

discoursed for the entertainment of excursionists. Close to this stand is arranged the stump of a large pine tree, which had been shipped from California in sections. I paced around it and counted twenty-three paces.

Seats are constructed upon the long ridge that runs along the edge of the Missouri bottom, upon which people can rest and chat politics, religion, indulge in mental flights of romance, or woo a bride.

Right there is the scene of a reminiscence which has passed into history and will never die. Upon the highest point of that long, sharp ridge that runs east and west along the broad bottom land that stretches down from the foot of the bluffs to the Missouri River, the stars and stripes were unfurled at the time the Mormon Battalion was mustered into the United States' service to march against the hostile troops of Mexico.

To give my Utah friends an idea of the growth of Council Bluffs City I will state that the corporation has been extended over a vast area of that bottom land, and buildings reach from a point considerably north of the Miller farm and sweeps southward some two or three miles near to Musketto Creek. They also extend westward, in some places, half the distance across the bottom, while, along the line of the Mortar track, the buildings may be said to be continuous all the way to the river. The company owning the Mortar line have constructed a bridge upon which their cars as well as carriages and pedestrians cross.

This bridge unites the commercial and social interests of Omaha and Council Bluffs. It was about one year in building and was ready for use last October. A grand jubilee took place between the two cities at the time the completion of the bridge was celebrated. It is a great auxiliary in aid of friendly as well as business relations between the two cities which have been rivals to excel in advancing the fame and importance of their locations. In this respect Omaha has carried off the palm.

They seem to be shrewd men in Omaha. Commercially they have devised liberal things and thereby attracted settlers and trade, while those of Council Bluffs were too cautious and fearful in the early years of the rivalry. The transportation is so quick and easy that the fact of the Missouri River running between is no hindrance to those who daily go shopping. A few minutes and they are conveyed to either city, thus enjoying the pleasure of an agreeable ride. The Omaha merchants offer the Council Bluffs people free rides to come over and trade at their counters. Many avail themselves of this and thereby get cheap goods and a pleasant "out."

The population of Omaha, together with that of South Omaha, I was told, amounted to nearly one hundred and thirty-two thousand. Their business houses go much higher towards the region of the clouds than do those of Council Bluffs. Some of them are ten

stories. I went into the *Bee* building. Its spacious open court is most creditable to the proprietors. The composing room was closed to visitors, hence the *typos* were relieved of my presence. The young man who runs the elevator, as he took me up, said we went up to the height of seven stories. The elevation and descent were pleasant and brief. That is a magnificent structure and the wonder with me was how the "art preservative" could invest so much capital.

When Omaha was surveyed I was living in Council Bluffs. Joseph E. Johnson, then the editor of the *Bugle*, was one of the prime movers in having the survey accomplished, and set forth in the columns of his paper that a great future invited thither the enterprise and energy of men of capital. Mr. Johnson also made beautiful pen pictures of many other Nebraska towns which have since attained to some prominence.

The Missouri River, at Omaha, is narrower now than I ever saw it. It looked to me that a steamboat could scarcely ascend it.

I did not go to Florence, but understand it remains about the same as it was thirty years ago. Some wealthy men are building and beautifying residences between that town and Omaha. Some are sanguine in the belief that the space between the two places named will yet be filled with residences and business houses.

Nature has done much for this region, and if those who dwell within the limits of this glorious inheritance will act their parts wisely, the march of empire will continue to add, from year to year, to the legacy of wealth and social enjoyment bestowed upon them so bountifully.

L. O. LITTLEFIELD.  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, Aug. 30, 1889.

#### AMERICAN AND BRITISH JUSTICE.

THE celebrated Maybrick murder case causes the *Pioneer Free Press* to comment as follows:

"Comparisons are frequently made between the course of justice in this country and in England to our discredit. It is true, unfortunately, that trials for crime among us are altogether too slow in progress and too uncertain in result. We let the mouths drag around before the criminal is brought to book. Our juries generally disagree in a case where there is any room for doubt and new trials are tedious and unsatisfactory. And yet it is better, in cases where the liberty or even the life of a human being is at stake, to be slow and sure than it is to make a terrible mistake, or to plant in the public mind a belief that the courts may be used as instruments of oppression or revenge.

"The case of Mrs. Maybrick illustrates the point. It is one over which all England has been agitated, and one in which the course of affairs has been exactly the opposite of what might have been expected in the United States. Mrs. Maybrick was accused of poisoning her hus-

band, the evidence being wholly circumstantial. By her own confession, she had been unfaithful to him and had written to her accomplice letters announcing her husband's speedy death at a time the physicians pronounced him convalescent. Arsenic was found in the remains of food which she had administered to him, and also in his stomach after death. At the same time it appeared that he was a victim of the arsenic habit, and was accustomed to take the drug in large quantities. It was claimed by his wife that the substance discovered in his food was put there by her at his own request, without knowledge on her part of its character. Now these circumstances seem reasonably sufficient to establish a presumption of guilt, though not strong enough to convict. The average conclusion would be that, while it was probable that the wife was guilty, yet that probability had not been made out fully enough to warrant the execution of the suspected criminal.

It was at this point that the strong difference between the procedure of the two countries showed itself. There was no delay and no uncertainty in the English court. A jury was obtained without difficulty, and the judge before whom the case came made their work easy. In a charge, which is a curiosity in its way, he practically ordered them to find the prisoner guilty, which they did. But so pronounced was public opinion in its dissatisfaction and so strenuous were the efforts made in the prisoner's behalf, that the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life—a somewhat unusual proceeding for British justice. Had the case of Mrs. Maybrick come before an American tribunal the lawyers would probably still be endeavoring to get a jury together. When they did the chances are that it would disagree, and a new trial would be had. In the end about the same result would probably have been reached through the courts as has been reached there by the intervention of the higher authorities. Good reason though we have to complain of the law's delays, it is better that it should be slow and sure than swift and liable to error. A case like that of Mrs. Maybrick tends to weaken the confidence of the general public in the essential justice of the law, and to strengthen the impression of its fallibility. Especially unfortunate is it in any case that a verdict should seem to have been reached as the result of improper judicial intervention. Imperfect as is our system of trial, it is more satisfactory than a speedier disposition which does not rise above suspicion of partiality."

#### MARYLAND CONFERENCE.

The Maryland conference was held in a small and secluded place, called the Cove, lying close to the Mount Jackson road, and immediately at the foot of the North Mountain, a spur of the great Allegheny range, Saturday and Sunday, August 24 and 25.