

destined for Pittsburgh; so that, in case of fatigue or accident, I might be provided with a resource.

I set out the next day, and arrived in a few hours at Strasburgh, where I found carriages waiting for milder weather to cross the mountains. The village of Strasburgh eight years ago contained only three houses; at present, at least fifty. It is situated at the foot of the Kitucktuny mountains, and exactly divides the road from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. Although the cold weather continued, the waggoners set out the day after my arrival, and I proceeded with them. The quantity of snow collected in some parts of the mountains obliged the waggoners to make a passage with pick-axes. We crossed very slowly the Kitucktuny mountains, the first of which is most rugged. The vallies are every where inhabited, and the lands are carefully cultivated. The number of waggons which pass this road ensures to the cultivator a sale for his provisions at an advantageous price, or in exchange for other articles.

In five days I reached Bedford, a pretty town, which contains seven or eight hundred inhabitants, most of whom are merchants, or proprietors of land, which they sell to the Irish and Germans, who, having arrived in the United States without means of subsistence, have been obliged to pay for their passage by some years of labour*. At the end of their service they buy land in the distant countries, at a low price, and form, by their industry, considerable establishments. The mountains of Alleghany, which we were two whole days in crossing, are the most lofty in North America; but they are hills, when compared to the Alps and Pyrénées. It is in these mountains that the fine river, which bears this name, derives its source. At Pittsburgh, it unites with the Monongahela, to form the Ohio. On the opposite side of these mountains, I saw, for the first time, maple sugar; of which I shall speak hereafter.

From Bedford to Greensburgh nothing appeared worthy of notice. On both sides of the road establishments are forming, and houses building. The houses are constructed entirely of wood; the doors are hung on wooden hinges; in a word, the builders neither employ earth, iron, nor stone, not even for the chimney, which lasts for many years, with only the precaution

* This is one of the most considerable trades in the United States. When a captain arrives with a cargo in Ireland, or any other part, he announces that he intends to take on board a certain number of passengers, and carry them to America, for a stipulated sum. Those who cannot pay for their passage agree otherwise with him. He supplies them with necessaries during their passage, and on his arrival, sells their labour. The length of this slavery never exceeds two years for a single man, and four with a family. At the expiration of this time, he is free, and becomes a citizen.