

minutes, they were alarmed at hearing the shots repeated much nearer and more frequently, as if closing upon them. Still Rankin would not have suspected anything, had it not been for the slave, who now seemed perfectly terrified, and declared he was convinced it was an armed party in pursuit of them: there was now but one course left, which was to proceed as fast as they could in the only direction where they had not heard shots; this they did, and, after walking about a couple of miles, came to a clearing. Rankin ventured out first, and after looking carefully about him, and seeing nobody, he beckoned the slave to follow, and struck boldly through a field which led them to the high road; this they crossed, and after going through a field of Indian corn, which providentially was high enough to conceal them from view, they passed within three hundred yards of a brick house, and continued on a short distance further, till they again came to the woods; but after walking a short distance, they perceived by the clear appearance through the trees, that they were drawing near the lake, and in a few minutes they arrived at its banks, which were very high and steep, and, from where they stood, commanded a full view of the town of Cleveland, which, to their great mortification, did not appear to be more than four or five miles distant. From hence they proceeded slowly along the banks till they came to a deserted old mill, where they rested themselves a short time, and then continued on a short distance further, when they came upon a large corn field, in the midst of which was a log hut; and as they saw some black children playing about the door, they thought they might venture to show themselves. As they approached, they saw a black man at work at a short distance from the house; they went up to him, and asked him if he could get them something to eat and drink, as they were by this time both very tired, and almost faint with hunger and thirst; but he was unable to supply them, as he said he was only a hired man, and his master (another coloured man) was not at home, and the door was locked. Rankin then asked him if there were any Abolitionists in the neighbourhood, and was told that there was a person of that character, who kept a public-house on the main road, about two miles from where they were; and, on being promised a reward, he consented to guide them to this place after he had finished his day's work. It was now past six o'clock, and after waiting in the woods a short distance off for nearly an hour, their guide made his appearance, and said he was ready to show them the way.

“ On arriving within a short distance of the house, the young officer sent his guide forward to ask the landlord to come and meet him. After some hesitation the landlord very kindly did so,