

of not letting the fire reach the enormous pieces of wood, of which it is composed. The expence of building these houses is a dinner, to which the proprietor invites all his neighbours.

The greatest part of the inhabitants in the back settlements of America have no opportunity of exercising their religion. They are so ignorant and superstitious, that they deliver themselves up to any extravagance when new doctrines are preached to them. A few years since, some Methodists having passed through Pennsylvania, made so many proselytes, that the government, dreading the consequences, desired them to desist. Men and women abandoned their homes and their children, to follow these fanatics, who preached in the fields and forests. Their extravagances exceeded those which I have before related.

Greensburg, at which I arrived in nine days after my departure from Shippensburg, is situated on a hill. This place, whose name was hardly known twenty years ago, is at present the seat of a tribunal, and the chief town of a rich county. The houses are built of stone and brick. The interior of the town is almost entirely inhabited by Americans who have emigrated from the Northern States, and Germans. Grain and salt provisions are sent from hence to Pittsburgh, by a small river, which falls into the Alleghany.

From Greensburg I proceeded to Pittsburgh, an ancient French possession, known by the name of Fort Duquesne. It was included in the cession of Canada, and given to the English, who, after the war, restored it to the United States, of which it is at present one of the most important places. The rivers Alleghany and Monongahela meet there, and form the Ohio. At the point of their union Fort Duquesne was built, of which some vestiges still remain. The town contains 3500 inhabitants, all either merchants or artificers. The commerce in grain is very extensive, and the number of emigrants who come to embark for Kentucky prove a considerable source of wealth.

Fish and game are very plentiful at Pittsburgh, and provisions of all kinds are sold at a low price. Madeira wine, and French brandies are the only articles which are dear. Most of the inhabitants distil from rye, or maize, a strong liquor, which they call whisky. This liquor is the most disagreeable I have ever tasted: however moderate its use, it acts powerfully on the nervous system. Grog, which is nothing more than a mixture of this liquor with water, is the favourite drink of this people. It is not uncommon to see men so debilitated, as not to preserve their faculties at an age when they ought to enjoy them in their most perfect vigour.