gum arabic. Live-oak trees are also abundant.

Hard gray sandstone, an excellent building material, is found in several places, and also soft red sandstone, which answers a good purpose for building chimneys and walling wells.

Water for domestic purposes is generally obtained from wells or cisterns, there being but few springs except such as afford mineral waters.

The Guadalupe River, from 130 to 200 feet wide, and at most places deep enough for navigation, runs diagonally across the entire width of the county, and is joined just at the town of Gonzales by the San Morcas River, which is something smaller than the Guadalupe. These are both bold streams of clear water, which is not unpalatable to the taste in summer. Other small streams, as Peach Creek and the Sandies, besides other smaller streams, are tributaries to these. These streams, together with small lakes and artificial tanks, afford an ample supply of stock water in the greater portions of the country at all seasons. At present no effort is being made to utilize these streams in the propulsion of machinery. There can be no doubt of the sufficiency of the power, if that power can be controlled, and it would seem, from the high, bold banks, that it is practicable.

Nine miles beyond Harwood is the station of

### LULING.

The depot is three quarters of a mile from the San Marcos River. The traveler who passes through the town seldom dreams that at the other front of the city there is a scene of so much beauty.

The residences, and notwithstanding the fact that the town is but a few months old, there are many fine ones, are all located "off the road." There are about a dozen merchants and commission ware houses, two lumber yards, and a large number of other business places. There is a large and very neat public building, which serves for the double uses of school-house and church.

Among the institutions that are immediately in prospect is a young ladies' college of the highest character.

### MINERAL WATER.

Seven miles from Luling is the sour well of Dr. Burditt, which is much resorted to by invalids afflicted with consumption, scrofula, rheumatism, erysipelas, ulcers, malarious fever, liver complaint, derangement of the spleen, jaundice, dyspepsia, dropsy, affection of the kidneys, constipation, Bright's disease, piles, etc. The waters are anti-bilious, cathartic, diuretic, alterative and tonic.

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At Burditt's well

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Other wells have been dug, from which waters of a similar character are taken. There is one about two miles from Harwood.

At Burditt's well a large hotel will be erected this season.

#### **CALDWELL COUNTY.**

The larger portion of this fertile county is allied to the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railway. It is probably equal to any in richness of soil, salubrity, and beauty of scenery. It is about half timber and half prairie. There are numerous streams, with fertile valleys. The uplands are also very good. The grass is the nutritious mesquit, which covers so many of the western counties, and on which horses, cattle, and sheep always keep fat. The chief timber is live oak, elm, cottonwood, post oak, hickory, and ash. There are numerous small streams, with fine springs. The soil is loamy and easily cultivated. Caldwell is chiefly an agricultural county, though stock-raising is carried on to some extent. Corn and cotton are the chief products, but the cereals are also raised, though not as successfully as further north. All kinds of vegetables are grown.

The beautiful stream called the San Marcos is in the western part of the county, and affords water power for any number of mills, which will ere long make this a great manufacturing county

#### **THE RIVER SAN MARCOS.**

Far o'er the hills and toward the dying day  
Set like a heart, a living heart, deep, deep  
Within the bosom of its wide prairies,  
Lies the Valley of San Marcos. And there,  
A princess roused from slumber by the kiss  
Of balmy Southern skies, the river springs  
From out her rocky bed, and hastens on  
Far down the vale, to give her royal hand  
In marriage to the waiting Guadalupe.

Like some grim giant keeping silent watch,  
While from his feet his recreant daughter flies,  
Above, the hoary mountain stands, his head  
Encircled by an emerald-pointed crown  
Of cedars, strong as those of Lebanon,  
That bow their sombre crests, and woo the wind,  
Drunken with fragrance from the vale below.  
About his brow, set like a dusky chain,  
The mystic Race-Paths run — his amulet —  
And nestled squarely 'gainst his rugged breast,  
Perched quaintly 'mong the great, scarred rocks, that hang



Like tombstones on the mountain-side, the nest  
The FALCON built still lingers, though the wing  
That swept the gathering dust from off our shield,  
Hath long since drooped to dust!

— Now wooed by dusky glooms on either side,  
Now whirling round the craggy banks, now stayed  
By tangled vines that stretch their arms across,  
The river glideth farther from her sire.  
Below, an ancient mill, with laggard wheels,  
Is mirrored in her glassy depths, and broad.  
The mill-race reaches out his arms, all decked  
With pebble-stones, and fringed with purple flags,  
And strives to bar her onward course — in vain,  
For, nerved with sudden fear, she springs, and bright  
Her rainbow garments glitter in the sun,  
As on she pants toward the shallow ford.

And here, down sloping to the water's marge,  
The fields, all golden with the harvest, come ;  
And here the horseman, reigning in his steed,  
At eve, will pause and mark the village spires  
Gleam golden in the setting sun, and far  
Across a deeply furrowed field, will glance,  
With idle eye, upon a stately hill,  
That, girt with cedars, rises like a king,  
To mark the further limit of the field.

'T was there, between the hill and river, stood  
A shaded cottage ; and its roof was low  
And dark, and vines that twined the porch but served  
To hide the blackness of its wall. But then  
'T was home, and "*Heaven is near us in our childhood :*"  
And I was but a child ; and summer days,  
That since have oftentimes seemed long and sad,  
Were fleeter then than even the morning winds  
That sent my brother's fairy bark, well balanced,  
In safety down the river's tide. Alas !  
Is there, can there be aught in all the world  
To soothe the sick soul to such perfect rest  
As filled its early dreams ? Is there no fount,  
Like that of old so madly sought by Leon,  
Where the worn soul may bathe and rise renewed ?

And up and down the banks before our door,  
Now gathering up the yellow lily-buds,  
That lay like golden flagons on the stream,  
Now idly bending down the ragged sedge

That rustled in  
And now among  
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Down where the  
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That rustled in the lazy summer breeze,  
And now among the grape-vines, where thny hung  
In light festoons above the water-edge,  
With careless step I roamed.

Well I remember,  
Down where the river makes a sudden bend,  
Below the ford, and near the dusky road,  
Upon her bosom sleeps a fairy isle,  
Enwreathed about with snowy alder boughs,  
And tapestried with vines, that bore a flower  
Whose petals looked like drops of blood,  
(We called it "Lady of the Bleeding Heart,")  
And through it wandered little careless paths,  
That writhed like wounded snakes among the beds  
Of tufted grass; and o'er this living gem  
The very skies seemed bluer, and the waves  
That rippled round it, threw up brighter spray.  
Upon the banks for hours I stood, and longed  
To bask amid its shades; and when at last  
My brother dragged, with wondrous care, his boat,  
Rude-fashioned, small, and furnished with one oar,  
Across the long slope from the stately hill  
Where it was built, ne'er did Columbus' heart  
Beat with a throb so wild upon that shore,  
Unknown to any save to him, as ours,  
When, with o'erwearied hands and labored breath,  
We steered in safety o'er the dangerous way,  
And stood the monarchs of that fairy realm!  
My brother, how I wish our wayward feet  
Once more could feel that lordly pride — our hearts  
Once more know all their cravings satisfied!

Sweet valley of San Marcos! few are the years  
That since have linked their golden hands and fled  
Like spirits down the valley of the past —  
And yet it seems a weary time to me!  
Sweet River of San Marcos! the openings seen  
Between thy moss-hung trees, like golden paths  
That lead through Eden to Heaven's fairer fields,  
Show glimpses of the broad, free, boundless plains  
That circle thee around. Thine own prairies!  
How my sad spirit would exult to bathe  
Its wings, all heavy with the dust of care,  
Deep in their glowing beauty! How my heart,



O'ershadowed with this cloud of gloom, would wake  
To life anew beneath those summer skies !

My home is nestled now among the hills,  
The wooded hills, like those of that fair State,  
That queen among the daughters of the South,  
That gave me birth ; and gayly flits the breeze  
Among the boughs of oaks, whose trunks  
Are wedded with the rings of centuries :  
And maples, cloaked like princes, wave their flags  
Above the serried armies of the fern  
That march along the forest stream, where low  
The beeches sweep their brightly-gleaming leaves ;  
And one tall pine, a sentinel, keeps watch  
Before my very door.

The trees, the forest-trees ! My heart beats full  
And high beneath their stately limbs ! And yet,  
At times, methinks our mountain air seems thick ;  
And the green tresses of our forest trees,  
They choke my very breathing ! Then, then  
I fain would spurn my native shades, and fain  
Would sweep with untamed wing across the broad  
And boundless prairies of the West, and breathe  
My freedom back beneath unshadowed skies !

O river of my childhood ! fair Valley-Queen !  
Within thy bosom yet at morn the sun  
Dips deep his silver beams, and on thy tide  
At night, the stars, the yellow stars, are mirrored ;  
Through emerald marshes yet thine eddies curl,  
And yet that fairy isle in beauty sleeps,  
(Like her of old who waits the wakening kiss  
Of some true knight to break her magic sleep),  
And yet, heavy with purple cups, the flags  
Droop down toward the mill ; but I — oh, I  
No more will wander by thy shores, nor float  
At twilight down thy glassy tide ! — no more,  
And yet, San Marcos, when some river-flower,  
All swooning with its nectar drops, is laid  
Before my eyes, its beauty scarce is seen  
For tears which stain my eyelids, and for dreams  
Which glide before me of thy fairy charms,  
And swell my heart with longing,

Sweet River of San Marcos !

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**HAYS COUNTY.**

This is among the most beautiful counties of Texas. The San Marcos, whose head waters are located near the city of that name, is a most delightful river of clear spring water. The San Marcos, the San Pedro, the Comal, the San Antonio, the Guadalupe and other Texas streams, will one day become the habitual resort of the artist seeking studies from nature. Hays County produces both corn and cotton liberally. Peaches are abundant, and other fruits are being cultivated. There are fine churches and school-houses in all the settled portions of the county. The Coronal Institute is one of the finest buildings in the State. One department of it is conducted as a free school.

**GUADALUPE COUNTY.**

This county is next above Gonzales. The Guadalupe River runs through it. Much that was said of Gonzales applies to this county. Besides the Guadalupe, it has the Cibolo (pronounced Sewilla) on the west, and the San Marcos on the east. The surface of the county is more undulating than that of Gonzales, and presents many beautiful landscapes from all the higher elevations. Hill, dale, woodland, and prairie succeed each other in the view, and herds of cattle, horses, and sheep are seen in all directions, feeding on the luxuriant grass. Nearly one fourth of the county is timbered with post oak and other growths, and there is an abundance for fencing and fuel. Hogs are raised without cost. There are fat hogs in all this section that do not know the taste of corn. They live exclusively on the abundant mast. The woodland and prairie are about equal in quantity. The soil of the country embraces the black waxy, the black sandy, and the gray. These varieties are all fertile, and even the post oak uplands, which in former years attracted but little attention, are found to be capable of producing three fourths of a bale of cotton to the acre. In fact, about three fourths of a bale is an average crop on all the lands now devoted to cotton in the county. Of corn, about twenty-five bushels per acre is an average crop. Peaches, pears, plums, grapes, and figs in particular, thrive abundantly with a reasonable amount of attention. The culture of small fruits has of late been attempted with abundant prospect of success.

Guadalupe County is one of the best stock-raising counties in the State, and considerable attention has been given to the improvement of horses, cattle and hogs.

The healthiness of Guadalupe County is unsurpassed anywhere in the wide world. Situated over 500 feet above the level of the Gulf, its salubrity has given it an enviable notoriety.



