

to be done next, and what he thought would be the best means for their escape. The landlord was of opinion, that they had better remain concealed in his house for two or three days, till the pursuit would be in some measure abandoned; "But," said he, "at all events, I am going to Cleveland in the morning, and when I return I will be better able to advise you;" and, wishing them good night, he left them. They now turned in, and in a few minutes were both sound asleep; nor did Rankin awake till he was called by his host in the morning to come down to breakfast, where he was introduced to the family. The wife, who was an agreeable and kind old woman, asked the young officer a number of questions, such as, how old he was, whether he had a mother, &c.; and remarked, how miserable she would be if she knew how he was then situated. After breakfast, the good man started for Cleveland (which was only seven miles distant), and assured them he would be back by four in the afternoon. In the meantime Rankin again returned to the garret, and throwing himself down on the bed, thus passed the day till the appointed hour for the host's return; but five, six, and seven o'clock passed without any sign of him, and it was not till shortly after seven that he arrived. Rankin could not help feeling uneasy at his long stay, particularly as he could distinctly hear, upon his entering the house, that there were other people with him. He now began to fear that they had been betrayed, and casting his eyes about the room, he saw an old axe lying on the floor. With this he armed the slave, and posted him at the head of the stairs, with orders, should they be attacked, to strike backwards the first man who should attempt to force his way up stairs; and it was nearly half an hour afterwards before the host made his appearance at the foot of the stairs, with a candle in his hand, during which time their feelings can be better imagined than described. However, seeing he was alone, they did not offer any resistance to his coming up. He told them he had been unavoidably detained longer than he expected; that he had heard a great deal of talk about them, and that printed descriptions of them, offering 500 dollars reward for their apprehension, were posted up all about the town, and concluded by proposing to them the following mode of escape. He said he had a cousin, a near neighbour of his, who, for a certain sum, would undertake to drive them that night to a small village, called Fairport, thirty-five miles east of Cleveland, and that they would arrive there early in the morning, in time for a steamer which would leave that place at eight o'clock for Buffalo. This struck Rankin as being so good a plan, that he adopted it without hesitation (particularly as he thought it probable there would be no look-out for them in that direction, because they were known to have fled to the west-