

cult to account for his frequent elevation to offices of high import almost instantly after his appearance within the community by associates and neighbors, in one case before he had attained the necessary legal status prerequisite to election; and each time the office to which he was elected was not a petty nor a minor office but one of major public concern and high in public esteem. We may concur with Aristotle that "it is man's nature which makes him trustworthy, not wealth."

[To be continued]

TROOPS AT THE COUNCIL BLUFFS¹

(Extract from a letter from Council Bluffs, June 24, 1820.)

I am glad the fact authorizes me to state that the troops at this post are restored to perfect health. There are not in both corps thirty men on the sick report, nor is there a single case of serious indisposition.

The diseases with which the men were afflicted last winter may be attributed to several causes. My opinion is that the most prominent ones were unavoidable fatigues and exposures in ascending the river during summer and autumn, heavy labor in constructing barracks, and being quartered in green, damp rooms, and the intense cold of last winter. No sooner did the spring open and the earliest vegetables come, than the bowed down patient shook off his loathsome visitor, stood erect and was able to speed his course with the rapidity of the noble stream that fertilizes this garden of the western world.

The great and universal rise of the Missouri has driven us from our winter position. Almost the whole of the bottom lands are inundated. The flood is greater than is recollected by the oldest Indian. The Platte is also in flood, and we tremble for Boon's Lick settlements and all the lower country. Our earliest planted gardens and a field of 60 acres of corn are deluged. Our prospects are not, however, much blighted as our late planted gardens, 200 acres of corn, 100 in beans, and 30 of potatoes exhibit the most promising appearance.—*Boston Weekly Magazine*, Boston, Mass., Aug. 24, 1820. (In the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

¹This is the original Council Bluffs, located on the west bank of the Missouri River some ten miles north of the present city of Omaha. It was later called Fort Calhoun.—Editor of Annals.

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