Free schools and churches abound throughout the county, and law and order prevail.

### KINGSBURY,

the next station on the road, is one hundred and sixty-seven miles west of Harrisburg, and within forty-eight miles of San Antonio.

### SEGUIN.

Seguin, the county seat of Guadalupe County, is located near the geographical centre of the county. It is delightfully situated on a level plat, bordering on the Guadalupe River. It has a population of about twelve hundred.

It has also two high schools, one for males and one for females. There is also here a large, new Masonic Hall, an Odd Fellows Hall, and two hotels.

The roads leading to and from the town, as well as throughout the county, are generally very fine.

Seguin society is as good as any in the State. The churches are well patronized, and the schools well attended.

The distance from Seguin to New Braunfels is, on an air line, about twelve miles, and between the two towns there are in the Guadalupe River, abrupt falls, which, in the aggregate, amount to more than eighty feet. As the river at the several falls has a rock bottom and sides, the water power it could be made to produce would of necessity be immense. Eventually this power will be made available, and this section of country will become a large manufacturing district.

### MARION.

Marion is situated on the east bank of the Guadalupe River, and is at present the last station open for business, although by February 1st, 1877, the road will be completed to San Antonio, a distance of twenty-eight miles.

There are at this point large freight depots, which are crowded with merchandise awaiting transportation to San Antonio and Galveston.

The road, after leaving Marion, crosses the river on an iron bridge consisting of four spans of a total length of nearly seven hundred feet, built by the Keystone Bridge Co., of Pennsylvania.

From or near this station the branch road to New Braunfels will be built.

### COMAL COUNTY.

The topography is that of rolling black land with hills in the southern portion. The more northern section of the county consists of a series of terraced table lands and small fertile valleys. No more delightful topography could be desired by an agriculturalist

than that which Co  
the sea is 733 feet.  
and their tributaries

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than that which Comal County presents. Its mean elevation above the sea is 733 feet. It is watered by the Gaudalupe, Comal, Cibolo, and their tributaries.

The inhabitants of this county enjoy a marked immunity from pulmonary troubles, and there are a number of consumptives who have, by residence in Comal, been restored to comparative health. So healthy is it, that the annual rate of mortality is but the one seventh of one per cent. of the entire population, while the birth rate is five per cent. So that for each funeral there are thirty-five christenings. It is so like a section of Germany, that the stranger fancies himself in the domains of Emperor William. As one approaches the county town, New Braunfels, he sees constant evidences of that industrious thrift which the Germans always display. The houses are white as snow, the door-yards filled with flowers, the horses sleek, and the cows fat. On all sides he sees the evidences of prosperity and wealth.

German is the vernacular tongue, and while the children are all taught English, they all speak German of choice.

#### NEW BRAUNFELS,

the county seat, is situated at the confluence of the Comal with the Guadalupe. It was settled by a German colony under the leadership of Prince Salms Braunfels, in 1846, and at the present time contains about 6,000 inhabitants. There has been but little immigration since the original colony came out. Those who came have all grown rich.

There are no colleges for young ladies in the land whose pupils excel in fancy work the poorest daughters of New Braunfels. There is an excellent school-house, built of limestone rock, by private subscription, where a free school is maintained of nearly three hundred pupils.

In this city there are thirty dry-goods stores, three flouring mills, three saw mills, a large factory for cotton cloth, one for woolen cloth, a sash factory, and mechanic shops of nearly every description. The country around is supplied with wagons and buggies from these shops, and from four thousand to five thousand saddle-trees are made annually. This place supplies the country around with barrels for beef-packing, molasses, etc. This is quite a cotton mart for the surrounding region, exporting to Mexico annually several thousand bales.

But what gives New Braunfels peculiar advantages over all other Southern cities, is her immense water power. The Comal, which is only about three miles long, has on one half this distance a fall or momentum of two thousand horse power, and here never overflows its banks.



The Comal Springs, within a few hundred yards of the Schmidt hotel, are a marvel of rustic beauty, beside which the much-vaunted scenery of the Wissahickon is insipid. When artists and poets know the beauties of the Comal they will have new themes for their pens, and new subjects for their pencils.

But every foot of this land which so delights the artist, is a mine of wealth to the industrious millwright. A little above the town a fall of fifteen feet is obtained by simply turning the water out of the bed of the stream by a brush dam, which causes the water to flow in a natural mill-race, through which it is conducted to a dry creek, forming a natural outlet for the water to the river. With this fall, which might be increased by elevating the dam, there is power sufficient to run a saw mill, a grist mill, and two cotton gins. A very large stone flouring mill is in the course of erection. There is at this point a never-failing power sufficient to propel any machinery that can be erected upon it. Were one to describe the scenery of the Comal, the reader would suspect that he had for his theme the imaginary beauties of a spectacular drama. Were he to tell of the water power that here wastes its strength, the prospecting immigrant would whisper to his friend, "Beware of the land agent!"

When the branch railroad shall be completed to New Braunfels, the business and prosperity of the city will be enhanced ten-fold, while the value of the property will be more than doubled.

### SAN ANTONIO.

San Antonio, the county-seat of Bexar County, is the oldest city in Texas, having been settled in 1693. It has a population of about 20,000, two thirds being American and European, and the remainder Mexican and colored. The city is built upon the banks of two streams, the San Antonio and the San Pedro — the former bursting out of the earth at the foot of a range of hills and rock quarries, about three and a half miles above the Court House, a perfect limpid river in its principal spring; the latter a lovely spring and beautiful creek, in the city park, one mile from the Main Plaza. The principal advantages to be derived from these streams in the future, will arise from developing and utilizing their immense water powers. Here capitalists will seek investment in cotton factories, woolen mills, flour mills, tanneries, paper mills and many other mechanical industries, all of which will unite to make of San Antonio the leading city of Texas.

It has three daily newspapers and sixteen schools.

It is exceedingly difficult to arrive at anything like correct data regarding the commercial standing of San Antonio, for the reason that no statistics are kept, and that much of the business is in the hands of those who are averse to giving information, thinking that

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it will induce competition. The business, large as it is, will be more than double on the advent of the railway, for it will still continue to absorb all the Mexican trade, which will be then greatly enhanced.

San Antonio is the headquarters of the Military Department of Texas, and will so continue for many years to come. This one fact gives rise to a large trade, and creates a great demand for the products of the country.

The salubrity of this climate is such that it is the resort of invalids from all parts of the country. One meets a score of consumptives in all stages of recovery at each of the hotels. There is in San Antonio a corps of highly educated and trained observers, whose observations are the accepted data of science. The large number of invalids who desire to prolong life by breathing the salubrious air of San Antonio, need not fear inferior hotel accommodations. Every comfort and luxury that can be procured anywhere is to be had in San Antonio. Fine fish, game, and fruits are always to be had cheaply. The cost of supplying a table in San Antonio is not more than half what it would require in New York City.

#### SAN ANTONIO IN HISTORY.

Every stone of this beautiful city has been consecrated by the blood of a patriot. San Antonio has, for a century, been the battle ground of human liberty. Its fortified places have been taken, retaken, and retaken again; while the Alamo still stands the monument of a battle greater than Thermopylæ; for while one Greek lived to tell the story of heroic defense, not one Texan ever opened his lips to tell how his fellows died.

When the centennial of the Alamo shall have come, freemen from every part of the habitable globe will assemble around its venerated walls to celebrate the heroic virtue of Travis, Bowie, Crockett, Bonham and the one hundred and eighty-three martyrs to Texan liberty. The story of the "fall of the Alamo" is the brightest page of Texan history. It is brighter than that of Bunker Hill, of Trenton, or of Princeton. Lovers of liberty in centuries yet unborn will come from afar to kneel on the spot where Travis fell; to gather a stone in memory of the chamber where Bowie was slaughtered on his bed, and to see the place where old Davy Crockett, the heroic bear-fighter of Tennessee, shed his blood for the freedom of Texas.

#### BEXAR COUNTY.

The principal streams in Bexar County are the Cibolo, Salado, San Antonio and Medina, which afford an abundant supply of running water the year round. The bottom lands of these streams







## STATIONS.

STATIONS.		MILES.	
Harrisburg.			
Pierce Junction.			
Stafford.			
Walker.			
Quigg*			
Manchester.			
Richmond.			
Randon.			
East Bernard.			
West Bernard.			
Eagle Lake.			
Alleyton.			
Columbus.			
Borden.			
Weimar.			
Schulenburg.			
Flatonia.			
Waelder.			
Harwood.			
Luling.			
Kingsbury.			
Seguin.			
Marion.			
San Antonio.			

te. Railroad surveys



## A TABLE

*Of Mean Temperature, Relative Humidity of the Air, and Rainfall, etc., at San Antonio, Texas, for the year 1873, as observed by Dr. Fred. v. Pettersen.*

	Mean standard thermometer.	Mean Hygrometer.	Mean relative humidity of the air.	Maximum temperature.	Minimum temperature.	Extreme range.	Mean range of temperature from day to day.	Rainfall in inches.	Number of rain days.	Number of days cloudy.	Number of days clear.	REMARKS.	
January	49.59	43.61	62.4	75	16	59	3° 3	0.50	3	21	10	Maximum, 14th	Minimum, 29th.
February	58.72	52.63	65.8	82	34	48	2.2	0.61	7	22	6	" 18 and 20	" 2.
March	64.50	59.27	72.6	92	31	61	3° 0	2.43	9	28	3	" 30	" 26.
April	67.67	59.08	63.4	97	36	61	1.5	0.58	2	23	7	" 28	" 9 and 16.
May	75.79	69.06	71.7	98	48	50	1.6	4.34	10	29	2	" 15	" 2.
June	78.56	75.24	86.9	96	65	31	0.9	9.37	18	26	4	" 29	" 2.
July	81.16	74.37	76.1	97.5	69	27.5	0.5	2.56	7	27	4	" 11 and 13	" 20.
August	80.16	75.00	78.1	96	71	25	0.8	1.89	8	28	3	" 5 and 21	" 20 and 27.
September	76.27	71.52	79.3	94.5	60	34.5	0.4	5.94	5	22	8	" 22	" 17.
October	65.66	61.49	74.1	93.5	37	56.5	0.7	3.96	7	22	9	" 5	" 29.
November	58.73	54.21	75.6	87	31.5	55.5	1.6	1.66	7	18	12	" 16	" 19.
December	55.76	52.05	77.9	86	31	55	1.0	0.37	5	26	5	" 3	" 27 and 28.
Means.	67.62	62.29	73.6	91.2	44.1	47	1.5	34.21	88	292	73		

MEAN TEMPERATURE FOR THE SEASON AND YEAR (means obtained from six years' observation).

Spring: 69.94.

Summer: 83.56.

Autumn: 68.05.

Winter: 52.94.

Year: 68.85.

Mean Annual Rainfall (six years), 36.99.

Two thirds of the products are sorghum, sugar from two to three average crop of bale, and of wheat market town. cultivated, it is two sons, raised are churches and the best quality, Boerne, thirty feet above San Antonio, the level of the dall county, as rich valley of the of hilly peaks.

commences, and over a single brook way. This valley in places with timber for miles, while it probably, than fifty one day be irrigated, and hedged lute, and hedged sweep down on the age. This valley where, both for agriculture and with settlements, as yet not one a head of this magnificent of the center

This is a delightful south and east of the timber suffice the stone. The county called Sutherland staples. Sugar abound. The Sugar



## WILSON COUNTY.

This is a delightful though, as yet, but sparsely-settled county, south and east of San Antonio. The soil is good and well watered; the timber sufficient for fencing, and an abundance of fine building stone. The county is best known for its mineral waters, which are called Sutherland Springs. Corn and cotton are the leading staples. Sugar cane and tobacco do well. Grapes and peaches abound. The San Antonio and the Cibolo pass through the county.

