

CHAP. V.



We embarked on board a small sloop for Albany, a distance by water of two hundred miles, and in three days we pleasantly navigated the most beautiful part of the Hudson; its lofty banks or barrier, truly romantic, are studded on each side with several small towns---Hudson, Poughkeepsie, Kingston, Newburgh, Catskill &c. Albany is the seat of Government or Legislature, for the State of New York, situated upon an uneven ground, and possessing in its State-house and Academy a laughable attempt at grandeur. The *Capitol*, so named from the celebrated temple of Ancient Rome, is an un-finished proof of poverty---broken windows, broken steps without railing, serve as a shade in summer and shed in winter to pigs, cows, marbles, tops and school-boys. This city, so dignified, retains a kind of feudal or manorial right in the family of Ranssalaer, and a most excellent man now presides, who like a distinguished English Baronet,