

In the afternoon we took the boat and rowed across the river to the Kentucky side, where we fell in conversation with a brick-maker, (and militia captain) he says that between Portsmouth and Chillicothe, a farm partly cleared, good land, with a log house, is worth ten dollars per acre, labour fifteen dollars per month and board; his brick-makers earn from twenty to twenty-five dollars per month, and are found in victuals, which he reckons at two dollars per week.

This gentleman lives near the site of a large Shawanese town, the Indians who inhabited it gave the early settlers of Kentucky considerable trouble, and at last, finding the whites too strong, emigrated down the Ohio, in 1755. We went to view the situation, which is directly opposite the mouth of the Sciota; it consists of a ditch and banks, mounds, walls of earth, &c. The plough passes over part of the remains, and pikes, sword blades, &c. are often turned up.

The timber on this side consists of oak, hickory, beech, maple, &c. some of them very large.

26th June, Thursday. Passed Adamsville, (Ohio,) and arrived at Manchester, (Ohio); though the land seems of good quality, it is a dull, poor looking place. We searched almost every house, (about forty in number) for some bread, but in vain. Here the boys were out in canoes made of poplar, picking up the most valuable of

the logs, that still accompanied us. They displayed considerable dexterity in bringing their prizes to shore.

Leaving Manchester, we arrived at Maysville or Limestone, in Kentucky, by five in the afternoon, and having near half our cargo to deliver, brought our boat into the creek.

About an hour after we landed, a large boat (something like a river barge) of 100 tons, carrying two masts, and manned by fourteen or sixteen hands, arrived with West India produce from New Orleans, 1730 miles below; she had been near three months ascending the river, the men having to pole up most part of the way. Boats descend the same distance in twenty or twenty-five days. The safe arrival of one of these barges being considered a fortunate circumstance, the owners were manifesting their joy by firing salutes of small cannon from each side of the river.

The men who navigate these boats, from the action of the sun and air upon their features, looked swarthy as Indians. Being the day of their arrival, they were offering libations of their favourite whisky till a late hour; indeed most of the boatmen of the Ohio have adopted Dr. Aldrich's five reasons for drinking

*Whisky, a friend, or being dry,
Or least, we should be by and by,
Or, any other reason why.*

Limestone is situated on a high bank backed by high limestone land, 460 miles below Pittsburg by the course of the river; it is laid out in several straight streets, and has the appearance of increase and business. The houses (perhaps 100 in number) are most of them brick, there are some good stores and taverns. The inhabitants are Virginian descendants, free blacks, and slaves.

The prospect from the hills at the back of the town is elegant, you see at one view the town, the windings of the majestic Ohio, part of the states of Kentucky and Ohio, enriched with the native forests, beautiful farms, green fields, herds of cattle, &c. We gathered several curious specimens of limestone composed of leaves, insects, shells, and earth intimately mixed, yet plainly to be discerned; the shells are similar to those found in the sea. If they are sea shells, how came they here? has the sea ever flowed up the Mississippi and Ohio?

The land near Limestone, is a rich black soil over a limestone bottom, and will produce most abundantly.

27th June, Friday. A company of strolling players from England, having given out handbills, purporting that the play of the Honey Moon, and the entertainment of 'Tis all a Farce, was to be performed in the evening at a frame

building, appropriated to theatrical purposes, admittance one dollar, we attended. The scenery and performance was miserable; but the buffoonery of the farce, and an orchestra of negroes, who performed *two* tunes, with *two* fiddles and *two* triangles, kept the audience in good humour; segar smoking during the performance was practised by most of the men.

Whilst we lay here, several emigrants arks passed the town; such is the constant tide of population to the back country.

28th June, Saturday. We reached Augusta (Kentucky) twenty-one miles below Limestone, and stayed there during the day. Augusta is a handsome town, of three or four streets, the principal one fronting the Ohio, is composed of excellent brick houses. The town has a small market, where we enquired the price of beef, and could have bought plenty at five cents per pound.

29th June, Sunday. Arrived at Cincinnati, forty-five miles below Augusta, of which, and the towns of Newport and Covington, and the Kentucky side, with the surrounding fine country, whilst on the river, we had a delightful view. The Cincinnati Hotel being full, we put up at Mr. Rice's boarding-house, opposite the United States Bank, Main Street.

CHAPTER V.

Cincinnati.

[As Cincinnati is the commercial capital of the state of Ohio, a state which twenty-five years ago contained but a few thousand inhabitants, and now is well settled by half a million white inhabitants, I have been somewhat particular in describing its commerce, manufactures, and inhabitants.]

The city of CINCINNATI (named after the Roman Cincinnatus) stands on two gentle swells of land, its front street is immediately on the north bank of the Ohio, opposite the mouth of Licking River, and the towns of Newport, Covington, and Kentucky, north lat. 39 deg. 6 min. 30 sec. west longitude from Washington 7 deg. 24 min. 45 sec.; it is nearly in the centre of the western country, distant from Pittsburg, in a S. W. direction by land, 300 miles, by the river, 520.