## KERR COUNTY

commences, and for twenty miles above Comfort the traveler passes over a single broad valley, through which the Guadalupe winds its way. This valley varies from one to three miles in width; is covered in places with timber, in others the smooth, green prairie extending for miles, while the soil is rich and productive. Containing not less, probably, than fifty thousand acres of arable land, all of which will one day be irrigated by an *acequia madre*, taken from the Guadalupe, and hedged in by the high range of picturesque hills which sweep down on each side, and which furnish inexhaustible pasturage. This valley is one of the most remarkable to be found anywhere, both for its rare beauty and its value for all purposes of agriculture and stock-raising. The river is already well studded with settlements, and there are several saw and flouring mills, but as yet not one acre in fifty has been fenced or cultivated. At the head of this magnificent valley is situated the town of Kerrville, the centre of the cattle trade, and a busy, bustling place of business.

## KENDALL COUNTY.

Two thirds of this county is timber, and one third is prairie. The products are barley, oats, potatoes, broom corn, castor beans, sorghum, sugar cane, tobacco, etc. All do well. Millet yields from two to three tons per acre. The ramie plant does well. The average crop of corn is twenty bushels, of cotton three fourths of a bale, and of wheat fifteen bushels per acre. San Antonio is the market town. As an evidence of the ease with which the land is cultivated, it is reported that Mr. Langbein, with the help of his two sons, raised two thousand five hundred bushels of corn. There are churches and schools in the county; water in abundance, and of the best quality. Farming is never interrupted by the winters.

Boerne, thirty miles from San Antonio, at least six hundred feet above San Antonio in altitude, and twelve hundred feet above the level of the Gulf, is a thriving village, the county seat of Kendall county, as has been before mentioned; situated in a broad, rich valley of elevated table-land, surrounded by an amphitheatre of hilly peaks and ridges, it is famous as the centre, for many

MEAN TEMPERATURE FOR THE SEASON AND YEAR (means obtained from six years' observation).

Spring: 69.94.

Summer: 83.56.

Autumn: 68.05.

Winter: 52.94.

Year: 68.85.

Mean Annual Rainfall (six years), 36.99.

	70.27	71.52	73.3	79.3	94.5	60	34.5	0.4	5.94	5	22	8	22	17.
September.	65.66	61.49	74.1	74.1	93.5	37	56.5	0.7	3.96	7	22	9	5	"
October.	58.73	54.21	75.6	75.6	87	31.5	55.5	1.6	1.66	7	18	12	16	"
November.	55.76	52.05	77.9	77.9	86	31	55	1.0	0.37	5	26	5	3	"
December.														"
Means.	67.62	62.29	73.6	73.6	91.2	44.1	47	1.5	34.21	88	292	73	3	27 and 28.



years, of the sheep interest, and has been rendered classic, with all its romantic surroundings, by the pen of the lamented George Wilkins Kendall, who, having chosen the vicinity as his home, now rests in his last sleep under the live oaks of its cemetery.

"The fruits and vegetables of this latitude all flourish here; indeed, for diversified husbandry, for farming and stock-raising together, this hilly or mountainous region, of which Kendall and the surrounding counties form a part, offer advantages seldom found combined in the same locality. And when, superadded to this, it becomes more generally known that this is the healthiest country in the civilized world, it will not be deemed extravagant to predict that here, at no very distant day, will be a seat of wealth and intelligence, of prosperity and progress. For it may be said, almost literally, that the inhabitants of this region are not sick; and were the extraordinary salubrity, and almost total absence of sickness here, known to the dwellers in the older States, where malaria and fevers plague them in summer, and pneumonia, rheumatism, and other ills afflict them in winter, they would come in crowds to occupy this favored land."

These remarks apply to all this mountain region, which includes a number of the adjoining counties. A physician at San Antonio states that there are many families in this region who have never seen a dose of quinine, and who have no knowledge of its character. This will be glad tidings to the inhabitants of those sections in which the quinine bottle always stands beside the family clock, and is equally indispensable to housekeeping.

### THE WEST.

San Antonio is the present objective point of the Sunset Route, but beyond it there is a large domain already sparsely settled, and destined to become the home of an immense population. The Counties of Atascosa, Medina, Frio, Uvalde, Zavalla, Maverick, Kinney, Bandera, Kimble, Kerr, and Edwards, are already holding out their inducements to the immigrant. These do business at San Antonio, and as their population increases, so will the wealth and commerce of San Antonio.

The running streams west of San Antonio are the Medina, Sabinal, Frio, Leona, and Rio Grande. The counties above mentioned contain fine productive soil, of every character; have fine range, and are timbered with mesquit, elm, live and post-oak, and black-jack, and some cedar. Lands in the said mentioned counties can be bought from one dollar to five dollars per acre: average price, one dollar and a half. The price of corn varies from fifty cents to one dollar, according to season. Zavalla and Frio Counties are said to be the best for raising sheep. Sheep raising, when

properly managed  
Land can readily  
and will work.

Mr. Lorenzo  
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properly managed, yields a fine profit on the capital invested. Land can readily be obtained by those who are disposed to, and can and will work.

Mr. Lorenzo Castro, of Medina County, writes: "In our black-jack and post-oak forest — which commences west of Castroville and extends southeast into the southeast corner of Medina County, Atascosa, Bexar, and lower down — fine hogs are raised without any expense, that bring from six to seven cents per pound, dressed. Water is found by digging a few feet all over that country; timber abundant for fencing and building purposes. The soil can be broken with one yoke of oxen: corn grows well with one rain; the cotton plant grows to the height of nine feet, of extraordinary size; the largest sweet potatoes and watermelons are grown here, and find a ready market in San Antonio, Castroville, and other towns.

Atascosa is strictly a stock-growing county, and its inhabitants pay only enough attention to agricultural pursuits to make their own breadstuffs.

It is very reliable as a corn and potato county, yielding also bountifully all garden vegetables, melons, peaches, etc. Grapes grow wild in all the creek bottoms.

It is one of the northern border counties of that vast expanse of country known locally as Southwestern Texas, and the seat of the mighty stock men of the prairies. To the west, southwest, south, and southeast of Atascosa, for thousands of square miles, carpeted with mesquit and sedge grasses, which flourish in verdure throughout the year, lie the counties of Medina, Uvalde, Dawson, Kinney, Maverick, Zavalla, Frio, Dimmit, Lasalle, McMullen, Karnes, Live Oak, Bee, Goliad, Refugio, San Patricio, Nueces, Duval, Encinal, Webb, Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo, and Cameron.

### **SHEEP RAISING.**

The country west of San Antonio is unsurpassed as a region for sheep raising. John James, Esq., one of the most intelligent citizens of San Antonio, has been for many years largely interested in the raising of sheep. He has embodied his experience in a short article, which he published for the benefit of the hundreds who sought the benefit of his advice. Mr. James states that he has underrated the profits of sheep raising purposely, so that none may be deceived by his picture:—

### **SHEEP HUSBANDRY IN WESTERN TEXAS.**

Ten years ago, there were very few sheep in the country west of this city. Further south, toward the Rio Grande, there were many flocks, principally of the coarse-wooled sheep introduced from



Mexico. In cases where they were owned by Americans, the rule was to procure good rams to get a finer and more valuable grade of wool. The country is well adapted for the merino sheep. We know of no other diseases among them except the scab, which is not hard to cure, nor is the expense heavy to do so. We think that the scab will not originate in that country, if the sheep are properly cared for, and kept out of dirty pens.

"We run our sheep in flocks of from ten to fifteen hundred, generally as high as the last-named figure; and we use Mexicans for shepherds, and pay them twelve dollars a month, and rations, which cost about six dollars a month more.

"The cost of living on a rancho may be rated somewhat as to the taste and habits of each ranchero. If persons can economize labor, the outlay for food is not a serious item. Meat is abundant and cheap, and is generally produced on the rancho. The people live generally upon fresh meat, — cattle, hogs, mutton, chickens, and game. Coffee, sugar, and flour cost higher than where there are railroads. Corn is either raised on the rancho, or purchased at about one dollar per bushel, and there are mills within reach to grind it. Sheep and cattle men care very little for farming, their attention in spring of the year being devoted to their stock, which then requires more attention than at other times.

"We find that the finer-wooled sheep pay the best, but we do not want pampered sheep. We have not tried fairly to raise the finer and heavier mutton sheep. We know they do not herd well, or as well as the merinos. A great deal of expense is saved by being able to run them in large flocks.

"We put the rams Oct. 1: therefore our lambs begin to drop by the 1st of March. We run the rams with the ewes for a month or two months, after which we separate them, and keep them apart until October. Two rams for one hundred ewes will do, but three are better. It is doing well to raise 800 lambs a year old from 1,000 ewes. Probably 900 will be born, and generally nearly all are raised. The merino sheep seldom brings more than one lamb.

"Shearing is done in May. A good hand at that work will shear and tie up fifty fleeces in a day. If the labor is employed off the rancho, the cost of shearing, tying up the wool, and sacking it, is five cents a fleece. We do not wash our sheep, and we sell our wool in San Antonio for gold. Often the agents of the manufacturers come here, and buy the best clips. There is generally a fair competition for the purchase of it. My sales of wool within the last six years have averaged for each sheep from \$1 to \$1.25 in gold. The lowest price per pound received was 19 cents, the highest price 42 cents.

"I have my flock which point is about as far as now tried by our shepherd sleep flocks at night we put up any fence they get, upon the do we have any what we find in growths, the object

"Our grasses, best cultivated grass require. Herbs, tribute more to the named are peculiar the names of, in by the Mexicans

"The climate but generally he Gulf in summer sometimes wet, but year, the atmosphere of the reasons which ranges the sheep this is another reason not require much is plenty for them abundant in their range they should not.

"In selecting and it takes an animals before a

"The value age. The finer them are satisfied sell, if they could and a half for the fine sheep five to a hundred bucks in June, from Illinois, and them. We are

"There are now in Uvalde will yield twenty



"I have my flocks about sixty-five miles south-west of this city, which point is about the eastern limit of the best sheep country, so far as now tried and known. We do not pen our flocks at night; our shepherd sleeps out on the ranges at night with the sheep, the flocks at night being near each other for mutual protection; nor do we put up any feed for winter use. The grasses and other food they get, upon the average, is as good in January as in June. Nor do we have any shelter for them during stormy weather, except what we find in the ranges in the way of thickets and undergrowths, the object then being to break off the force of the wind.

"Our grasses, we think, are as nutritious and valuable as the best cultivated grasses. But the grasses are not all that sheep require. Herbs, shrubs, *nopal*, and saline grasses and plants, contribute more to fatten these animals than the grasses. These last named are peculiar to that country, and which we Americans know the names of, in some instances, by the designation given to them by the Mexicans in their own language, but not otherwise.

