

tired, my observation of the country through which I was passing was limited; but noticed in both the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations much excellent country, as well as much that was poor and rocky. Smith Paul's valley, — so called from a half-breed Chickasaw, — on the Washita River, is a broad bottom, with a soil of unexampled quickness and fertility. It produces bountiful crops of <sup>cotton</sup> corn and other grain, but is badly cultivated by a poor class of whites and mixed bloods abounding in this part of the Territory.

The Indians of these nations, as well as the Cherokees, were slaveholders before the war; their slaves were emancipated, and remain in the country, together with many whites, who have married Indian women in order to secure a home in this land. This gives as heterogeneous a population as can be found probably in any country. Governor Harris, who is a Chickasaw, has a good farm, lives in a comfortable frame house, has quite a stock of cattle and hogs, and good orchards. In the Choctaw nation there is much land of a superior quality, and the best timber I have seen for many years.

In the afternoon I took passage on the cars for Lawrence, passing through some of the most beautiful country I ever beheld, abounding in excellent timber, good water, and rich prairies sparsely settled by the more civilized Cherokees and Creeks, who are engaged in stock-raising and agricultural pursuits.

Saw several fields of cotton, the first I had ever seen growing. It has a very pretty and novel appearance,

especially to a Northerner. The country in the Verdigris and Neosho valleys appeared to want nothing but improving by an intelligent and energetic people to render it one of the most desirable localities to live in I have ever seen, so far as relates to climate, soil, water, and stone, while timber is not scarce, and may be easily raised.

8th. — Arrived at Lawrence in the afternoon, and proceeded to the superintendent's office and reported my business; but feeling very weak and worn out, every way unequal to proceed on my journey for the present, I was compelled to lie over a few days.

Arrived at home on the 12th, having left Lawrence in the afternoon of the 11th. Found my family anxiously awaiting my arrival, and I may say that I was indeed thankful to the Great Giver of every blessing that we had been spared to meet again.

Remained at home, much of the time sick, until the 28th of the following month, when, being very anxious to be at the great council at Fort Sill, between the Indians, Commissioner Smith, and Governor Davis of Texas, — relative to the release of Satanta and Big Tree, who have been removed to Fort Sill, — I again left home for the country of the Kiowas and Comanches. Arrived at the Kiowa Agency in the night of the 4th of 10th month, 1872.