The general appearance of the city is clean and handsome, indeed elegant and astonishing, when we reflect that less than forty years ago it was the resort of Indians, and the whole sur-

rounding country a wilderness, full of wild beasts and savages.

The first plain, called the Bottom, is 70 feet above low water mark, and extends 800 feet back, and three miles on the river, between Deer and Mill Creeks; the second, called the Hill, is about fifty feet higher than the first, and extends about one mile in width, bounded on the north by hills. The streets are laid out at right lines, after the manner of Philadelphia; nine streets run from the Ohio in a N. W. direction, called Main, Sycamore, Miami, Walnut, Vine, Race, Elm, Plum, and Western Streets; these are crossed by others, called, Water, Front, Second, Third, Fourth Street, &c.; their general width is sixty-six feet; in the principal streets they are neatly paved, with brick side walks, and pumps are placed for general accommodation*.

The number of public buildings and dwellings in July, 1815, were 1100, and the population at that time was estimated at 6000; since that time there has been a regular influx of New Englanders, Kentuckians, Virginians, British, French, and Germans. The present number of

* The pump water, though commonly used, is not good in hot weather, neither is the water of the Ohio; at a considerable expense they might be supplied with good water. I should think this important subject will meet the early attention of the enlightened inhabitants.

buildings may be between 13 and 1400, and the number of inhabitants 8000, all whites, the laws of Ohio prohibiting even free negroes, (except in certain cases) from settling in the state. Near 400 of the houses are built of stone or brick, many of them three story high, and in a very neat modern style; the rest of the houses are frame, most of them neatly painted.

The stores in Front, Water, and Main Street, have always an excellent supply of goods from the East and West Indies, Europe, and of the produce of their immediate neighbourhood; a considerable barter and cash trade is carried on with the interior, by means of waggons, and with Philadelphia, Baltimore, and the states of Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee, and Mississippi, and the territory of Missouri, by the rivers Ohio, Mississippi, and their tributary streams. Trading boats regularly proceed to New Orleans, St. Louis, Pittsburg, and various other places. Steam boats from Orleans and Pittsburg, call and deliver, and receive goods and passengers; and numbers of arks, with emigrants and their families, bound to various parts of the western country, are generally near the landing. Whilst we were here, I counted the different craft which then lay in the river, and as it may convey some information, I shall state their number.

Seven Kentucky boats, similar to ours, with coal, iron, and dry goods, from Pittsburg.

Four barges, or keel boats; one was at least 150 ton, and had two masts. These boats trade up and down the rivers, exchanging and freighting goods to and from Orleans, Pittsburg, &c.

Four large flats, or scows, with stones for building, salt from the Kenhawa works, &c.

Six arks, laden with emigrants, and their furniture. Emigrants descending the Ohio mostly call at Cincinnati to purchase provisions, and collect information. These arks are similar to the Kentucky boats, only smaller; they can only descend the river. Those which stay here are either sold to emigrants, who intend to proceed lower down, or broke up*.

Manufactories are established here and in the vicinity: the following are the principal.

A steam flour mill, built upon the beach of the river; at its base it is sixty-two by eighty-seven feet, its walls are ten feet thick; the height is 110 feet, the number of stories nine; to the height of forty feet the walls are drawn in, and gradually diminish in thickness; above they are

* Mr. Morris Birkbeck, author of "Notes on a Journey in America," left Cincinnati whilst we were here, purposing to buy land on the Wabash, and settle a colony near Princetown (Indiana.) There is little doubt but a respectable establishment will soon be formed.

perpendicular. According to the "*Picture of Cincinnati*," in its construction it swallowed up "6620 perches of stone, 90,000 bricks, 14,000 bushels of lime, and 81,200 cubic feet of timber." The building cost 120,000 dollars, and the machine is driven by a seventy horse power. There are six pair of stones, and when in complete operation, it makes near 1000 barrels of fine flour per week.

A steam saw mill, of twenty horse power. This mill works four saws, and I was astonished to see the dispatch of the machinery; four large trees, above twenty-five feet long, are cut into inch plank in about an hour.

A cotton and woollen factory, carrying 3,300 spindles for cotton, and 400 for woollen.

Four cotton spinning establishments, containing together 1,500 spindles.

A woollen manufactory, yielding sixty yards of broad cloth per day.

Several wool carders and cloth dressers.

Two rope walks.

A white and red lead manufactory; the quantity manufactured per week is six ton.

Two glass houses.

A saw mill, worked by two pair of oxen, on an inclined wheel, forty feet diameter; the weight of the bullocks ascending the wheel, works the machinery, without their drafting at the collar.

A smith's shop, the bellows worked by a single ox, on an inclined wheel.