"The climate in the sheep country referred to is generally warm, but generally healthful, being tempered by the breezes from the Gulf in summer; while our coldest weather comes as northerly, sometimes wet, but oftener dry. For a considerable part of the year, the atmosphere has but little moisture in it; and this is one of the reasons why it is a good sheep country. Often in the best ranges the sheep have to be driven two or four miles to water; and this is another reason why the sheep thrive so well, for sheep do not require much water. In the hottest weather, water once a day is plenty for them; and they do better so than when water is abundant in their ranges, for they will drink it when it is better that they should not. It is true that a dry climate is the best for sheep.

"In selecting a sheep rancho, the black land is to be avoided; and it takes an expert to make a good selection of a point for these animals before actually testing it by using the sheep upon it.

"The value of breeding sheep is regulated by their quality and age. The finer flocks can hardly be purchased, as those who have them are satisfied with them, and would purchase more, rather than sell, if they could do so. The value may be stated at one dollar and a half for coarse-wooled Mexican ewes, up to five dollars for the fine sheep in flocks. Good and fine rams sell at from twenty-five to a hundred dollars or more. I purchased thirty yearling bucks in June, selected out of one hundred and fifty brought here from Illinois, and I paid sixty dollars a head in hard money for them. We are breeding for a larger sheep and a longer staple.

"There are plenty four-year-old mutton sheep upon the ranchos now in Uvalde and Frio Counties, which will net sixty pounds, and will yield twenty pounds of tallow; and this is a good weight for



merino sheep to reach. Last January I sold my four-year-old wethers at the rancho, for three dollars and seventy-five cents per head in gold; and they were fine and fat when they were slaughtered in Chicago in the spring. David Brown sold six hundred a few days since at Uvalde, at three dollars and fifty cents a head.

"It is true that this business will be an important one in this country. I think it will be second only to the great cotton interests of Texas; but it will take time to get the breeding stock to occupy the country. Sheep for breeding purposes can be got from Mexico, but they are very indifferent in quality and size, and their wool is very coarse: otherwise they have to come from the Western States.

"By selling our mutton in January or February, when animals for food are often on the decline in more northern countries, and generally so in other parts of Texas, we are enabled to get fair prices, which compensates us for the distance we are from our market. This we will call the first crop. The second crop is the wool which comes into market about the last of May; and I regard each crop as more certain than by cultivating the soil.

"The labor to attend sheep is not hard work; but a lazy man does not suit the business, as these animals require good and regular attention, and never should be neglected, if you would be prosperous. When a wool-grower has sheep enough to supply a flock-master, say five thousand head or more, fifty cents a year will keep and care for each sheep, including taxes and all other expenditures, and will also enable a man to procure and pay more reliable labor than we have now.

"You will also note that this country is outside of what is generally known as the best agricultural country of Texas, as the grain raised in it is generally raised upon irrigable lands, where such lands can be found; and there is enough of it to be found to keep grain down to a reasonable price, to supply the wool and cattle men at present and in the future; there being one irrigable farm in Uvalde County, which produces some twenty thousand bushels of grain, besides other farms of like character in cultivation, or being brought into cultivation. This country will also raise its own sugar, and probably rice to supply its wants, after a year or two. Cane has proved to be a success in Kinney County: a large quantity of sugar has been made there the present year. So you may also note that a country which can raise its own food of a fine quality, and have for exportation wool and mutton, and a great deal of it, besides its immense cattle interest, with its desirable climate, can not long remain without attracting special attention to it.

"To conclude, I will say that wool-growers using several thou-

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sand acres of land each (regulated, of course, by the number of sheep each grower has) are not likely to have many neighbors. Therefore men having families used to society must have a residence in a village as near to their business as they can find a suitable location; otherwise the females in the family are lonesome, being often left alone while the men are attending to the flocks. The business suits single men better at the present time; but upon the general occupation of the country that difficulty will be less felt.

"Lands for sheep have been purchased generally during the past year (1874) at about fifty cents per acre; but values are increasing. Wool-growers may begin upon a small tract of land; but the time is at hand when they will be required to own or rent the land they graze upon. All prudent wool-growers buy lands adjoining to them as fast as their means will permit them to do so."

#### POTTERY AND OTHER CLAYS.

Mr. J. M. Wilson, of Seguin, Guadalupe County, thus writes of the pottery clays of Western Texas:—

"In Washington County there is exposed, on a large scale, a deposit of hydrated silicate of aluminum. The same formation crops out in Gonzales County, south-west from its appearance in Washington County, showing the direction of its range. It is pronounced by chemists in Germany, who examined it, the best of pipe clay, used in making the finest quality of pipes. It is refractory, and would make an admirable ingredient in making fine porcelain. It is also an excellent article to use in glazing other ware.

"In the same neighborhood, a few miles off, there is a deposit of talcose clay. It is insoluble, and would require to be ground up in a suitable mill. It is very fine in its texture, and unctuous to the touch. I have met with samples from other localities, showing that beds exist elsewhere, though undiscovered as yet. Both these formations would be valuable in the manufacture of fine porcelain, and, had we facilities for transportation, might be shipped profitably to manufacturers.

"On the San Antonio River, about fifteen miles above Helena, I saw a fine specimen of pottery clay which was washed from the bed of the river, showing its existence there. I learned from a gentleman of the neighborhood that it was abundant a few miles below, in an accessible position.

"Near by there is a deposit of very finely comminutive silica, slightly mixed with white alumina, that would be an admirable ingredient to put into clay to prepare it for making stoneware. It seems to be well suited, with gypsum or plaster of paris, to make stucco work. Suitably handled, pressed, and burned, it would



make a beautiful brick, similar to the 'Bath brick,' for cleaning and polishing table cutlery. As both alumina and silica, singly or in combination, are very refractory, a little clay added to this silicious formation would make an excellent fire-brick. In the same section there are evidences of the existence of other beds of pure and valuable clays and other minerals used in the ceramic art. These deposits, in all probability, extend across Texas to the Rio Grande."

### CLIMATE OF WESTERN TEXAS.

The highest heat of summer seldom rises over ninety-five degrees. We know that this statement will be received incredulously by those who think only of temperature as it is affected by latitude. The cool Gulf breeze which tempers the summer heat makes the climate far more balmy than that of more northern localities.

Sunstroke is extremely unusual, if not entirely unknown, in Western Texas. So much for the summer. When the rivers and ponds of more northern States are frozen hard and fast, and when no crop save that of ice is thought of, the farmers of Western Texas are ploughing and planting. When Northern ladies are wrapped in furs, their Texas sisters are plucking roses, and gathering green peas. Farming is never interrupted by the cold. The Texas planter is not compelled, as is his Northern brother, to toil early and late for seven months, that he may feed a few head of cattle during the remaining five.

There has been a good deal said about

### TEXAS NORTHERS,

and many have been taught to look upon them as about the meanest weather with which humanity could be afflicted. The truth is, they always spring up after a spell of warm, pleasant weather. The sudden change enhances their apparent discomfort, and makes them felt more sensibly and disagreeably. They seldom last more than three days. So closely do they adhere to this rule, that, if one begins on Wednesday night, a lady may always arrange her Sunday apparel with a calm assurance that the day will be pleasant, and the congregation large. There is one other good trait in the much-maligned character of Texas northers, — they are never unhealthy. It is stated by medical men, that consumption never originates in a country subject to them.

### WHAT BOYS CAN DO IN TEXAS.

The Gonzales "Inquirer" says: —

"Two sons of Capt. J. P. Renfro, aged respectively thirteen and fifteen, set out to make a crop for themselves. Their father

gave them the season, putting of millet, making thoroughly cultivated (printing) in fine little fellows had

The following of W. G. King

"Mr. Andrew

"I came to

1866 I cultivated of corn. The season produced 35 bushels

"In 1867 I

15 bushels to the acre.

"In 1868 I

same result.

"In 1869 I

year forty acres

"In 1870 I

bushels per acre bushels to the acre

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gave them the land, which they broke up and planted early in the season, putting in thirty-five acres of corn, two of cotton, and three of millet, making forty acres in all. The whole crop has been thoroughly cultivated by themselves, and is now (at the time of printing) in fine condition, and gives promise of rewarding these little fellows handsomely."

#### INSTANCES OF SUCCESS.

The following statements have been published on the authority of W. G. Kingsbury, Esq., of San Antonio.

"Mr. Andres Langbeine of Kendall County says:—

"I came to Sisterdale in 1865, too late to make a crop. In 1866 I cultivated seven acres of rye and wheat, and eighteen acres of corn. The seven acres yielded 105 bushels of grain, and the corn produced 35 bushels to the acre.

"In 1867 I planted eighteen acres of wheat. This yield was 15 bushels to the acre, and my corn this year brought 40 bushels to the acre.

"In 1868 I planted the same area of land, with just about the same result.

"In 1869 wheat yielded 13 bushels to the acre. I planted this year forty acres in corn, which produced 50 bushels to the acre.

"In 1870 my crop of wheat was 23 bushels per acre, rye 10 bushels per acre. I planted 45 acres in corn, and harvested 50 bushels to the acre.

"The present year (1872) I have harvested of wheat 18 bushels, rye 15 bushels, oats 45 bushels, per acre. I planted sixty-five acres in corn, and harvested 3,600 bushels, an average of over 55 bushels to the acre."

"In company with a friend I visited this gentleman's house a few days before his wheat was harvested. He is living in one of the most fertile and delightful sections of all Texas; knows how and is willing to work; uses many of the most improved agricultural implements, and has made farming pay to such an extent that he is now the owner of many thousands of acres of the best Guadalupe River bottom lands. We examined his crops. The heads of his wheat were six inches long, and filled with plump kernels to the very end. We looked in vain through his cornfield for a weed or a missing hill. His fields were well tilled, his cribs filled with corn, and his barns with hay and fodder; his family carriage, his reapers and mowers, his cultivators, harrows, and ploughs, wagons, and farm-tools generally, were under shelter, and well cared for; he boarded a schoolmaster in his house; his horses and cattle dotted the adjacent valley; and his hospitality to us strangers was truly royal. We shall long remember the five hours' visit to Mr. Langbeine's house.



"We give the following to show what a poor man can do in Texas, if disposed to work. Mr. V. Gallm, eighteen miles northwest of San Antonio, Bexar County, came to this place in October, 1870, with eight hundred dollars all told; gave two hundred of it for two hundred acres of land; has now fifteen acres under fence, most of it being of rock; has four acres in cultivation; made this year 120 bushels of corn, one ton of millet, and three tons of fodder. His wife had made and sold, by the first of September, two hundred dollars' worth of butter. He sells from five to eight dollars' worth of prairie hay per week; has got a good comfortable stone dwelling-house, five very large hogs, twenty-two cows, two horses and two mules, a wagon, farm tools and furniture. He values his place now at \$1,500; has had no one to help him but his little son, now fifteen years old; does not owe a dollar in the world, and has money on hand. Now, in what country can a poor man do better than this, if we count this man's land acre for acre against the Northern man's? He has accumulated more property in two years than the average Northern farmer can show for a lifetime of hard labor.

"We now give the case of Mr. John C. Ross, post-office Somerset, Atascosa County, Tex. This gentleman is from Sutherlandshire, Scotland, and reached San Antonio with just means enough to procure four hundred acres of land, on which he settled in September, 1870. He cultivated the first year fifteen acres, and made two hundred and fifty bushels of corn. He has now twenty-five acres in cultivation, and forty-five under fence; has made this year three hundred and fifty bushels of corn, and five thousand pounds of cotton; has got a good comfortable house, with the necessary comforts about him; a wagon, and team of four horses, a good yoke of cattle, ten head of horses, seventy head of gentle stock hogs, and has made this year six hundred dollars cutting and selling prairie hay to the Government. I do not wish it understood that Mr. Ross has done all this work with his own two hands. He has hired hands, worked others and paid for them from the proceeds of their labor, and by great industry and close management is accumulating property rapidly.

