

agencies. We left that place on the 6th, J. J. Hoag being wagon-master and superintendent of the train.

Before leaving this place, we were reminded of our proximity to the borders of civilization, and the character of the region we should now have to traverse, by the breaking open and robbing of the post office, from which six hundred dollars in money, besides the registered letters, were abstracted.

A German laborer also, who, according to frontier custom, scorning to seek lodging in a house, lay down by the coal-house near the Junction depot for a night's repose, was attacked by two men, who knocked him on the head with a revolver, and demanded his money. He, being rather thick-headed, was not stunned by the blow, and, springing up suddenly, threw both of his assailants to the ground, thereby freeing himself from them, when, perceiving one of them in the attitude of shooting, he ran towards a light, which proved to be at the house where our party was quartered. His head was badly gashed and bruised.

The journey from Emporia to Newton, some eighty miles, was accomplished in three days. The first sixty or sixty-five miles we followed up the valley of the Cottonwood, a fine stream of water flowing through a beautiful valley of rich, arable land, bounded at first by rolling prairies, afterwards, as we advanced towards the head of the stream, by bluffs containing immense quantities of magnesian limestone of an excellent quality for building purposes. Several small towns are

springing up in this valley, through which the Santa Fe Railroad is laid, and is now in running order to Newton.

The latter part of the way was over high prairies, or plains, of thin, poor soil, incapable of enduring either wet weather or drought, being of a dense, heavy clay; yet the occasional cabins of the homesteaders, though few and far between, gave indications of the approaching tide of civilized life.

On these prairies I saw the first drove of Texas cattle, consisting of about five hundred head, had my first experience of camp-life and sleeping on the lap of Mother Earth, with no other canopy than that afforded by the starry vault above, unless at times we may have found the leafy crown of some spreading tree, under which to unfold our blankets for a night's repose. It was here, also, that I obtained my first taste of buffalo beef, having procured some from a hunter.

We arrived at Newton on the morning of the 9th, where our train was increased by two wagons and two men, making it to consist of five wagons and ten persons, all told.

Newton is a town of about three hundred houses, and has sprung up in the incredibly short time of five months. Eight months before this there was no human habitation within about thirty miles of it. Being the present terminus of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad, it is the point of shipment from whence the Texas cattle are sent east. Immense trains, loaded