A foundery, on a large scale.

Another now building.

An air furnace, now constructing on a new and expected powerful construction.

Two or more distilleries.

One other establishing.

Two brick yards.

There are many other small manufactures in grain, skins, wood, clay, &c. Whilst I am writing, I have no doubt these establishments increase in number and importance; the central situation of Cincinnati, and very rapid increase of the inhabitants in the neighbouring states, prove it to be an eligible spot for manufacturing companies and individuals.

The exports of Cincinnati consist of flour, corn, beef, pork, butter, lard, bacon; whiskey, peach-brandy, beer, porter; pot and pearl ashes; cheese, soap, candles; hats, hemp, spun yarn, saddles, rifles, cherry and black ash boards, staves and scantling, cabinet furniture and chairs. East India and European goods are imported from Baltimore and Philadelphia by way of Pittsburg. Lead is procured from St. Louis. Rum, sugar, molasses, and some dry goods, are received from New Orleans; salt from various salt works in the vicinity; coal from Pittsburg; and Wheeling

pine boards, and shingles, from Hamilton on Alleghany.

The United States have a branch bank here, in a handsome building in Main-street, and there are two chartered and one unchartered bank, in good credit.

Two newspapers are published here, the *Western Spy* and *Cincinnati Gazette*, each issue about 1,500 papers weekly. Several respectable books have been printed.

Here is also a good public library, a grand lodge of Freemasons, a school of literature and arts, a university, (a nominal institution) a land office, and post office, at which nine mails arrive every week.

The public buildings are of brick, and would ornament an European city. The new Court house is a stately edifice, fifty-six by sixty-six feet, and one hundred feet high; the apartments are fire proof. Presbyterians, Baptists, Friends, and Methodists, have each a meeting house. Those belonging to the Presbyterians and Baptists are finished with taste. The Friends meeting house is a temporary wooden building. The Lancasterian seminary is a capacious structure, calculated to contain 1,100 scholars, male and female. There are three brick market houses, the largest is upwards of 300 feet long. The market days are four weekly, and the markets

are well supplied with beef, veal, pork, mutton, bears flesh, venison, live fowls, tame and wild turkies, geese, ducks, butter, cheese, honey, vegetables, fruit, &c. I have counted near sixty tilted waggons from the country on a market day, chiefly with produce, which is brought to market by the farmer, and sold from the waggons. The markets commence early in the morning, and again in the afternoon.

The police of the city is respectable; they have, however, no lamps or watch, nor do they seem to require any. We boarded in the heart of the town, and our doors were mostly open night and day. Theft is very rare, the lowest characters seem to be above it.

They have but one fire engine; all the citizens readily turn out to assist in case of fire (one of the laws of the State requires all citizens to assist at fires, I do not think it is a wise law, but so it is.)

The Methodists of Cincinnati are very zealous, and have what they call "*a revival*" in the country. From curiosity we attended their worship several times, it commenced most evenings at eight o'clock, and continued some times till twelve. The manner of the preachers, prayers, and people, were very extravagant, the leaders in the course of their exhortations making violent gestures and noises, clapping and rubbing

their hands, and exclaiming till the perspiration absolutely rolled down their bodies ; the audience, and even little boys and girls, appeared to be affected in a similar manner, calling out according to the sense of every passage, bless God ! glory ! amen ! God grant ! &c. towards night there would generally be some weak constitutioned enthusiast faint away, whence I understand the new-birth is dated. Notwithstanding these extravagancies, I believe the society of Methodists are of service, in taking many from the vile habits of drinking and gambling, and causing them to lead a life of industry and sobriety.

Baptism by immersion is common, the second Sunday we were here seven people were baptized in the Ohio.

Education is well provided for, partly by the State, and some part by subscription ; 12,000 dollars were subscribed by the inhabitants towards the public seminary previously mentioned.

The climate is healthy, if we may judge from the appearance of the inhabitants, at this season (July) the mornings and evenings are delightful, mid-day hot, but not too hot to do any out-door work. The American inhabitants say they have more cloudy weather than New England experiences ; this may proceed from the rivers, lakes,

hills, and uncleared forests, by which they are surrounded. The winters are short and pleasant.

The manners of most of the inhabitants are social and refined, without jealousy of foreigners (which is sometimes the case with the ignorant or interested, in the eastern and middle States) they are pleased to see a respectable European settle amongst them. Many cultivate the fine arts, painting, engraving, and music. With few exceptions, we found the English language spoken with purity (as indeed it is in most parts of the States, there being no county, and hardly any State dialects.)

Some of the labourers and mechanics, as Michaux observes of the Kentuckians, are "great amateurs of whiskey." I saw but one man intoxicated whilst we were here, and that on the fourth of July, which for an American, amounts almost to an excuse.