"Charles P. Smith, Calaveras Creek, post-office San Antonio. This gentleman resigned a captain's commission in the United States Army a little over a year ago, to engage in Texas farming. He has cultivated this year twenty-five acres new land, and made fourteen hundred bushels of corn, or fifty-six bushels to the acre. His land was shaded by a great number of trees he was unable to get out, or he believes his crop would have reached sixty bushels. Capt. Smith is from Pittsburg, Penn., and is delighted with Western Texas farm life.

"Mr. I. M. Atascosa County health completely hundred and selling a stock perfectly restored hundred and eig peach-orchard of trees, plum-trees three hundred buggy, a wagon of all kinds.

"We looked his peach-trees, fruit, and fully worth, up to that and, although I less true to the bushels of sweet long. He made rain, which came The secret of the plough, which lo furrow, or twenty sandy loam, with men have ever a greater disadvantage under a live-oak men out of Texas about it. He has a good well of houses, garden, refined Kentucky arranged about beauty, happiness.

"As sugar-cane no doubt in the result of a Columbia, Matamoros year 1869, with that year, and in 1870 he made pounds each, of corn, and ten expenses, for \$



"Mr. I. M. Cowan (from Kentucky), post-office Somerset, Atascosa County, commenced on his present place in 1865, with his health completely broken down. He pre-empted the land, one hundred and sixty acres, and made his first money by killing and selling a stock of wild hogs, one half for the other. He is now perfectly restored to health, and has got a beautiful farm of one hundred and eighty-six acres, eighty-eight acres under fence; a fine peach-orchard of seven hundred and fifty trees; a number of pear-trees, plum-trees, grape-vines, &c.; has thirty-two swarms of bees, three hundred head of hogs, thirty-five horses, one large jack, a buggy, a wagon and pair of Kentucky mules, and farm implements of all kinds.

"We looked over this place on the 18th of August last; saw his peach-trees, only two years last spring from the seed, laden with fruit, and fully twelve feet high. He had already sold forty dollars worth, up to that time. He planted the seed in their present position; and, although I admit the result to be astonishing, it is nevertheless true to the letter. Mr. Cowan made one year four hundred bushels of sweet potatoes from forty-one rows seventy five yards long. He made twenty bushels of corn to the acre with only one rain, which came when the corn was from three to four inches high. The secret of this is probably in the use of a 'Murphy' subsoil plough, which loosened the ground fifteen inches below the turned furrow, or twenty-one inches below the surface. The land is a light, sandy loam, with a clay subsoil twenty inches below the surface. Few men have ever commenced the settlement of a new place under greater disadvantages, actually living with his family several months under a live-oak tree, until he could get up his first cabins; and few men out of Texas can show a better farm, or more home comforts about it. He has a commodious dwelling-house, with five rooms; a good well of water, corn-cribs filled with corn, stables, pens, out-houses, garden, and pasture. His wife, an accomplished and highly refined Kentucky lady, has her vines and flowers so tastefully arranged about the yard and galleries, as to make their home one of beauty, happiness, and smiling content.

"As sugar-cane grows to great perfection in this section, and will no doubt in time become an important branch of industry, I give the result of a few years' labor of Mr. G. A. Bertrand, post-office Columbia, Matagorda County. This gentleman commenced in the year 1869, with nothing except his land and teams; planted cane that year, and used it all for seed, getting in thirty-five acres. In 1870 he made forty hogsheads of sugar weighing twelve hundred pounds each, eighty barrels of molasses, two thousand bushels of corn, and ten bales of cotton; sold the crop, after deducting all expenses, for \$5,060. In 1871 made about the same crop, and



planted forty acres more cane. This year (1872) he has made eighty hogsheads of sugar, one hundred and sixty barrels of molasses, thirty bales of cotton, and fifteen hundred bushels of corn. He has invested the profits of the place in machinery, — uses Blymer, Norton, & Co.'s evaporator, capacity six hogsheads per day. This is a poor crop, the cane being yet young; but I give it because it is the commencement on a sugar-farm, and because it is entirely reliable. Col. Albert C. Horton, of the same county, has often made two hogsheads to the acre, and so have many others. Mr. Bertrand considers his increase of property at least fifteen thousand dollars more than it was in 1870; and his cane is just now getting into condition to yield a full crop, and the profits the next three years will be greater by thirty per cent.

"I might multiply these instances of successful farming by hundreds, if my space permitted. I might also mention many persons who have brought considerable amounts of money to this country, and lost it in much less time than it took them to make it. Some of them were sea-captains, some were retired bankers, merchants, English army officers, and gentlemen generally. There has been a striking similarity among them all. Imagining their wealth sufficient to buy all Texas, and their knowledge so superior to the simple people of the country, they thanked no one for advice. They have generally invested largely in expensive stock, which they have left to the tender mercies of irresponsible servants, while they have spent their time and money over costly dinners and champagne suppers in town. This class of men have failed here, as I suppose they would do anywhere outside of their legitimate business; but I do not know of a sensible, practical man, who has invested his money judiciously, and given his personal attention to his business, who has not made money, enjoyed life, and who is not well contented with the country. Labor and brains are two essential requisites for any successful farmer, and they are as necessary in Texas as in any part of the world."

It is customary to speak of Texas as

#### THE LAZY MAN'S COUNTRY,

simply because, from its mild and salubrious climate, men may live and be comfortable in houses of frail construction, while the prolific fertility of the soil, out of which articles of palatable food may be produced every month in the year, with countless beeves on the prairie, limitless herds of sheep on the range, and "thousands of horses with none to ride them," have reduced the cost of living to the minimum of exertion and labor. If a man desires to be lazy, Texas is certainly a country in which he can practise the profession; but such are not the men who are wanted. The men who are

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invited to make their homes in Western Texas are those who can nerve themselves by the moral power of the will, and by their habits of industry, to achieve grand results, — men and women who can afford to forego for a short time some of the luxuries, refinements, and conveniences of civilization, that they may lay broad and deep the foundations of a better fortune, and participate in the grand work of developing the manifold improvements of this new Empire State.

#### PROFITS OF CATTLE-RAISING IN WESTERN TEXAS.

“As these figures will appear large to persons at a distance, we give the name and post-office address of each party mentioned. The data have been obtained, in every instance, from the parties themselves, or their intimate friends; and great caution has been observed to place the results below rather than above the truth.

“The Adams brothers, whose father settled twelve miles west of San Antonio in 1851, commenced with two hundred head of stock cattle. The old gentleman is long since dead, but his sons have steadily followed the business, and now offer their entire stock for sale. They propose to deliver, at their various pens within range, sixty-eight thousand head of cattle, all of their own mark and brand, within ninety days after signing contract, at five dollars specie per head, and to give the purchaser all there may be over, which they believe will be fully ten thousand head. This excess they offer as an inducement for some one to buy their cattle. These gentlemen sold eight thousand head of beeves this year at twelve dollars gold per head.

“Mr. James Low, Rio Frio, McMullen County, commenced stock-raising in 1856, with ten cows and calves; owned one negro man whom he hired out for one cow and calf per month. Mr. Low attended to stocks of cattle for one-third of the increase, bought stocks upon credit, and paid for them by sales of beeves. He now has fifty thousand head of stock cattle, five thousand head of beeves, and has branded this year fifteen thousand head of calves.

“Capt. Richard King has on his ranche at Santa Gertrudes, about thirty five miles west of Corpus Christi, fifty thousand head of horned cattle, ten thousand head of horses and mules, twenty-two thousand sheep, and eight thousand goats. He branded this year fifteen thousand calves, and sent overland to Kansas this year five thousand head of beeves, all of his own mark and brand. Mr. King came to Texas a poor cabin-boy on a vessel. Estimate his wealth.

“M. S. Culver, post-office Gussetville, Nueces County. This young man commenced working with Mr. J. T. James in 1865, for a *pro rata* of the mavericks instead of regular wages. This



gave him the first start in cattle. He then took a stock to attend to for *one-third of the increase*. Other parties gave him one dollar per head for gathering their beeves, and fifty cents per head for branding their calves. He now has seven thousand head of cattle, eighty saddle-horses, a good rancho well improved, with an enclosed pasture of four hundred acres. He has worked hard, dealt honestly with all men, and richly deserves the splendid fortune he has so rapidly acquired. This statement has been furnished by Mr. Alexander Coker, of Oakville, Live Oak County, an authority that no one in this country can doubt. Mr. Culver is but the type of hundreds I might particularize throughout the country. His property now would be cheap at fifty thousand dollars specie, and, if he lives ten years longer, will probably amount to over three hundred thousand dollars.

"Thomas O'Connor, post-office San Patricio, Tex., was discharged from the army of the Republic of Texas in 1837. His entire earthly possessions then consisted of a Spanish pony, saddle and bridle, two old belt pistols, one of which was broken off at the breech, and one rifle gun, all of which were much the worse for having been in constant use in obtaining our independence.

"At this time (1871) he has 80,000 head of cattle, worth \$400,000; six leagues, or 26,664 acres, of valuable river land, cheap at five dollars per acre, \$233,320; 500 head of saddle and stock horses, all improved, worth \$20,000; sent one drove of 1,225 beeves to Kansas this year, and was largely interested in three other droves.

"We have the data of hundreds of other cases equally as notable as the above, but think these sufficient. There is no denying the fact: every one who has invested in cattle, and given them half attention, has made money, while those who have attended to them strictly are now rich. It is difficult to estimate the profits per cent. I have heard some men declare it would reach thirty-three and one-third per annum; others say a stock of cattle will double themselves every two years; much, of course, depends upon the care taken of them. There is no disease whatever here among our cattle, nor do we prepare any manner of shelter or one mouthful of food for them the year round.

#### WHAT POOR MEN HAVE DONE RAISING STOCK IN TEXAS.

Here is a practical illustration right in point. Take the case of Mr. John Hitson, who owns a stock rancho on the Brazos River, which contains fifty or sixty thousand head of cattle, and three hundred horses. This cattle prince marks ten thousand head of cattle annually, which, at the low price of ten dollars per head, nets him an annual income of one hundred thousand dollars.

Ten years ago his land, and go labor in getting t went to raising s

His present head, are worth Hitson is only ab vigor of his man whole world to ch —the work only

Take another i County, Tex. was He was a painter opening in Texas happy. He mad 1845. He mana to purchase fift business in a quie large annual sales lars.

Take still a th and figures are "Transcript," un Texas," says,—

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hundred head o his stock he dro prices which nett charge the most

"Since then l own ranche, to ness with judgm that to-day, say



Ten years ago he was a poor farmer in Tennessee ; but selling his land, and going to the Brazos, he succeeded by dint of hard labor in getting together sixty cows and nine brood mares, when he went to raising stock.

His present stock of cattle, estimated at only five dollars per head, are worth about three hundred thousand dollars. Yet Mr. Hitson is only about forty one or two years old, in the prime and vigor of his manhood, with a fortune for himself and family, the whole world to choose from, and ample means to pay for his choice, — the work only of ten years.

Take another instance : John H. Woods, of St. Mary's, Refugio County, Tex. was a poor man, living in the State of New York. He was a painter by occupation. He learned accidentally of the opening in Texas for a poor man to become prosperous, rich, and happy. He made up his mind to immigrate to Texas, did so in 1845. He managed by industrious efforts to raise money enough to purchase fifteen cows and calves. He has since attended to his business in a quiet way, lived easily and happily, and, aside from his large annual sales, owns a stock worth two hundred thousand dollars.

