in drink and cards at the neighbouring towns by the wilder spirits of the ranch. These towns, deplorable to relate, are usually a small aggregation of dwellings grouped about a tavern, a grocery, and a gambling-saloon. The cow-boys (who may or may not be owners) lead the most active and dangerous life, driving, roping, and branding cattle, and are always the most reckless of Texan youth.

The climate of Texas has been greatly maligned, and, except upon the coast, does not merit the reputation it has gained of being unbearably hot in summer and equally cold in winter. Even on the coast, during the most trying hot season there is always a breeze for a couple of hours during the early evening. In the

south-eastern part of the State the climate is really delightful; and as for the fierce winter winds—the famous "northers," so hurtful to beasts—they are really highly exhilarating to one possessed of an average robust constitution. Indeed, invalids are now sometimes sent to the vicinity of San Antonio.

You can see that a hardy young farmer, who lives much in the open air, will greatly benefit his health by such a life; and if he has a taste for his occupation, a certain amount of capital, and steady business habits, he will in the course of a few years return to his family (that is, if he does not bring them to Texas) richer in money, health, and individual force, in romantic experience and knowledge of his fellow-men.



## Welcome Back!