The inhabitants dress much in the English fashion. In summer, many of both sexes wear domestic or home manufactured gingham, and straw hats. Gentlemen, and many tradesmen, wear superfine cloth coats; blue and black are prevailing colours. The ladies dress elegantly, in muslin, short waisted gowns, vandyked frill or ruffle round the neck, and an English cottage, or French straw hat. When about their house-

hold concerns, they wear a large long peaked hat, to defend their features from the swarthing influence of the sun and air.

Whilst here, I attended a small theatre, somewhat better fitted up than that at Limestone, admission one dollar; the play was *Barbarossa*, farce, *Darkness Visible*. Although I am not disposed to censure innocent amusements, yet as plays are conducted (and perhaps to pay the performers, must be conducted) I certainly think they do the cause of morality much harm, and ought not to be admitted, especially in a new country like this. The propensity to laughter is often encouraged at the expence of age and infirmity, the audience are grossly flattered at every convenient opportunity, double entendres of no very chaste conceits are introduced, with stupid and unnatural scenes of love, running away from *cruel* parents, swearing, &c.; all evidently tending to demoralize.

The fourth of July, and anniversary of American independence, occurred whilst we were here, and was celebrated with much energy. The morning was ushered in by bands of music parading the streets, and firing of caannon, (which continued at intervals through the day.) At eleven o'clock, three companies of volunteers, (consisting of a rifle corps, and two companies of infantry, one a fine company, just raised,

called the Cincinnati guards) assembled near the landing, and accompanied by many citizens, two and two, marched in procession to the Presbyterian Church, the band playing, Hail Columbia! Yankee doodle! &c. the Church was crowded; numbers of well dressed females occupied the front seats. The ceremony commenced with an appropriate prayer and psalm; then the declaration of independence (as made by the colonists) was read; after which, an impressive national hymn was sung by the whole congregation, the chorus repeating at the end of each stanza :

Fathers, sires, heroes brave,
 Who fought and bled for liberty,
 The heavenly boon, we swear to save,
 Whilst freedom has a votary!

When the enthusiasm occasioned by this hymn had subsided, an orator stepped forth, having the national flag on one side, and a decorated cap of liberty on the other; his manner and language was rhetorical. He dwelt on the mild laws, the liberty, plenty, and comforts, which in common with their fellow citizens, the inhabitants of Cincinnati experienced; observing, what a delightful sight it was (and I thought so) to see men of all nations united as a band of brothers,

to rejoice and praise the Almighty for the free government and numerous blessings which they happily enjoyed. Before parting, another hymn was sung, containing too much boasting and bombast; the two first verses and chorus were as follows :

When first the sun o'er ocean glow'd,
And earth unveil'd her virgin breast;
Supreme 'mid nature's vast abode,
Was heard the Almighty's dread behest.

Rise Columbia, brave and free,
Poise the earth, and rule the sea!
In darkness wrapp'd, with fetters chain'd,
Will ages grope, debased and blind;
With blood the human hand be stain'd,
With tyrant power the human mind.

After Church, the citizens and strangers, who desired, adjourned to a good dinner, provided at the principal tavern; where the day was concluded with conviviality, many national and philanthropic toasts and sentiments being given*.

The ancient remains of Indian nations are numerous here, consisting of low circular banks,

* A similar ceremony to the above described, is performed on the fourth of July, in every village, town, and city, in the United States. The largest Church, it is no consideration what religion, is used, with permission, for the occasion.

mounds, tumuli, &c. A house at the corner of Third and Main-street stands on the very site of a tumuli, from which, in levelling it, many human bones, and a variety of curious Indian utensils, &c. were taken; several streets intersect the remains, and in a few years, scarce a vestige will remain, but what may be preserved in the gardens of the curious.

The city, in all probability, will soon be the largest in the West; it is rapidly improving in size; sixty new brick and frame houses have been occupied since last fall; and at least as many more are now building, besides several manufacturing shops and factories. There is more taste displayed in building and laying out grounds and gardens, than I have yet observed, west of the Alleghany mountains.

The price of town lots is high, and houses in the principal streets difficult to obtain on hire. The lots in Main, first and second streets, sell for 200 dollars per foot, measuring on the front line; those possessing less local advantages, sell from fifty to ten dollars, out lots, and land very near the town sells for 500 dollars per acre. Taxes are very moderate. Several manufactures and trades would succeed if established *now*. I believe there are few common trades but what an industrious man may get a living in. From the continued influx of settlers, no doubt, some

2-14-0

52-0
30-8
40-8
23-8
7-0

Cincinnati.

situations that now offer will speedily be filled. The price of labour is one dollar per day. Mechanics earn two dollars. Boarding is from two to three, and five dollars per week. Five dollars per week is the price of the best hotel in the city; we paid three dollars per week, had a room to ourselves, and our living was excellent; at *breakfast*, plenty of beef steaks, bacon, eggs, white bread, johnny cakes (of Indian meal) butter, tea and coffee. *Dinner*, two or three dishes of fowls, roast meat, kidney beans, peas, new potatoes, preserves, cherry pie, &c.; *supper* nearly the same as breakfast. Living is very cheap here, and it is easily to be accounted for, in the cheapness and fertility of the surrounding country, the scarcity of tax-gatherers, and the distance of a market for the surplus. You can have very decent board, washing, and lodging, by the year, for 150 dollars.

