

*he'll be sure to mind me."* I of course hinted my suspicion that some mishap attending that lawless character had accelerated his movements across the Atlantic, which, however, proved not to be the case. "At all events," I remarked, "you neither need certificate nor qualification here; what do you principally shoot?" "Indeed," says he, "if you'll believe me, Sir, I scarce ever think about it, *for there's naebody here seeks to hinder us;*" a remarkable answer, and not without its use in forming a clew to the fascinations and excitement of a smuggler's or a poacher's life. A herd of deer, only two days before, had wandered past him, yet Walter felt no inclination to leave the plough, although his rifle stood loaded in the shanty. He will have thirty acres ready for wheat to sow in autumn, which, if he continues steady and industrious, will make his way to independence clear enough, as he paid down at entry the full price of his land. "You want only a wife now," I observed, "to make you complete." "Yes, Sir; but I'll have her from Auld Scotland, *for these Yankee lasses are good for nought; they'll blaw the horn and tak a man frae the pleugh to fetch them a skeel o' water.*" Ungallant as this speech may appear, it is nevertheless true that American females almost exclusively confine their attention to duties within doors. Nothing can be more clean, tidy, and comfortable than their domestic arrangements, but they are seldom indeed expected to extend their services; and the surprise and incredulity of many a farmer in the States was unspeakable, when I told them of women in the *old country*, of all ages, being regularly seen at work in a turnip field, or engaged in filling a dung-cart.

There is a lovely sheet of water here, called the Blue Lake, indented by finely wooded headlands; and, as I sat admiring it, I could not but set it down as a splendid feature in park or lawn scenery, when some demesne or villa shall be here laid out by the hand and the eye of taste. A little further down the river side, we passed a valuable gypsum quarry, probably formed by vitriolic springs acting upon the calcareous subsoil. It is extensively used, and the deep verdure of the waggon-track, from what had been scattered, spoke distinctly its value as a top-dressing. At a new settlement, named Paris, the property of Mr Capron, we crossed the river by an excellent bridge.