

directly across the path of the Potomac River and would form an insurmountable barrier to its progress, damming up its waters to an inconceivable height, but at Harper's ferry the mountain is literally cleft asunder by some mighty convulsion and through the dark ravine whose perpendicular walls tower far into mid air, the black waters of the Potomac rush out in boiling eddies. Far indeed from me and my friends be such frigid philosophy as would conduct us unmoved over scenes thus consecrated by the display of the Creator's skill, and leave us unsolemnized in presence of the tokens of His power.

Directing our course to Cincinnati, the Queen of the West, we arrive at Wheeling, a manufacturing town in the state of Virginia, situated on the banks of the Ohio, and from which steamers are constantly leaving for Cincinnati, which is about 400 miles further down the river. No traveller should miss seeing this lovely river; about as wide as our North-west Arm it winds its way as a navigable river for 1000 miles through a country unsurpassed for beauty and fertility, and forms one of those natural highways of commerce which are so remarkably developed in America, and it is finally merged in that still greater highway, the Mississippi. In its course it strikes the great Alleghany coal field, which may be seen on any geological map, covering an immense tract of country. How wonderfully are the designs of an all-wise Creator seen in the provision of such a channel of communication for man through such a country? Let us for a moment suppose it possible to dry up its current, and reflect upon the stoppage of trade and intercommunication which would result to such an enormous region and we shall then see the more than human wisdom which ordained its existence.

It is somewhat singular that this narrow river should for so many miles form the division line between freedom and slavery. On one side you see the free state of Ohio and on the other side the slave states of Virginia and Kentucky. In a