Take still a third example, for they are not wanting, and facts and figures are stubborn things. A late copy of the Rockport "Transcript," under the caption of "Profits of Stock-Growing in Texas," says, —

"There is now in this city, resident here, a gentleman who commenced in 1854 with five thousand eight hundred dollars. He now values his stock and other property at seventy-five thousand dollars, and expects, and reasonably too, to make at least seventy-five or eighty thousand dollars within two years out of his stock, and not decrease their present value."

But here is yet one more instance, which is of such recent date that we cannot forego the pleasure of producing it : —

"Mr. Dave Terrell, of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Tex., was, at the close of our late war, a poor man. He commenced driving cattle for his uncle, John Peavler, at fifteen dollars per month, and continued in his uncle's service for the above wages during one entire season. At the close of his engagement, he purchased nine hundred head of cattle from his uncle on a credit. A portion of his stock he drove to New Mexico and Kansas, where it was sold at prices which netted him a handsome profit, and enabled him to discharge the most of his obligation to his uncle.

"Since then he has continued perseveringly to raise stock on his own ranche, to buy and drive and sell, always managing his business with judgment, energy, and native shrewdness. The result is, that to-day, say in a period of between five and six years, he has

#### STOCK IN TEXAS.

Take the case of  
in the Brazos River,  
of cattle, and three  
a thousand head of  
dollars per head, nets  
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arisen from a poor man, working for wages at fifteen dollars per month, to be a man worth over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars; and this is no exaggerated statement."

## A TABLE

SHOWING THE INCREASE FROM 100 COWS, 2 BULLS, AND 100 CALVES,  
FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE YEARS

	Cows.	Bulls.	Calv's	Ye'rly	Two Years old.	Three Years old.	Four Years old.	Five Years old.
1st Year	100	2	100					
2d "	147	3	117	50				
3d "	204	5	163	57	50			
4th "	284	8	227	81	87	50		
5th "	395	11	316	113	81	57	50	
6th "	551	14	440	158	113	81	57	50
7th "	769	16	615	220	158	113	81	57
8th "	1,075	19	860	307	220	158	113	81
9th "	1,497	27	1,197	430	307	220	158	113
10th "	2,085	37	1,668	598	430	307	220	158
11th "	2,900	56	2,320	834	598	430	307	220
12th "	4,083	78	3,266	1,160	834	598	430	307
12th "	5,684	110	4,349	1,633	1,160	834	598	430

"Let us examine the above table carefully, and mark the result at the end of twelve years. The stock would be as follows: —

Milch cows .....	5,684
Bulls .....	110
Calves .....	4,349
Yearlings .....	1,633
Two years old .....	1,160
Three years old .....	834
Four years old .....	598
	<hr/> 14,368
Deduct 20 per cent for casualties .....	2,872
	<hr/> 11,496
Deduct for strays .....	1,496
	<hr/> 10,000

"Now, supposing that you should wish to settle up the business and realize, mark the results, notwithstanding the uncommon deduction I have made: —

Sale of 50 five-ye

" 57

" 81

" 113

" 158

" 220

" 307

" 430

" 10,000 head

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Mr. Greeley, w  
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varieties: —



Sale of 50 five-year old beeves at the end of the 5th year,

				at \$10.....	\$500
" 57	"	"	6th year,	" ....	570
" 81	"	"	7th "	" ....	810
" 113	"	"	8th "	" ....	1,130
" 158	"	"	9th "	" ....	1,580
" 220	"	"	10th "	" ....	2,200
" 307	"	"	11th "	" ....	3,070
" 430	"	"	12th "	" ....	4,300
" 10,000 head of stock cattle at \$5.....					50,000
					<hr/> \$64,160

" For the first five years the owners of this stock, together with their children, would be sufficient to take care of them all.

The 6th year he would require 1 hand.

" 7th	"	"	2 hands.
" 8th	"	"	3 "
" 9th	"	"	4 "
" 10th	"	"	5 "
" 11th	"	"	6 "
" 12th	"	"	7 "

Mr. Greeley, when writing from Houston to the "Tribune" a letter descriptive of Texas, bore this truthful testimony of the profits attendant upon cattle-raising:—

" Whether it be a recommendation or not, I judge that it has required less effort to live in Texas than in any other State of the Union. The common saying, 'It costs no more to rear a cow here than a hen at the North,' is literally true. The cow was never fed, never sheltered, no matter how cold or stormy the weather; and you might have ten thousand head of cattle ranging the prairies and openings without owning an acre of land on earth. Many a man has thus grown rich without effort, and almost without thought."

#### THE NATIVE GRASSES OF TEXAS.

There is no one production of a country, which equals in value its grasses. So important are these, that in some localities, as in Western Texas, they lie at the fountain-head from which wealth, happiness, and civilization flow. There are in Texas a number of native grasses whose value has not been ascertained; but there are others whose value and usefulness are equal to those of any locality in the country. Of these we shall describe but three varieties:—



GRAMA GRASS. — This is a large, strong-growing grass; delights in moist situations, but will produce two heavy crops of hay in one season, on any of our black prairie lands. It produces rather rough, but if mowed early very excellent, winter forage for mules, oxen, and milk cows; horses eat it freely, and do pretty well on it.

BARBED MESQUIT. — This is the species of grass that attracts the attention of the traveller, and that we hear so often spoken of in Texas. Thirty years ago very little of it was seen east of the Colorado, but it is now found as far east as the Trinity River. It is very rapidly progressing, eastwardly at least. It is very excellent winter grass, very similar in appearance to the blue grass. It is, during winter, much sought after by stock of all kinds. Swine, where it is plenty, keep in good order by grazing on it. When the spring sap rises in it, cattle refuse to eat it; hence the cause of its spreading so rapidly. It is not prevented from maturing a full crop of seed, which it does, and casts them down by the last of May. It is a fine meadow grass, two to three feet high.

HOG-WALLOW MESQUIT. — Before Texas was settled up, and the prairies considerably eaten out, this species of grass was found only in the hog-wallows, but is rapidly spreading itself along the roadsides, and carpeting all the old roads and other spots and places of ground which have been denuded of other grasses, with a thickly crowded coat of extremely fine, nutritious pasturage for summer grazing for every type of graminivorous animals. In appearance, as it lies spread out on the ground, it very closely resembles the Bermuda grass, *Cynodon Dactylon*; like it, also, in its having two modes of propagation, by producing seeds, and by creeping, taking root at the cane-like joints of its prostrate off-shoots. Its inflorescence and fructifying processes are widely different, as it does not belong to the same genus. Except on suitably moist grounds, where the stock can be kept from it, it is not large enough to make hay of, as it is not, on ordinary soil, exceeding three to six inches high; yet it affords good and frequent grazing. For this purpose it has no equal. It is more especially adapted to the habits and peculiarities of the sheep than to any other animal, and it seems to enjoy it more; yet all the grass-eating races devour it without hesitation, and with great gusto.

CLIMATE  
The seasons, as shown by the

Y'R.	BOTANIC NAME
1858	Æsculus Texana
1858	Agrostis Stellata
1859	.....
1860	.....
1860	Avena Sativa
1858	Bumelia (?)
1858	Carya Orliviformis
1858	Celtis Crassifolia
1859	Cornus Paniculata
1860	.....
1859	Cornus Florida
1858	Cratægus Col.
1859	.....
1858	Draba Cuneifolia
1859	.....
1860	.....
1858	Houstonia Cerulea
1859	.....
1860	.....
1858	Inglauis Pecan
1859	.....
1860	.....
1859	Krigia Dandellion
1858	Lupinus (?)
1859	.....
1858	Oxalis Stricta
1858	Poa (various kinds)
1858	Primulæ
1859	.....
1860	.....
1858	Phlox (?)
1859	.....
1860	.....
1859	Pisum (?)
1858	Prunus Amer.
1859	.....
1860	.....
1858	Persica vulg.
1859	.....
1860	.....
1858	Quercus Obtusiloba
1859	.....
1860	.....
1858	Quercus Nigra
1859	.....
1860	.....
1858	Quercus Virens
1859	.....
1860	.....
1859	Quercus Palustris
1860	.....
1858	Rubus Trivialis
1859	.....
1860	.....
1859	Secale cereale
1860	.....
1859	Taraxicum
1860	.....
1859	Tillandsia Usneoides
1860	Triticum Æstivum
1859	Triticum Complanatum
1858	Ulmus Amer.
1859	.....
1860	Ulmus Alata
1859	Vitis Teanua (?)
1860	.....
1859	Viola (?)
1859	Viburnum prunifolium
1860	.....
1859	Yucca (Mexicana)
1860	.....



## CLIMATOLOGY OF WESTERN TEXAS.

The seasons, as shown by the leafing and flowering of plants — as observed by PROF. C. G. FORSHEY, in Fayette County.