The following was the price of provisions at Cincinnati, in July, 1817.

	<i>Dol.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	
Beef	0	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	per pound.
Pork	0	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	ditto.
Mutton	0	5	ditto.
Veal	0	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	ditto.
Hams	0	9	ditto.
Fresh Venison	0	2	ditto.
Butter	0	18 $\frac{3}{4}$	ditto.

	<i>Dols. Cents.</i>		
Cheese	0	12½	per pound.
Wheat, fine Flour	3	0	per cwt.
Corn Flour	0	50	per bushel.
Salt	1	0	ditto.
Potatoes	0	31¼	ditto.
Coals	0	12½	ditto.
Venison Hams	0	37½	each.
Turkeys and Geese	0	80	per pair.
Pullets	1	0	per dozen.
Partridges	0	25	ditto.
Eggs	0	9	ditto.
Milk	0	25	gallon.
Honey	1	0	ditto.
Whiskey	0	50	ditto.
Peach Brandy	1	0	ditto.
Porter, Mead, and Spruce Beer..... }	0	12½	per quart.

A cord of wood, two dollars, fifty cents. Preserved, or dried fruit, as apples, peaches, &c. about one dollar per bushel. Vegetables dear. French and port wine, sugar, tea and coffee, dearer than in England *. Woollen, cotton, and European goods very dear. Cherries, raspber-

* It is anticipated, that the United States, in the course of a few years, will produce wine and sugar, sufficient for home consumption, and even exportation. Several successful experiments, some on a large scale, have been made on the banks of the Mississippi.

ries, strawberries, peaches and apples, very reasonable. River fish of various sorts, plentiful and cheap*. The general price of a barrel of flour (196 pounds) is three dollars and fifty cents, or four dollars; it never has been dearer than when we were here.

The land round Cincinnati is good. Price, a mile or two from the city, fifty, eighty, and one hundred dollars per acre, according to quality and other advantages. This same land, a few years ago, was bought for two and five dollars per acre. Farms, with improvements, ten miles from the town, sell for thirty and forty dollars per acre. Fifty, sixty, and one hundred miles up the country, good uncleared land may be bought for from two dollars to five dollars per acre. The farms are generally worked by the farmer and his family. Labour is dear, and not to be had under fourteen or sixteen dollars per month, and board. They have but little machinery, and no plaister or compost, but what is made by the farmer is used for manure. Taxes, in the country, are a mere nothing. Farmers, in any part of the state of Ohio, who

* The fish of the western country are of various kinds. Black and yellow cat, some weighing one hundred pounds; buffaloe, from five to thirty ditto; pike, from four to fifteen ditto; sturgeon, from four to forty ditto; perch, some weighing twelve ditto; sucker, six ditto; eels, &c. &c.

have 100 acres of their own, well stocked, do not pay above five to ten dollars per annum*.

Covington, on the Kentucky side of the Ohio, is a post town, lately laid out in such a manner, that when you stand a considerable way up Main Street, Cincinnati (the Ohio being hid by its banks from sight) the principal street and houses of Covington appear a continuation of Main Street, Cincinnati.

Newport, a post town, joins Covington immediately on the upper side of Licking River; it is the oldest and largest town, and increasing. Here are several good brick houses, a court house, now building, jail, market house, and an academy, endowed with 6000 acres of land. They are also about to organise a school on the Lancasterian plan. There is a Baptist and Methodist congregation, but at present no permanent meeting houses. The United States have a garrison and arsenal here. Mr. Clemenson and myself were going past it, in one of our walks of observation, when the commanding officer seeing us strangers, politely offered to conduct us through the premises. The arsenal

* All the United States internal taxes are now (1818) taken off, the general government existing and performing all its functions, by the sale of public lands, and duties on imports; so that now the people of the United States have none but state, county, and town taxes remaining.

consists of a brick armoury, two stories high, and a fire-proof powder magazine. The barracks are of wood, and capable of containing two regiments of men; the whole is enclosed with a stockade, and kept in neat order. There are very few soldiers here at present; the most part of them are fresh recruits, intended for the frontier forts. The old gentleman who commands here, is named Marten, he is one of the survivors of the revolution, and was a long time prisoner to the British at New York. He told us some interesting anecdotes of Lord Rawdon, Carleton, and Major Andre; with the unfortunate Andre he dined the day previous to his execution. The old veteran has been forty-two years a soldier, mostly serving on the frontiers, and is now finishing his days in active service, surrounded by a numerous family, for whom he has acquired a fortune, principally in lands, of 40 or 50,000 dollars.

