

We have travelled now about five hundred miles down the Ohio in its meandering course, and we will suppose ourselves at Limestone, where the champaign country on the eastern side of the river begins. This is the usual landing place for people coming down in boats, who mean to settle in the upper part of the State, as I shall in future call it. It is now necessary to look back to that country, which we have travelled through with such rapidity. Pittsburg lies in about lat. $40^{\circ} 40'$, the general course of the Ohio is about W. S. W. and the distance by land from Pittsburg to Limestone is nearly 300 miles. But as the north-eastern limits of the State are Great Sandy, which is some distance above Limestone, we may fix them, as nearly as can be, in lat. 39° . I am sorry I cannot speak with more precision, but these things have not yet been ascertained from observation.

The east side of the Ohio for about ten or
twenty

twenty miles below Whealing, which is about one hundred below Pittsburg, is generally well settled. There are few settlements on the opposite shore until you come to the Muskingum, and the country now wears the face of a wilderness on both sides of the river, there being no habitations worth notice, except at the mouth of the Great Kanaway, until we arrive at Limestone.

Every thing here assumes a dignity and splendour I have never seen in any other part of the world. You ascend a considerable distance from the shore of the Ohio, and when you would suppose you had arrived at the summit of a mountain, you find yourself upon an extensive level. Here an eternal verdure reigns, and the brilliant sun of lat 39°, piercing through the azure heavens, produces, in this prolific soil, an early maturity which is truly astonishing. Flowers full and perfect, as if they had been cultivated by the hand of a florist, with all their captivating odours, and with all the variegated charms that colour and nature can produce, here, in the lap of elegance and beauty, decorate the smiling

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groves. Soft zephyrs gently breathe on sweets,
and the inhaled air gives a voluptuous glow of
health and vigour, that seems to ravish the intoxi-
cated senses. The sweet songsters of the forests
appear to feel the influence of this genial clime,
and, in more soft and modulated tones, warble
their tender notes in unison with love and na-
ture. Every thing here gives delight; and, in
that mild effulgence which beams around us, we
feel a glow of gratitude for that elevation our all-
bountiful Creator has bestowed upon us. Far
from being disgusted with man for his turpitude
or depravity, we feel that dignity nature bestowed
upon us at the creation; but which has been con-
taminated by the base alloy of meanness, the
concomitant of European education; and what
is more lamentable, is, that it is the consequence
of your very laws and governments.

You must forgive what I know you will call
a rhapsody, but what I really experienced after
travelling across the Allegany mountain in March,
when it was covered with snow, and after finding
the country about Pittsburg bare, and not re-
covered

covered from the ravages of winter : there was scarcely a blade of grass to be seen ; every thing looked dreary, and bore those marks of melancholy which the rude hand of frost produces. I embarked immediately for Kentucky, and in less than five days landed at Limestone, where I found nature robed in all her charms.

It naturally struck me there must be something in climate that debased or elevated the human soul ; and that chill penury which a steril country and damp cold climate produces, in accumulating the wants of men, had increased their dependence, which at once saps the first principles of man. I conceived in the infancy of the world, that men in temperate climates had retained their freedom longest. Thus in England you have enjoyed a considerable share of liberty, while almost all Europe have suffered under the fetters of an odious despotism. The perfection of arts will meliorate the condition of man in every part of the world ; but the amelioration of government and education must take place before he will be able to resume his pristine dignity.

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From Limestone to Licking creek * the coun-
try is immensely rich, and covered with cane,
rye grafs, and the native clover. The cane is a
reed that grows to the heighth frequently of fif-
teen or sixteen feet, but more generally about
ten or twelve feet, and is in thicknes from the
size of a goose-quill to that of two inches dia-
meter; sometimes, yet feldom, it is larger.
When it is slender, it never grows higher than
from four to seven feet; it shoots up in one
summer, but produces no leaves until the follow-
ing year. It is an evergreen, and is, perhaps,
the most nourishing food for cattle upon earth.
No other milk or butter has such flavour and
richness as that which is produced from cows
which feed upon cane. Horses which feed upon
it work nearly as well as if they were fed upon
corn, provided care is taken to give them once
in three or four days a handful of salt, other-
wise this food is liable to heat, and bind their
bowels. The rye grafs, when it arrives to ma-
turity, is from two feet and a half high to three

* This river is about 200 yards wide at its mouth, and its
principal branch is navigable nearly 70 miles.

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and a half, and the head and beard resemble the real rye, and sometimes produce a small grain long and slender not unlike rye. Whether cultivation would bring it to the same perfection, I can form no idea; it is however certain that it is a very good and valuable grass. The clover is in no respect different from the clover in Europe, but as it is more coarse and luxuriant. There is a variety of other kinds of grass, which are found in different places; but I have only mentioned the two former, they being esteemed the most valuable.

In order to travel into the interior parts of the State the route lies across the branches of Licking creek. There are several of them which take their rise in the high hills of Great Sandy, and the spurs of the Allegany mountain; they traverse a most delightful country, and form a junction a small distance below the Lower Blue Lick*. A salt spring is called a Lick, from the earth about them being furrowed out, in a most curious manner, by the buffalo and deer, which

* There are two salt springs upon Licking, both of which are now worked with success.

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lick the earth on account of the saline particles with which it is impregnated. The country from the Fork to the Ohio is considerably broken, but generally rich, and continues uneven, except on the banks of the river, quite to the mouth of the Kentucky, which is about one hundred and ten miles below the mouth of Licking creek by water, and seventy above the Rapids of the Ohio. Between the mouths of Licking and Kentucky lies the Great Bone Lick, which is justly celebrated for the remarkable bones which are found there, and which gave name to the place. Several of those bones have been sent to Europe; but I believe no person who has written upon natural history has given any decided opinion to what class of animals they belonged. Buffon has called them the Mammouth; but I am at a loss to know from what authority, as we have no tradition either oral or written, that gives an account of any species of animals which were as large as those must have been, judging by the magnitude of the bones. Buffon says, that similar bones have been found both in Ireland (if I am not mistaken) and in some part of Asia.

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