

and took the cars that evening for Wichita, arriving there on the 5th, late in the evening. This being as far as I could go by rail, and no mule or ox train being about to start in the direction I was desirous of going

*we thought best, to make no further remarks about the remarkable behavior of the pump handle, especially as it was civil enough when we approached it. The man was lying there when we left - whether dead or drunk we did not find out, as it might not have been entirely a safe experiment to have investigated more closely. It was not however unlikely that he might have been the victim of some drunken quarrel, arising from their gambling, as angry words & desperate threats frequently broke in upon our slumbers during the night.*

knowing why I was there, I was favored to withdraw my mind from these unfavorable surroundings, and feeling a degree of comfortable quiet, soon dropped to sleep.

*(Insert MS -*

*9th.* - This morning, much of the time we witnessed a phenomenon of optical illusion much spoken of by travellers. About ten o'clock, a short distance ahead of us appeared to be a lake, adorned with beautiful islands, which were covered with trees. The shore of this imaginary lake was fringed with trees swaying back and forth in the breeze, which gradually disappeared at our approach, while others, equally beautiful, would be formed, to greet our vision, farther on. These also disappearing as we drew near, continued an ever-varying scenery of land and water, though not a drop of water was actually visible upon the parched surface of the plains. At one time, on our right could be traced, for a great distance, a long, winding river, fringed with timber, the bank being plainly visible in that portion of its course which lay near us, flowing onward in front of us, and across our course towards our left, where it seemed to discharge its waters into a boundless ocean, the surface of which, near the shore, was studded with islands covered with waving trees.

Upon the shores of these, unceasing billows rolled and broke in white foaming surges, stretching away to the utmost extent of the vision. At the same time, farther round to our left, and apparently not over half a mile distant, appeared a beautiful grove, the tree-tops