Whilst walking on the banks of the Ohio, we saw a small sail boat going with a wind, at a good rate, against the current. Those on board proved to be well-dressed civilized Indians, from the Mohawk river, (New York.) They arrived here in thirty days, by way of Lakes Ontario and Erie, and I believe the Miami River, having only postages of nineteen miles in all. They hold commissions in the army of the United States.

When on the Kentucky side of the river, they fired a salute, and gave as a sentiment, "The Brave Kentuckians." Arriving on the Ohio side, with a similar ceremony, they gave "The State of Ohio, and may a Slave never tread its Bounds." These sentiments, so applied, are a proof of discrimination, which would do any men honour.

CHAPTER VII.

Journey to Lexington—Big Bone Lick—Disorder of Cattle and People—Turpitude of a Back Woods Man—Barbacue Frolic—Thunder Gust—Election and Parties, &c.

17th July, Thursday. Having given up an idea which we had entertained of proceeding to New Orleans, on account of the yellow fever being there, we procured horses, and this morning left Cincinnati, on a tour through the States of Kentucky and Virginia, meaning occasionally to turn out of the road to inspect objects worth notice. We ferried across the Ohio to Covington; fare, man and horse, twenty-five cents; and proceeded through a country of much good bottom land, all heavily timbered, and but little settled, to Big Bone Lick, situate in a vale, two miles from the Ohio river, and twenty from Cincinnati. Here are but two houses, the largest is a tavern for the entertainment of those who come to the Licks out of curiosity, or to drink the waters. After dinner, we walked down to the springs, which are about two hundred yards from the house: on approaching the principal spring,

where some workmen were turning up the earth, our olfactory nerves were saluted with a strong smell, similar to the washings of a gun barrel. The water is very nauseous to the palate, being strongly impregnated with sulphur and salt. Several people were in the spring house, drinking the water, tumbler after tumbler, *for their health*. A lady informed us, she drank as many as fifteen pints a day, *perhaps to strengthen her nerves*. Several Bell's Weekly Messengers were laying about, which surprized us, till we were informed they belonged to an English family from Ohio, at the springs. General Wingrove, who rents the place, is making considerable improvements ; adding to his house, inclosing the best springs, laying out a walk from the tavern to them, &c. This valley is well worth a visit. It was formerly the principal place of resort for bears, elks, deer, buffaloes, and that astonishing *extinct* animal, the mammoth. They came in droves to lick the salt water springs, and from the quaggy nature of the ground, are supposed, nay, must have sunk and been smothered by the mud. Great quantities of bones are scattered up and down the valley, even on the surface ; and in digging, numbers of skeletons are found. Our landlord has picked up various mammoth bones and teeth, which we saw ; one was an extraordinary curiosity ; it was a *small*

double one, measuring fourteen inches in circumference, and weighing fourteen pounds; the earth inside the hollow was petrified to limestone. Morse says, "horns or tusks have been found here, sixteen feet long, each weighing 150 pounds, and a thigh-bone measuring in length forty-nine inches *."

Whilst we staid here, a man arrived at the springs, on his way to Ohio, from New Orleans. He left there only twenty-two days previous, and had travelled alone through the wilderness, where he had bought a handsome Chickasaw poney of the Indians, for a few dollars; he said he had rode her at the rate of near fifty miles per day, for ten days; her appearance bespoke exhaustion, and her back was much galled with the saddle. This man had been navigating a boat down to Orleans, and had chosen to come back by land to his home. Many of the boatmen who do not get hired to go up the river, walk or ride home, through the wilderness, 'a

* Dr. Goforth and Mr. Reeder, of Cincinnati, collected several waggon load of mammoth bones at these licks. Ashe, the author of *Travels in the United States, &c.* got them in his possession, and shipped them for England; when he arrived at Liverpool, he had not sufficient money to pay the duty required before the bones could be landed; in consequence, he was necessitated to sell them to Mr. Bullock, for £200. This sale he bitterly laments in his "*Life and Confessions.*"

distance of about one thousand miles! There are instances of their taking passage for Philadelphia, and going home by way of Pittsburg.

18th July, Friday. Proceeded on our journey to Lexington, through a fine improving country, to the Widow Clarke's, twenty-eight miles; she informed us, many of the people in the neighbourhood were sick, from drinking milk. The cows eat some poisonous herb, in their uncontrolled ranges, which not only affects their milk, but gives them tremblings and the staggers; calves that suck are affected the same way, and often die. This account was confirmed by several farmers. The old lady was very much alarmed, when we told her we had been at Limestone; she had heard that the small pox was then at Louisville; we quieted her uneasiness by declaring we had it whilst young. Vaccination is coming into vogue; she had sent for a physician to inoculate her family.

