

quiet night scene, the dim and dark woods, the old fences and rude log huts, faintly silvered over with the pale moonlight, and the glorious track of vast blue distance which canopied that silent solitude with its flashing gems, I left poetry and prose to take care of themselves, and murmuring a sleepy "beautiful!" once more laid down to rest. Again the world of reality faded into indistinctness, a thought of my distant home crossed my mind, and pleasant faces appeared floating around in darkness; then I remember catching the flash of a star through the roof, and gravely debating to myself by what mismanagement among the heavenly bodies it had descended into my chamber. Yet although eleven or twelve hundred miles distant from the thundering of carts and the shuffling of feet which had so often broken my meditation in the city of Manahatta, I discovered that rural felicity had its own characteristic tumults. My slumber was destined to be again broken. The dogs growled and snapped as if in sudden fight; then, after a brief silence, during which I closed my leaden lids, a little scoundrel of a puppy set up a scream, and a deep mouthed bay from some old veteran of a bull dog struck in like a line on the bass viol. The whole pack were roused. Their feet patted briskly across the entry floor, then suddenly stopped with a snarl and a snap; I could almost see their lips curl, their tails and ears start up erect; then they patted off again. I might, however, have slumbered after a little time, even had the whole canine pack opened the cry at my ear, for one becomes accustomed to any particular and uniform confusion.

A sailor's rest is not broken by the stormy violence which thunders upon deck, and it is said that many soldiers under Sir John Moore enjoyed the benefit of sleep while actually engaged in marching. I was about following their example when my enemies received a reinforcement from all the awakened population of the plantation. The horse neighed, the oxen bellowed, the geese scudded across the road, flapping their clumsy wings, and improving the concert with a general gabble, chickens cackled, a guinea hen and a peacock exclaimed aloud, and a rooster joined the chorus with a crow, so triumphantly impertinent that I leaped upon the floor entirely out of patience. Almost giddy with the want of sleep, I looked from the window; the dogs were all collected beneath it, yelling most furiously. By the light of the moon, which shone into the room, I descried a large horsewhip in the corner. With a sudden exertion of my strength and skill, I proceeded to an immediate application, which struck the assembly of industrious quadrupeds with considerable astonishment, and, bating a few expressive yelps, as an acknowledgment of some of my most judi-