

THE ITINERANT.

NO. IV.

(Continued from our last.)

It is then covered with undressed boards, nailed on the outside of these upright posts and beams, which answer the double purpose of excluding the cold and connecting the whole together so as to strengthen the building. Over these is placed the outside covering which renders the walls completely air tight. This consists of boards about 5 or 6 inches broad and $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch thick, placed so that the under edge of the one overlaps the upper edge of the one below it, in the form of tiles or slates, and forming what in technical language would be called *imbricated or tiled work*. On this they paint those various gaudy colours I have before mentioned, the selection of which depends intirely upon the taste of the proprietor. Red or white appear to be the prevailing colours, although yellow is also to be met with. The frames of the windows and the shutters or blinds are commonly of a different colour from the rest of the walls, which gives a pleasing effect and a light appearance, though not that idea of substantialness or durability which a good stone wall conveys. Such as can afford it finish the inside of the walls with lath and plaster the same as in England, but this was not the case with the building I was now examining. The roof was formed after the usual plan. The couples standing upon the strong beams which run round the tops of the uprights or corner posts formerly mentioned; and covered with boards, over which were nailed the shingles which form the most common covering for roofs in this country, and is indeed the only description I have seen excepting that of sheet tin which is used for this purpose in the cities and by the more wealthy gentlemen in the country.

I have chosen Mr. Reader to be more particular in my description of this building, because it was the first whose construction I had an opportunity of examining minutely; but which I afterwards learned by comparison with others differed in no material point from them except in the peculiarity of its situation. This is what is called a *frame building*; others are constructed upon a different principle and known by different names, but these I shall describe when I meet with them, for I hate anticipation even in pleasure and still more so in pain.

The raft on which this habitation was placed was larger than the floor of the building, and projected beyond it on all sides forming a species of terrace or platform on which you could walk around the house; from this platform to the beach on the side next the land, there extended two long Cedar logs, upon which were laid a couple of planks which served the purpose of a gangway by which these amphibious residents could go on *terra firma* when they wished; or they might remove it like a draw-bridge, and thereby cut off all communication with the shore. This gangway seemed to me to serve another purpose, one end of the logs being pined to the raft and the