Another traveller from the Indian country staid here to-night; he was conversant, but betrayed a disgusting turpitude towards the Indians; he wore a dagger concealed in his bosom; and said he should have no objection to plunge it into the breast of any Indian; in his estimation they were mere dogs. The antipathy of many of the back woods men to Indians, of which more will be said hereafter, proceeds, amongst

more recent causes, from the dreadful tales they have heard their fathers tell, of Indian cruelty and massacres done by them on the often defenceless first settlers.

19th July, Saturday. This morning we found the road very intricate, being little more than a horse-path crossed by numerous others, the track of wheels being hid in the grass. After some time, we found the road more difficult, trees crossing the narrow path, and every indication of having lost our way, however we kept the only path we could see, till we observed a log-house, situate in a fine vale, about half a mile to our right, and embosomed in the surrounding forest. I dismounted, and went to enquire our route; the farmer directed me, but expecting, or as he said, *suspecting*, we should go wrong, he obligingly came after us, kept along with our horses some time, and at parting, directed us to ride about a furlong up the stony bed of a shallow creek, and then take the right side, and bear towards the sun till we came to the road, which was about a mile off; following his directions, we easily found it.

In the afternoon we passed a party of about a hundred young men and women holding a *barbacue* frolic. It consists of a dinner in which a roast hog in the Indian style, is the prominent article; and after it, dancing, wrestling, jump-

ing, squirrel shooting, &c. Where they all came from, seemed to be the wonder, we had hardly seen a house the last ten miles.

We are informed that much of the country hereabouts is owned by land speculators, who have outstood their market, the States beyond the Ohio, having got the name. In the forests we passed to-day, the trees were notched with various numbers, and at certain parts, brush-wood and whole trees were placed as land-marks, indicating private property. Slept at Mr. Thornbury's, twenty-seven miles.

20th July, Sunday. This morning we find the country more populous. Breakfasted at Georgetown, a neat improving place, laid out at right angles, and containing about one hundred brick houses. My horse having slipped a shoe, I sent for a blacksmith to put one on, he made considerable difficulty about "working on the Sabbath-day;" however, with some coaxing, he was persuaded; and having finished the job, satisfied his conscience by charging an extra quarter dollar.

Leaving Georgetown, we were surprised, when within a few miles of Lexington, by a sudden thunder gust, accompanied with wind, and a deluge of rain; luckily, we were near a log-house, into which, having hastily tied our horses to some rails, we darted for shelter, and caught

a respectable looking young woman smoking a segar ! Her mother having made us welcome, the girl recovered from our intrusion, and again commenced smoking, joining in the discourse with intelligence.

The storm partly clearing up, we proceeded onwards, and arrived at Lexington, at four in the afternoon, and put up at the Chesapeake tavern, Mr. Vegus. The first news we heard, was, that the electric fluid had struck the Presbyterian church, descended by the chandelier, which hung in the center, and, unfortunately, killed two females. What rendered the accident peculiarly melancholy, was, the elders had the conductors, and every apparatus by them, ready for fixing, some time previous.

The thunder-storms of America are very severe. Often, when they occur, the horizon is splendidly illuminated, and the forked fluid, attended with loud and continued peals of thunder, darts with awful brilliancy to the earth. Franklins, or conductors, are a certain safe-guard, and generally used. No building has been known to be materially injured where they are properly placed.

LEXINGTON is beautifully situated in the heart of a well cultivated, thickly populated, and fertile country. In 1775 it was but a hunter's camp, when news arriving of the "battle

of Lexington," in Massachussets, the circumstance gave joy to their feelings, and they unanimously agreed to call their infant establishment, "Lexington." From that time it has gradually progressed to its present flourishing condition. It is, at present, the largest *inland* town west of the Alleghany Mountains, and the second largest in the United States.

The town is laid out on Penn's plan, and contains many good houses, many of them three stories high. The inhabitants are principally from Virginia. Negroes are numerous; and some that are free, keep small stores. The price of a young Negro man is from 500 to 700 dollars.

The population in 1790 was 1,500.

1796 — 2,000.

1806 — 3,900.

1810 census 4,326.

1817 about 6,000.

The stores and shops of Lexington are very numerous, and well supplied with domestic and foreign goods. The trade of the town is very considerable.

Several manufactures are upon a larger scale here than in any part of the western country.