Y'R.	BOTANIC NAME.	COMMON NAME.	LEAFING.	FLOWERING.	REMARKS.
1858	<i>Æsculus Texanus</i> ..	Dwarf Buckeye	March 13...	March 18.....	
1858	<i>Agrostis Stellata</i> ...	Wild Leek.....	.....	March 15.....	
1859	.....	.....	.....	February 25....	
1860	.....	.....	.....	February 17....	
1860	<i>Avena Sativa</i> .....	Oats.....	.....	.....	Reaped
1858	<i>Bumelia</i> (?).....	India Rubber..	April 10....	June 10.....	[May 25, 30
1858	<i>Carya Orliviformis</i> ..	Black Hickory..	April 1.....	.....	
1858	<i>Celtis Crassifolia</i> ...	Hackberry.....	February 27	.....	
1859	<i>Cornus Paniculata</i> ..	Swamp Dogw'd	April 28....	May 20.....	
1860	.....	.....	.....	April 23.....	
1859	<i>Cornus Florida</i> .....	Upland Dogw'd	March 6....	March 10.....	Rare in
1858	<i>Cratægus Col</i> .....	Thorn (red ber- ries)	March 10....	May 18, 25....	[Texas.
1859	.....	.....	February 20	.....	
1858	<i>Draba Cuneifol</i> ....	White Draba...	February ..	February 15....	
1859	.....	.....	.....	February 1....	
1860	.....	.....	.....	February 12....	
1858	<i>Houstonia Cerulea</i> ..	Bluets.....	January ..	Jan. and Feb...	
1859	.....	.....	.....	February 13....	
1860	.....	.....	.....	February 4....	
1858	<i>Inglauus Pecan</i> .....	Pecan.....	April 15-21.	April 15, 21....	
1859	.....	.....	April 10-15.	April 10, 15....	
1860	.....	.....	March 5....	April 15, 30....	
1859	<i>Krigia Dandelion</i> ..	Dandelion.....	.....	Feb. 28, Mar. 20	
1858	<i>Lupinus</i> (?).....	Purple Lupines	February ..	Mar. 15, May 1.	
1859	.....	.....	March 2....	Mar. 20, April 20	
1858	<i>Oxalis Stricta</i> .....	Sheep Sorrel...	Winter .....	Mar. 1, 20.....	
1858	<i>Poa</i> (various kinds)	Grasses.....	March 1....	.....	
1858	<i>Primulæ</i> .....	Primroses.....	February ..	Mar. 18, May 10	
1859	.....	.....	.....	Feb. 28, Mar. 19	
1860	.....	.....	.....	Mar. 31, May 2.	
1858	<i>Phlox</i> (?).....	Woods Phlox..	.....	March 12....	
1859	.....	.....	.....	Feb. 26, Mar. 19	
1860	.....	.....[ple	.....	March 7.....	
1859	<i>Pisum</i> (?).....	Wild Pea, pur-	.....	March 5, 20....	
1858	<i>Prunus Amer</i> .....	Wild Plum.....	March 10....	March 1, 10....	
1859	.....	.....	February 15	Feb. 12, 23....	
1860	.....	.....	February ..	Feb. 18, 29....	
1858	<i>Persica vulg</i> .....	Peach Tree....	February 20	Feb. 15, Mar. 15	
1859	.....	.....	.....	Feb. 5, 20....	
1860	.....	.....	.....	Feb. 20.....	
1858	<i>Quercus Obtusiloba</i>	Post Oak.....	March 15....	March 8.....	
1859	.....	.....	.....	Feb. 24, Mar. 10	
1860	.....	.....	.....	March 7.....	
1858	<i>Quercus Nigra</i> .....	Black Jack....	March 10....	March 15.....	
1859	.....	.....	February 24	February 21....	
1860	.....	.....	.....	March 1.....	
1858	<i>Quercus Virens</i> ....	Live Oak.....	.....	Mar. 20, April 10	
1859	.....	.....	March 25....	March 6, 25....	
1860	.....	.....	.....	March 13.....	
1859	<i>Quercus Palustris</i> ..	Pin Oak.....	.....	February 26, 28.	
1860	.....	.....	February 24	March 1, 27....	
1858	<i>Rubus Trivialis</i> ....	Dewberry.....	.....	March 10, 20....	
1859	.....	.....	February 18	February 26, 28.	Ripe Ap. 11.
1860	.....	.....	.....	March 31.....	" Ap. 21.
1859	<i>Secale cereale</i> .....	Rye.....	.....	March 6, April 6	" May 15.
1860	.....	.....	.....	April 10.....	" May 21.
1859	<i>Taraxicum</i> .....	Dandelion.....	February 25	April 7.....	
1860	.....[des	.....	February 25	March 5.....	
1859	<i>Tillandsia Usneoi-</i>	Long Gray Moss	.....	May 10.....	[28, Jun. 10.
1860	<i>Triticum Æstivum</i> ..	Wheat.....	.....	May 5.....	Reaped M'y
1859	<i>Triticum Compos</i> ...	Linden.....	.....	April 10, 25....	Ripe M'y 25.
1858	<i>Ulmus Amer</i> .....	American Elm.	February 20	February 20....	
1859	.....	.....	March 6....	March 6.....	
1860	<i>Ulmus Alata</i> .....	Flat Limb.....	February 23	February 23....	
1859	<i>Vitis Teanua</i> (?)...	Mustang Grape	February 24	Mar. 25, April 20	Ripe Jun. 25.
1860	.....	.....	.....	Mar. 24, April 4	
1859	<i>Viola</i> (?).....	Wild Violets...	February 21	February 21....	
1859	<i>Viburnum prun</i> ....	Black Haw....	February 24	March 6, 10....	
1860	.....	.....	.....	March 23.....	
1859	<i>Yucca (Mexicana?)</i>	Spanish Dagger	.....	March 6.....	
1860	.....	.....	.....	March 2.....	



## WINE.

The hillsides of Western Texas abound in native grape-vines, which produce grapes of several varieties, of delicious flavor, and of proved value for making wine. The best of these varieties are being cultivated with flattering prospects of success, and in time the country will become as famous as the Rhine hills for the quality and abundance of its vintage. It may be safely said that hundreds of tons of wild grapes have rotted on the vines, or have been eaten by birds and wild animals, in each county, this fall, in the mountain region. Could the whole of this native grape crop have been gathered and pressed, the wine produced, if exported, would have brought the State as large a return, perhaps, as its cotton crop. The climate of Western Texas, its prolonged summers and usual autumn weather, together with its soil and configuration, make this a good wine country. This being the natural *habitat* of the wild or mustang vine, it is found festooning thousands of trees, both in the bottoms and on the uplands. A very pleasant wine is made from this grape, similar to good claret; and during the Secession war some very pure and excellent brandy was distilled from it.

The cultivated grape is receiving year by year more attention, and certain varieties are found to grow as luxuriantly and fruit as abundantly as the mustang.

The domestic wines of Texas have suffered in reputation because of the ignorance displayed in their manufacture. Excellent wine can be made from mustang and post oak grapes. Some exhibited at the Washington County Agricultural Fair, manufactured according to these instructions, elicited high commendation: Gather the grapes, and mash them in a barrel or large tub; be sure and mash them all. Let the pumice stand about four days, or until the juice is separated thoroughly from the skin, leaves, and twigs, which will rise in scum on the top, leaving the clear juice of the grape below. Then tap your barrel about four inches from the bottom, so as to be above the sediment which settles at the bottom of the juice. It would be better to put your faucet in your barrel before you put your pumice in: a wooden faucet is best. A very good one can be made by boring a stick lengthwise with a small auger, say half-inch or three-quarters, and then dressing it down, sharpening one end so that it will drive into a little larger hole bored into the barrel. The end of the faucet can be stopped up with a spile. Draw off the juice into a clean vessel, and dissolve in it from two to three pounds of sugar to the gallon; but be sure to put no water in and no liquor. Put it away in a barrel, or other suitable vessel, to ferment, with a small hole left open. Watch it until the fermentation ceases, which can be told by the cessation of the noise or sim-

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mering. Then cork it up tightly, and keep twelve months, and it will begin to have a body, and be considered good wine. But none should ever be used before it is a year old; and after that, the older it is, the better.

Every settler in this luxuriant section will be thankful for these directions, which will place on his table, almost without cost, a wine rivalling in flavor, and superior in purity, to that enjoyed by the most fastidious connoisseurs.

### FRUIT.

Peaches, from the invariable success of all who have cultivated them, seem almost indigenous to the country. Fruit will be realized the third and sometimes the second year from the seedling. Grafting and budding, from valuable Texas raised stocks, have given fruit of the largest size and most luscious flavor. Observation proves that while Texas pears have the size and beauty that those on the Pacific slope attain, they exceed them in flavor. Specimens of the fruit from the gardens of Capt. Jones, of Gonzales County, received the highest prize at the St. Louis Fair.

It is a mooted question as yet, whether apples can be produced in paying quantities or not; in some instances gentlemen of this county have had more or less success with them, but the cultivation has not become general.

It has been demonstrated that nearly all kinds of fruit can be raised in Texas, provided care is taken to produce trees adapted to the climate. It is as great a folly to expect that trees adapted to Delaware will flourish in Texas as it would be to transport Texas seedlings to Delaware, and anticipate an abundant crop. Now that Texas nurserymen are cultivating native varieties, there will be no complaint about the failure of Texas fruit.

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Texas has made the most princely appropriations for public schools; and in a few years the lands that she has set aside for this purpose will not only support a public school system equal to the best in the land, but will also build and endow colleges and schools of art equal to the most famous institutions of the North, and this without a cent of direct tax. For every section of land given to a railroad, there is one adjoining set apart for support of public schools.

### PROVISIONS OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF TEXAS.

#### Education. — The Public Free Schools.

SECTION 1. A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be



the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.

SECT. 2. All funds, lands, and other property heretofore set apart and appropriated for the support of public schools; all the alternate sections of land reserved by the State out of grants heretofore made or that may hereafter be made to railroads, or other corporations, of any nature whatsoever; one-half of the public domain of the State, and all sums of money that may come to the State from the sale of any portion of the same, — shall constitute a perpetual public school fund.

SECT. 5. The principal of all bonds and other funds, and the principal arising from the sale of the lands hereinbefore set apart to said school fund, shall be the permanent school fund; and all the interest derivable therefrom, and the taxes herein authorized and levied, shall be the available school fund, which shall be applied annually to the support of the public free schools. And no law shall ever be enacted appropriating any part of the permanent or available school fund to any other purpose whatever; nor shall the same or any part thereof ever be appropriated to or used for the support of any sectarian school; and the available school fund herein provided shall be distributed to the several counties according to their scholastic population, and applied in manner as may be provided by law.

SECT. 7. Separate schools shall be provided for the white and colored children, and impartial provision shall be made for both.

#### Taxation.

SECT. 9. The State tax on property, exclusive of the tax necessary to pay the public debt, shall never exceed fifty cents on the one hundred dollars valuation; and no county, city, or town shall levy more than one-half of said State tax, except for the payment of debts already incurred, and for the erection of public buildings, not to exceed fifty cents on the one hundred dollars in any one year, and except as in this constitution is otherwise provided.

#### Marital Law.

SECT. 15. All property, both real and personal, of the wife, owned or claimed by her before marriage, and that acquired afterward by gift, devise, or descent, shall be her separate property; and laws shall be passed more clearly defining the rights of the wife, in relation as well to her separate property as that held in common with her husband. Laws shall also be passed providing for the registration of the wife's separate property.

#### Exemption Law.

SECT. 49. The Legislature shall have power, and it shall be its

duty, to protect by personal property adults, male and

SECT. 50. The protected from fore the purchase money taxes due thereon, improvements there and material are co wife given in the s conveyance of the man, sell the home such manner as m deed, or other lien the purchase mon hereinbefore provi other lien, shall together with his w involving any cond

SECT. 51. The not more than two more parcels, with city, town, or villa value five thousand homestead, without thereon; *provided* a home, or as a pla of a family; *pro* homestead shall n other homestead h

SECT. 52. On homestead shall o property of the dec of descent and dis the heirs of the de band or wife, or so the same as a hom children of the de proper court havin

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duty, to protect by law from forced sale a certain portion of the personal property of all heads of families, and also of unmarried adults, male and female.

SECT. 50. The homestead of a family shall be, and is hereby, protected from forced sale for the payment of all debts except for the purchase money thereof, or a part of such purchase money, the taxes due thereon, or for work and material used in constructing improvements thereon, and in this last case only when the work and material are contracted for in writing, with the consent of the wife given in the same manner as is required in making a sale and conveyance of the homestead; nor shall the owner, if a married man, sell the homestead without the consent of the wife, given in such manner as may be prescribed by law. No mortgage, trust deed, or other lien on the homestead, shall ever be valid, except for the purchase money therefor, or improvements made thereon, as hereinbefore provided, whether such mortgage, or trust deed, or other lien, shall have been created by the husband alone, or together with his wife; and all pretended sales of the homestead involving any condition of the defeasance shall be void.

SECT. 51. The homestead, not in a town or city, shall consist of not more than two hundred acres of land, which may be in one or more parcels, with the improvements thereon; the homestead in a city, town, or village, shall consist of lot or lots, not to exceed in value five thousand dollars at the time of their designation as the homestead, without reference to the value of any improvements thereon; *provided*, that the same shall be used for the purposes of a home, or as a place to exercise the calling or business of the head of a family; *provided, also*, that any temporary renting of the homestead shall not change the character of the same, when no other homestead has been acquired.

SECT. 52. On the death of the husband or wife, or both, the homestead shall descend and vest in like manner as other real property of the deceased, and shall be governed by the same laws of descent and distribution; but it shall not be partitioned among the heirs of the deceased during the lifetime of the surviving husband or wife, or so long as the survivor may elect to use or occupy the same as a homestead, or so long as the guardian of the minor children of the deceased may be permitted, under the order of the proper court having the jurisdiction, to use and occupy the same.