"There are three or four cotton and muslin manufactures, one extensive cotton manufactory, and one woollen manufactory on the creek, about a mile out of town, each employing 150

hands, these went into operation in June, 1816. An oil cloth and oil carpet manufactory, a steam rope manufactory, one brewery, and one just establishing. Four nail factories, which manufacture seventy tons of nails yearly. Two copper and tin manufactures, three steam grist mills, three steam paper mills, several rope walks and bagging manufactures, which consume 14,000 tons of hemp annually; ten saddlers' shops, five chair makers, five cabinet shops, three painters, seven taylor's, one umbrella manufactory, twelve blacksmiths, two gunsmiths, three dyers, six hatters, sixteen shoemakers, two stocking weavers, several jewellers, silversmiths, and tobacconists; besides tanneries, distilleries, cooperies, brick-yards, and carding machines. Here are also three printing offices, issuing newspapers weekly. The cotton factory, makes cotton yarns, sheeting, shirting, bed-ticking, counterpanes, table cloths, chambrays, cassinets, sattinets, &c. The woollen factory makes broad cloth, cassimeres, blankets, and flannels." *Western Gazeteer and Navigator.*

The public buildings, &c. are, a court house, jail, three good market houses, or shambles, finely placed over a small run of spring water, in the center of the town, each is 390 feet long. They are well supplied with all kinds of produce from the adjacent rich country. Prices of

provisions much the same as at Pittsburg and Cincinnati.

Here are several banks, one a branch of the United States bank, three Presbyterian churches, of brick, one Episcopalian church, neatly built of brick, one Methodist, and one Catholic church. A new college is just erected 150 feet by 50; there is, besides, a public academy, a Lancastrian school, an excellent female academy, several other well regulated schools, and a public library. A wing of the first public hospital, west of the mountains, is now building, it is one hundred feet by fifty.

Here is also a public theatre, and several neatly constructed warm and cold baths.

The grand lodge of Kentucky freemasons, hold their stated sittings here in the masonic hall, having forty subordinate lodges under them, situate in the state, and in different states. One royal arch chapter, and three subordinate lodges also meet in the town. When any state has five lodges, it can erect a grand state lodge.

The police of the town is not well conducted, the streets are badly paved, and the public lamps have not been lighted for some time. Religion does not receive particular attention from many of the inhabitants, and some of the working classes are immoral, particularly the free blacks, who are often dissipated and thievish, and the

coloured women are many of them prostitutes. This evil is carried to much greater lengths here, than any where else in the Western States, where, generally speaking, it is but little known. On account of the dissipation practised, the authorities of the town, have found it necessary to establish a nightly watch; twelve is the present number.

The manners of the better sort of inhabitants are open and hospitable. Some of the wealthy are showy in houses, furniture, and carriages; and there are more hack carriages kept in Lexington, than in any town in the Union of twice its size.

The volunteer corps of the town are mostly rifle. They carry a cartouche for balls in front, having the powder horn slung at their backs*. The climate appears to be salubrious, and the inhabitants healthy.

The town is improving in appearance and

* When any of the Kentuckians volunteer for the frontiers, they carry the tomahawk and scalping knife. In the last war some few of them behaved very unmanly, particularly in an affair near the river Raisin, where, after having scalped the fallen Indians, they proceeded to cut razor-straps off their backs, and used other shameful indignities; for which unnecessary and brutal wantonness, many of their brethren suffered a few days afterwards, being massacred as a retribution, in cold blood, by the Indians.

size, several good brick houses are building, and new stores opening; town lots are to be had at a reasonable rate, labourers earn one dollar per day, and mechanics two dollars. The rate of boarding, is from two dollars and fifty cents, to seven dollars.

Whilst we stayed here, in company with our landlord, we rode round the environs. It is almost impossible to do justice to the beauty of the surrounding country, and the fertility of the soil, which is a dark mould, similar, and nearly as rich as a well manured garden. Numerous gentlemen's seats are scattered about; amongst others, the fine mansion of Mr. Clay; and the farms covered with wheat, rye, oats, and corn, appeared to great advantage. Extensive fields of the latter, with its broad waving leaf and large ear, (near a foot long, and thick in proportion) stood from ten to twelve feet in height.

The vicinity of this town may be an eligible place for an emigrant, who does not object to Negroes and Negro-slavery. Prime farms of first and second rate land, sufficiently cleared, and having a suitable house and offices, can be purchased for forty to fifty dollars per acre, within five miles of the town. Manure does not appear to be much sought after; our landlord pays eighteen cents and three quarters for every cart-load of dung taken out of his yard. The climate

is favourable to the growth of hemp, flax, all kinds of grain and tobacco; cotton is partially cultivated; the produce of wheat is estimated at from twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre; corn fifty bushels. The market for surplus produce is the millers and merchants of the neighbourhood, or the merchants at Limestone and Louisville, on the Ohio; many growers send it down to New Orleans, where there is always a sure and good market, more than paying the expences.

The Kentuckians are all great politicians, and an election for governor being about to take place, the newspapers were filled with party squibs and *eloquence*, the editors all taking either the federalist or democratic side. The federalists are moderate republicans, and are accused of leaning towards European politics, particularly British. The democrats are violent and unyielding republicans. The complete liberty of the press, except in case of personal libel, gives room for much squabbling, abuse of each party, and virulence; it is an evil, but restricting that powerful protector of the liberties of the people, would be incalculably greater; and I understand, as soon as an election is decided, the storm of party spirit is immediately hushed.