#### School Laws of 1876.

SECT. 12. One-fourth of the occupation and *ad valorem* taxes assessed since March 30, 1870, exclusive of the costs of collection; one-fourth of all the *ad valorem* and occupation taxes that may hereafter be collected, exclusive of the costs of collection; all poll



taxes due since March 30, 1870, uncollected and which may be collected, exclusive of the costs of collection; all poll taxes hereafter to be collected, exclusive of the costs of collection; the interest arising on any bonds and funds, and all the interest derivable from the sale of lands hereinbefore set apart for the permanent school fund, belonging to the permanent school fund, and which now are or may hereafter come into the State Treasury, — shall constitute the available school fund, and shall be appropriated for the establishment, support, and maintenance of public free schools.

SECT. 14. The available public free school fund shall be distributed to school communities in the several counties, to be organized on the application of the parents and guardians of those to be benefited thereby, to suit their convenience, without reference to geographical lines within the counties.

SECT. 15. The available public free school fund shall be appropriated in each county for the education alike of white and colored children; and each race shall receive its just *pro rata*, as far as practicable, in each county, according to the number of each race within scholastic age.

SECT. 16. No school in which sectarian religion is taught shall be entitled to any portion of the available public free school fund, nor shall any form of religion be taught in any public free school in this State.

SECT. 19. All children between the ages of eight and fourteen years shall be entitled to the benefit of the available free school fund under this act, without regard to race or color.

#### AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

The Agricultural College erected and endowed by the Government is open for pupils, and possesses a scientific faculty second to none in the Union. Other colleges, schools, and academies of a high order, are established in all portions of the State.

This railroad company has contributed lands for the purposes of institutions of learning, lodge-halls, and churches, at such points as are deemed necessary, and will continue to do so, and will use every effort to give every advantage to those settling on its line of road.

#### THE FUTURE OF THE ROAD.

The charter of the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railway does not terminate, as its name would seem to indicate, at San Antonio, but extends to the Rio Grande, — the confines of Mexico. No matter which rival in the contest for the construction of a Southern Pacific road is the victor, it cannot be but that the San Antonio road will become a most important factor in the solu-

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tion of the grand problem of trans-continental transportation. It would be foreign to our purpose to detail the claims of either the road by the way of El Paso and Fort Yuma to San Francisco, or that to San Diego; but whichever road shall triumph in the contest, whether one or both shall be constructed, it cannot be but the San Antonio road, with its far western terminus, shall become the connecting link between the Southern Pacific on the west, and the cities of the Gulf and the Southern Atlantic coast on the other. A glance at the map is sufficient to startle thoughtful men with the brilliancy of its prospects. Since men first went down upon the sea in ships, the commerce of the Indies has made all who enjoyed any portion of it rich. In ancient and in modern times, the same has been its history; and it is now as evident as a decree of fate that a portion of this commerce must pass over the line of the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio road. The prospective immigrant will note this feature, and ascribe to it a great weight in settling the location of his future home. When the connection between the Pacific and the Gulf shall be made, there will be opened for this road, and for all along it, a career of wonderful advancement. Cities will spring up with the rapidity of magic, the produce of the country will be in such demand, and its lands advance so rapidly in value, that all who have located upon them will become wealthy without labor. This is no fancy picture. That which will happen will be the repetition of that which is now happening all along the line of the Union Pacific Road. Weimar, Flatonia, and other small stations that we have described, will then become flourishing cities, replete with all the luxuries of wealth and civilization.

This road, as it extends westward, will be ever more and more the beneficiary of Mexico. Its western terminus is now the place where long trains of "ten-mule wagons" load for Chihuahua. The San Antonio road now enjoys this rich trade, transporting supplies westward, and bringing back the silver dug in the land of the Aztecs. This is true now. What, then, will be its prosperity when its further extension shall be complete? It is not too much to say that there is nowhere on the green earth a spot which offers to the settler a future so bright as that through which the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railway runs.

That this picture is not overdrawn, all who visit the section of country we are describing will be constrained to admit. And among other facts that will confirm this statement is this: that the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio road has progressed continuously. While other roads have been compelled to suspend operations; while they have been impeded, delayed, and stopped by panics and monetary disturbances, — this road has progressed,



if not so rapidly as its builder desired, yet with regular and systematic advancement. Its history shows that it is being constructed through a country which can support a road of the first class, and through a country which needed but a road to make it teem with an industrious and wealthy population.

### RAILROADS.

FROM POOR'S R. R. MANUAL.

1874, number of miles.....	621
1876, " " .....	1,690

### POPULATION.

1860.....	64,215
1870.....	818,579
1876 (estimated).....	1,600,000

It is estimated that nearly 400,000 settlers have entered Texas during 1876, and the tide is steadily increasing. For the past three months, all the railroads in the State have been taxed to the utmost to provide transportation for immigrants and their luggage, while the rolling stock has been insufficient to deliver promptly the immense amount of merchandise intended for Central and Western Texas.

### PRICE OF LAND IN WESTERN TEXAS.

The price of unimproved land varies from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per acre, depending upon proximity to railroad stations, and quality of soil. Some sections, having special advantages in these respects, are held at higher rates; but the average value of good farming lands is about \$2.50 per acre. The G. H. & S. A. Railway Co. offer for sale, to actual settlers only, choice farms on either side of its line, in the counties of Fort Bend, Wharton, Colorado, Fayette, Lavaca, Gonzales, Caldwell, Bastrop, Guadalupe, Hays, Comal, Kendall, and Bexar, from \$2.50 to \$5.00 per acre; also fine farming and stock lands in Baudera, Coleman, Llano, Atascosa, Harris, Wilson, Crocket, Presidio, Pecos, Galveston, Menard, Trinity, Hardin, Mason, Uvalde, Kimball, Edwards, Kerr, Kendall, Medina, Frio, Karnes, Gillespie, and San Saba, at from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per acre. *Terms*, one-quarter cash; balance in one, two, and three years, 7 per cent interest.

### CAPITAL REQUIRED

to purchase 160 acres of land at \$2.50 per acre, or 80 acres at \$5.00 per acre, \$400. Cash payment \$1.00.

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First payment for land.....	\$100
House and furniture.....	200
Agricultural implements.....	150
Yoke of oxen and saddle pony.....	75
Milk cow.....	25
Temporary subsistence.....	150
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	\$700

If it is desired to combine stock-raising with farming, good stock cattle can be purchased at an average of \$10.00 per head, and the average increase is  $33\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. Mexican sheep cost \$1.25 per head; grade merinos, \$3.50 per head; full blood bucks, \$40.00 to \$100.00 each. Goats, \$1.00 per head. In the opinion of leading sheep men, an admixture of goats is favorable to the health of the sheep. One man or boy can herd 1,000 head of sheep or goats, and the average increase is 80 per cent. Hogs can be purchased at very low rates, and their increase is enormous, without any care except an occasional feed of corn to keep them at home.

#### COST OF LIVING.

Fresh beef,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 cents per pound. Pork, 4 cents. Chickens, 25 cents. Eggs, 12 cents. Turkeys, 75 cents. Every thing else is as cheap as elsewhere. An abundance of venison, wild ducks, turkeys, geese, quail, and partridges can be killed at all seasons.

#### TO IMMIGRANTS.

It frequently happens that a number of families and even whole neighborhoods, determine to emigrate in company. When this is the case, it will be wise to select a reliable man to visit the country and select a location for the entire party, or at least to report the best in his judgment. The officers of the road are instructed to give them what information they can, and direct them where other knowledge may be obtained. If, however, a single family comes without the company of others, they will find it advantageous to purchase through tickets to the station nearest the location they may have selected.

While the immigrant is cautioned against burthening himself with unnecessary and cumbersome luggage, he is advised not to sell necessary comforts.

#### HOW TO GET TO TEXAS.

There are three railroads entering the State from the north and east, — the Texas Pacific from Shreveport, La.; the Texas Pacific



and International at Texarkana; and the Texas Central at Denison. There is also in process of construction an all-rail route from New Orleans to Houston. The connections of these roads with the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio road are made at Harrisburg and Houston.

On the east are the regular lines of steamers of Charles Morgan, running to Galveston, in connection with his railroad from Brashear City to New Orleans and Mobile, at which points connections are made with all the railroad lines of the Southern, Middle, and Eastern States.

These steamers make regular daily trips from Brashear City to Galveston during the fall, winter, and spring months, affording a speedy passage to the State for those who prefer this route. The railroad at Galveston, connecting with these steamers, will enable the immigrant to reach any part of the State without delay.

The Hurley Line of steamships, from Liverpool to Galveston, is running regularly between these ports, and offers a safe and reliable transit by which the immigrant can reach Texas from Great Britain and the Continent of Europe at a reasonable rate for passage.

The Louisiana State Line of steamers (of which A. K. Miller and Co., at New Orleans, are agents), running between New Orleans and Liverpool and other foreign ports, afford a reliable route to reach Texas at reasonable rates for passage.

The Allen Line of steamers, running between New York and foreign ports, proposes to land immigrants for Texas and the West at Norfolk, Va., at a low rate of passage; and those landing at that point will be transported by rail to Texas and the West at the very low rate of one cent per mile.

The Mallory Line of steamers, running direct from New York to Galveston, offers a quick and reliable conveyance to those who select this route.

#### TO IMMIGRANTS FROM THE DIFFERENT STATES OF THE UNION.

The way to come to Texas depends in a great degree on the point from which they start. Those from Western Missouri and the States west and north will find the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway, with its connections, their most direct route. Those residing in the States bordering on the Lower Mississippi, and in the other Southern States, who prefer the all-rail to the Gulf route, will find the Memphis and Little Rock, Iron Mountain and Cairo and Fulton Railroad, with their connections, the most direct route.

Those coming from the Middle and Eastern States, and *all* who come by way of St. Louis, can choose for themselves at that point which of the two roads, the Iron Mountain or the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas, they will take.

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The rates for passage for immigrants on all these routes are about one-half the rates charged for regular passage.

Children over five and under twelve years of age are charged half rates; when under five years, free.

A full ticket is entitled to one hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty pounds of baggage free. The rates of passage will depend, to some extent, on the number of immigrants; the larger the party, the greater the probability of getting the rates reduced.

Immigrants are advised to use discretion in the selection of boarding-houses and hotels, as well as to be cautious about giving their confidence to those transient persons with whom they may be thrown in travelling; as a want of the one, or too much confidence in the other, may result in loss or injury to themselves.

### LAND EXPLORING TICKETS

can be purchased which will permit the holder to stop at all the stations on the G. H. & S. A. Road, to examine lands; and, in case a purchase is made within sixty days, the amount paid for said ticket will be allowed on the first payment for the land.

HENRY B. ANDREWS,  
*Vice-President and Head of Land Department,*  
Harrisburg and San Antonio, Texas.

M. WHILLDIN,  
*Land and Immigration Agent,*  
1031 Market St., Philadelphia, Penn.

OFFICE OF THE

## GALVESTON, HARRISBURG, AND SAN ANTONIO RAILWAY COMPANY,

58 SEARS BUILDING.....BOSTON.

Farming and Stock Lands, Sectional County Maps, and Land-Exploring Tickets, for sale.

Colonies organized, and through tickets by rail or water procured at lowest rates, by

DR. AMMI BROWN,  
*General Land and Immigration Agent*  
*for New England.*



